Cultural Engagement: Youth Ministry Across Boundaries

21st Annual Conference
Hilton Crystal City, Washington, DC
October 18-20, 2014

www.aymeducators.org
Dear AYME Friends,

Welcome to Washington, D.C., and on behalf of the Association of Youth Ministry Educators, I welcome you to our annual conference. If this is your first time at an AYME conference, we extend a special greeting to you. It is our hope that you will find a community of colleagues to sharpen your research and inspire your teaching. The board plans this conference with these ends in mind. To our returning members, we look forward to reconnecting with you.

We encourage you to spend these three days developing connections with colleagues, old and new, and engaging in robust dialogue during plenary sessions, research presentations, and professional development sessions. Take advantage of informal conversations as they develop over meals, in the hallways, or walking the streets of the National Mall and Memorial Parks in Washington, D.C. You will likely find someone with similar research interests and another whose work makes you reflect deeply on your own. It is a gift to join together for this time and draw upon our varied backgrounds, research interests, traditions, and experiences. This is an opportunity to be encouraged and challenged by the richness of the Body of Christ as we gather around our common calling to serve youth and the Church.

Please contact any board member during the conference if we can be of assistance.

Peace and hope,

Sharon Galgay Ketcham, Ph.D.
President

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**Board of Directors:** Sharon Ketcham, Mike Severe, Karen Jones, Claire Smith, Ron Belsterling, Tom Bergler, Nancy Going, Brenda Snailum, Matt Elofson, Jay Sedwick, Cheryl Crawford, Mark Cannister

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Welcome from the Conference Director

October 18, 2014

Dear Friends,

I am thrilled to connect with you this weekend. While the intellectual stimulus of this conference is vital, even more important are the collegial connections and friendships that are established here. I pray, whether this is your first or twenty-first conference with us, that you find Christ-centered relationships that spur your work and devotion to him.

The theme, Cultural Engagement: Youth Ministry Across Boundaries, has been requested by AYME members for several years. Today's environment is increasingly diverse, global and interdependent. The average youth worker and educator must cross multiple boundaries each day. Youth leaders must have the knowledge and ability to live in a world without boundaries. Our challenge is not simply to critique culture but to engage cultures.

Those working in youth ministry require a whole new way of thinking and a new repertoire of skills to meet these challenges and opportunities. We have brought together a stellar slate of plenary speakers, dialogue opportunities and research presentations to meet this need.

Soong-chan Rah will look at the theological evidence inviting us toward cultural engagement. Kathy Khang will discuss the challenges and opportunities to organizations as they engage and make culture. Terry Linhart will provide tools to train and equip our students in cultural effectiveness. All three come from varying disciplines and backgrounds offering a rich field for insight and discussion. I am very excited about the opportunities to learn and grow this weekend.

Please join me in thanking Ron Belsterling and Tom Bergler for coordinating an outstanding lineup of research presentations and professional development seminars. This is the heart of our conference, and I know we will have difficulty choosing among the offerings. Also, please extend your thanks to Jay Sedwick, our conference coordinator, for his tireless work to see that we enjoy great meeting rooms, meals, and accommodations. Jay works year round to make sure the conference facilities provide an enjoyable and enriching experience for us all. As our administrator, Mark Canister is involved in all the details, communication and processes that make this weekend and many other aspects of our organization possible. Finally, I want to thank the entire board of AYME who have worked hard over the past year to make this conference a success and who will continue working throughout the weekend to serve us all.

Mike Severe, 2014 Conference Director
Vice President

815.830.3145 (c)

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Cultural Engagement: Youth Ministry Across Boundaries  
Daily Schedule

**Saturday, October 18th**
12 p.m. Registration Opens
1:00 p.m. Affinity Groups
2:00 p.m. Welcome Reception and Conference Opening (Virginia Ballroom)
2:30 p.m. Research and Professional Development Sessions #1
3:45 p.m. Research and Professional Development Sessions #2
5:00 p.m. Curriculum Clusters (Virginia Ballroom)
6:00 p.m. Dinner and Plenary Session #1 (Virginia Ballroom)
   Rev. Dr. Soong-Chan Rah, *Engaging Culture Theologically*
9:15 p.m. Affinity Groups

