Engaging Youth Ministry’s Collaborative Frontier of Discipleship

29th Annual Conference
Westin Gaslamp Quarter, San Diego, CA
October 21-23, 2022

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Christian youth