**Sunday, October 19th**
8:00 a.m. Breakfast (Virginia Ballroom)
8:30 a.m. Worship (Virginia Ballroom)
9:45 a.m. Business Meeting (Virginia Ballroom)
10:15 a.m. Research and Professional Development Sessions #3
11:30 a.m. Research and Professional Development Sessions #4
12:45 p.m. Depart for the National Mall and Memorial Parks in D.C. (Lunch on your own)
5:30 p.m. Dinner at *King Street Blues*, 1648 Crystal Square Arcade, Arlington, VA (703-415-2583)
7:30 p.m. Plenary Session #2 (Virginia Ballroom)
   Ms. Kathy Khang, *The Opportunities and Challenges of Integration*

**Monday, October 20th**
8:00 a.m. Breakfast (Virginia Ballroom)
8:30 a.m. Research and Professional Development Sessions #5
9:45 a.m. Plenary Session #3 (Virginia Ballroom)
   Dr. Terry Linhart, *So What?: Next Steps for Youth Ministry Educators in Cultural Engagement*
11:00 a.m. Conference ends
Breakout Session #1  Saturday, October 18, 2:30—3:30PM

Crystal Ball Room:  Kirk Brothers, Freed-Hardeman University—Ministry Training in Latin America.  
This paper considers research focused on cross-cultural study of factors motivating students to enter ministry and on 25 years of experience in starting and running Ministry Training Camps in the U.S. and Latin American countries (Nicaragua, Honduras, Panama, Guatemala, and El Salvador). The camps train young men ages 12-24 for leadership in the church (especially in worship). We train them to prepare and deliver lessons, lead in all aspects of worship, the role of the eldership, and other aspects of ministry leadership.

Washington I: Eduardo Perez, Eastern University—Understanding the “Rollercoaster” of Small Group Dynamics. 
The research to be presented here seeks to understand group dynamics as an expression of the organic dimension of any human group, versus the programmatic activity of a small group. The goal is to better understand the intervening organic components of group dynamics. We will show how this organic dimension has multiple facets, some of which are natural to human interactions, and others that can be managed by the leader. Understanding this “rollercoaster” may help to prepare youth ministry students to lead and train others in small group dynamics.

Short-term missions research documents the impact of participants’ exposure to poverty and the ensuing practical and existential questions. Mission trip leaders must provide training in a relational process for those experiencing frustration and feelings of insufficiency when confronted with poverty. This presentation presents essential biblical and missiological principles when addressing the challenges and growth opportunities involved in such training and ministry.

Washington III: Lyle Parker, Ph.D. Student at Johnson University—Social Media and Youth Worker Longevity.  
This paper proposes a theoretical framework to analyze the use of Social Media outlets (Web 2.0) as communities of practice among Youth Pastors to facilitate an increase in their longevity behaviors. Research is based on qualitative study.

Discussions in the public square regarding America becoming a post-racial society suggest that young people do not carry on patterns of prejudice and pain from previous generations. This paper seeks to engage the discussion by exploring how young people in multi-racial Christian youth ministries experience and perceive race. Findings are based on the results of qualitative research in three different multiracial urban contexts.

Monroe II: Professional Development with Mark Matlock, Youth Specialties—Placing Graduates in the Right Context for Success.  
Youth Specialties has been using a new assessment tool called MCORE to coach and help place youth ministers. The MCORE is based on SIMA (System for Identifying Motivated Abilities) that helps people understand why and how they operate. By identifying a person’s motivational core, we are able to predict the ministry contexts in which they are most likely to thrive. Learn about the assessment to help your students find a ministry context post-graduation in which they will thrive.
Crystal Ball Room: Len Kageler, Nyack College—Youth Ministry Theological Foundations and Youth Ministry Praxis: Five Countries on Four Continents.
Church based youth work is a global reality. This presentation explores how theology and praxis vary among representative samples of Baptist and Anglican youth workers in South Africa, Australia, the U.K., and the U.S. (Texas & S.C.). Church of Finland youth-workers are included in the analysis as well. Data, both statistical and narrative, was collected via web-based survey (F2013-Sp2014). Participants, in the common cause of reaching youth, will be encouraged to “compare notes” relative to discussed theologies, practical outcomes, and research observations.

Washington I: Matt Mitchell, Ph.D. Student Trinity Evangelical Divinity School; Elizabeth Bjorling, Ph.D. Student Trinity Evangelical Divinity School; Benjamin Espinoza, Covenant Church—Emerging Adult Engagement in Religious Communities: Practices that Work.
Emerging adults are skeptical of and generally feel ignored by religious institutions. This presentation explores how Christian practices can engage emerging adults, while allowing space for such adults to become co-creators of experiences and innovations for faith communities.

Washington II: Russell Haitch, Bethany Theological Seminary—Youth Ministry Meets Missiology.
Youth ministry has been turning to the field of missiology because missiology seems to offer insight for carrying the gospel to youth culture, because the whole church is said to be missional with young people leading the way, or simply because a lot of youth go on short-term mission trips. This session offers a review of key ideas from Vincent Donovan, Andrew Walls, Emmanuel Katongole, Lamin Sanneh, and Lesslie Newbigin, along with discussion of whether and how they can help the church be more intergenerational and multicultural.

This research explored the conceptual compatibility of Transformative Learning Theory (TLT) in accounts of spiritual renewal at Wheaton College in 1995. TLT was applied using quadrants of experience, critical reflection, rational dialogue, and action. This sample was drawn from the Billy Graham Center Archives at Wheaton College. The findings confirmed compatibility between TLT and these Christian spiritual renewal accounts, and implications involved prioritizing prayer, expanding vision, and clarifying intentions personally and collectively.

Monroe I: Richelle White-Kuypers College: Repertory with Roots—Black Youth, Black History, Black Culture, Black Music, & the Bible.
This paper critically evaluates the music and character of contemporary rap music artists and how they portray the culture and history of black Americans. Disrespect of African American history (Emmitt Till, Harriet Tubman, Malcolm X, etc.) and culture calls for Christian education ministries to educate youth properly, using a Repertory with Roots. Repertory with Roots is a curricular design advancing “Christian Wisdom Formation” (an ongoing journey of imagining, gaining insight, and faithful decision making).

Monroe II: Professional Development with James Masterson and Steve Bonner, Lubbock Christian University—Evaluating the Effectiveness of Short-Term Internships.
This seminar reports research on the effectiveness of short-term intensive ministry internships and provides a pragmatic understanding of how academic intensive ministry internships can be better used in churches. Utilizing phenomenological methods, semi-structured interviews were conducted with students and on-site supervisors of multiple interns. Many themes emerged with important implications for how internships are structured.
Crystal Ball Room: Nathan Chiroma, Stellenbosch University (South Africa)—Ministry to Youth in a Culture of Violence in Nigeria.
Growing up in a state of violence has profound effects on young people: a time in a young person’s life where changes in their body, identity, and role in society can evoke additional feelings of confusion and emotion. In contexts where security and stability are fragile, this feeling is hard to find and even more elusive when crisis hits. It is important that youth workers in Northern Nigeria proactively think through how to support young people in the event of a crisis caused by violence, and that they remember the critical importance of engaging young people in the design of their responses.

Washington I: David Rahn, Youth for Christ/Huntington University and Ron Belsterling, Nyack College—Church and Parachurch Youth Ministry Collaboration in New York City: Considering the Value of Peer Mentoring in Developing Missional Youth.
This presentation highlights two issues: youth ministry collaboration and research on NY City youth. Inside of Movement Day 2014 (www.movementday.com), a city gospel movement, is a youth ministry track designed to ignite a collaborative shared agenda among youth ministry leaders of metro-New York City. The scriptural purpose is to “find and form missional leaders” among the youth. Surveys (forced choice and open ended response items) of 13-23 year olds were gathered via a vast network between July and September, 2014. The data provides presentation participants with fresh insights about city youth and youth ministry, and will be compared to prior research (e.g. NSYR) findings.

Washington II: Andy Root, Luther Seminary—Adolescent Ambivalence and Youth Worker/Parent Anxiety about Questions of Faith and Science.
In the Spring of 2014, John Templeton Foundation provided funding for an exploratory study on the state of the science and religion discourse in American youth ministries. This was the first time that the Templeton Foundation had supported directly an initiative on youth ministry. The major output of the study is a white paper that describes the state of youth worker engagement in science and faith, and young people’s experience of the church’s openness to their scientific questions; it then offers resources and attention needed. In this interactive seminar, the grant team will present the highlights of this white paper while seeking feedback and suggestions, which will assist the team in moving to the next phase of work.

Washington III: David Penn, Ph.D. Student at Boston University—Youth and Cultural Construction.
Culture, Christian and otherwise, is not simply passed down from one generation to the next. Faith and faith practices are constructed in an ad hoc way, thus youth construct their own culture. This presentation, based on about sixty interviews of youth and their mentors, will defend these perspectives while advocating for educators to take more seriously the agency of youth.

Monroe I: Michael Mauriello, Ph.D. Student at Trinity Evangelical Divinity School—A Strategy for Mono-cultural White Youth Ministries to Engage Racialization and Reconciliation with Black Youth Ministries in High Schools and Christian Education.
This paper explores the significance of making tacit assumptions concerning race and race identity explicit, the importance of both personal confession and addressing systematic prejudice, and the importance of critical pedagogy and nurture done in a Christian theological framework. Arguments are made for considering high school social studies curriculums as guides for Christian education efforts inside the church to insure relevance.

Monroe II: Professional Development with Greg Carlson, Trinity International University—Are We Truly Preparing Students for Ministry?
This seminar is based on a qualitative study of one program’s graduates and their perceptions of: (a.) the trends in youth ministry, and; (b.) their preparation for engaging those trends. Shared observations will give other educators a window of insight into both ministry trends and program sufficiency evaluations.
Washington I: Brad Griffin and Jake Mulder, Fuller Theological Seminary—Churches Engaging Young People: Preliminary Research Findings and Implications for Youth Ministry Education.

The Fuller Youth Institute is conducting a 3-year interdenominational study of over 200 churches with perceived effectiveness in their engagement of young people (ages 15-29). The presentation will offer insights on how and why exemplary churches succeed so that others can learn, contextually apply, and become more effective in ministry engagement of youth. Relative to the research project, it is anticipated that there will be two more follow up presentations in the future.

Washington II: Brian Hull, Asbury University—How one young Pastor gained over 5 Million Followers BEFORE Social Media: The Amazing Diffusion of the Christian Endeavor Societies.

This presentation will demonstrate how Francis Clark utilized written communication, global travel, and organization to build a global church. Clark’s (and Christian Endeavor’s) strategies of cultural engagement and contextual theology will be referred to as current youth workers will hopefully rediscover the keys to Clark’s successes.

Washington III: Barry Gane, Avondale College (Australia)—Behaviors and Beliefs of South Pacific Island Youth Ministry.

Findings based on a 2011 study of over 3000 youth across South Pacific nations indicate that island youth tend to answer questions the way they think adults/researchers want them to answer and that, for some, their behaviors do not correlate with stated beliefs. It was discovered that faith maturity and Christian commitment correlated well with avoiding-risk behaviors for Australian and New Zealand youth, but not for South Pacific Island youth. Reasons for these differences will be explored and discussed.

Monroe I: Daniel White Hodge, North Park University; and, Pablo Otaola, Young Life—Reconciling the Divide: The Need for Contextual and Just Models of Fundraising that Empower All People Groups in Vocational Youth Ministry.

This two-part presentation will first argue that EOM (Evangelical Outreach Ministries) and youth ministry contexts are lacking in cultural, ethnic, and social capital diversity in both their leadership and fundraising methods. Secondly, the position will be made that fundraising models are neither culturally nor racially fully contextualized for ethnic minorities leading EMOs. Research data complimented by the personal testimony of a Latino youth pastor enhance the arguments.

Monroe II: Rick Lawrence, GROUP—The Collapse of Conventional Youth Ministry Models.

Whether it’s been strategic or simply by default, the primary discipleship methodology practiced by youth workers for decades is “understand and apply.” This model is collapsing under the weight of what it’s expected to achieve—it’s both experientially suspect as a model and biblically bankrupt as a theological practice. Jesus pointed to “attachment,” not “understand and apply,” as our engine of growth—and here’s what that can look like in youth ministry.
Research and Professional Development Session #5  Monday 8:30-9:30 AM

**Washington I:** Keith Hillier, Providence University College (Canada)—*A Holistic Approach to Child and Youth Care.*
Qualitative research conducted among professors and student leaders found that participants placed a very high value on a holistic approach to youth care. This approach is best understood anthropologically and communally. The holistic approach, when applied to the Child and Youth Care setting has tremendous potentials for practical ministry and Christian Higher Education instruction.

**Washington II:** Arthur Canales, Marian University—*Ministering to Catholic LGBT Youth with Eyes Wide Shut: A Proposal for Understanding the Issues and Providing Pedagogical Support and Pastoral Strategies.*
This article addresses the lack of ministry presence to Catholic LGBT youth in Catholic youth ministry in the U.S. It presents from both a descriptive (theological and theoretical) and prescriptive (pedagogical and pastoral) perspective. The aim of this presentation is to promote a positive understanding about LGBT youth and to provide easily implementable strategies in ministry with them.

**Washington III:** Elizabeth Bjorling, Ph.D. student, Trinity Evangelical Divinity School—*Culture Making in Early Adolescent Ministry.*
This paper grapples with the differences in current middle-schoolers’ perceptions of culture and cultural boundaries. Their globally connected perspective prohibits them from seeing the detailed boundary lines of older generations. This shift transforms how they must be engaged. In this presentation we will examine a framework for material culture and our roles as Christians and youth leaders in modeling the creation of culture, while equipping the next generation with resources and space in which to co-create and reinvent culture.

**Monroe I:** Muhiya Karianjahi, Wheaton College—*The Church as Village: Rites of Passage and Positive Youth Development.*
Rites of passage are rituals that were used widely by preindustrial communities to help transition their young into adulthood. To mitigate young peoples’ risky explorations of roles and isolationism, youth programs have sought to reconstruct rites of passage. ROPES (Rites of Passage Experiences) incorporates the active participation of intergenerational church communities empowering the church as “the village raises the child.” This paper explores rites of passage, links ROPES to the Positive Youth Development (PYD) perspective, and recommends such programming for entry into high school age ministry.

**Monroe II:** Professional Development with Ken Castor—*Using Prezi.*
Are your Power Point slides getting stale? Prezi offers educators free licenses to develop innovative presentations for the classroom, to collaborate online, or to even migrate your one-dimensional Power Point slides into a dynamic, interactive format. This practical seminar will introduce the basics of Prezi, how to obtain your educators license, and how to use Prezi’s online tools to improve the classroom learning experience. (Many requested that this Seminar from last year be offered again.)
Important Locations and Information for Sunday Afternoon

Hilton Crystal City Hotel
2399 Jefferson Davis Hwy
Arlington, VA 22201
703-418-6800

Crystal City Metro Station
1750 South Bell Street
Arlington, VA 22202

King Street Blues Restaurant
1648 Crystal Square arcade
Arlington, VA 22202
703-415-2583

Transportation Instructions
You will be given a preloaded Metro Card for this round-trip train ride.

12:45PM: Leave from the front doors of the hotel to make the 7-minute walk to the Crystal City Metro Station and board the train to the National Mall.

Crystal City to Smithsonian Trains
Blue Line towards Largo Town Center
DEPARTS at 1:02 PM or 1:17 PM
ARRIVES at 1:20 PM or 1:35 PM

4:30PM: Meet back at the Smithsonian Metro Station to take the 4:42 PM train back to Crystal City for dinner.

Smithsonian to Crystal City Trains
Blue Line towards Franconia-Springfield
DEPARTS at 4:42 PM or 4:57 PM
ARRIVES at 5:00 PM or 5:15 PM

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If you exit the train at the wrong Metro Station stay inside the station. Metro employees will help you find another train to your destination.

If you exit the train at the wrong Metro Station and exit the station, you will be responsible to add more money to your metro card to continue your journey to the proper destination.

As long as you don’t exit the Metro Station you can recover from getting off at the wrong place, with no additional cost, by staying inside the station and boarding a different train to your destination.

AYME board members will help direct everyone on this trip, but if you miss the trains listed above you will be traveling on your own.
Fellowship
on the
National Mall
Sunday Afternoon

Sunday Dinner—5:30PM
at
King Street Blues
1648 Crystal Square Arcade
Arlington, VA 22202
703-415-2583

KSB is in the Crystal City Shops above the Metro Station. After returning from the National Mall on the Metro, take the escalator out of the Metro Station. At the top of the escalator, enter the glass doors on the right entering the Crystal City Shops. At the end of the hallway turn right and continue past Rite Aid and Hair Cuttery. KingStreet Blues will be on the right, across from Starbucks.
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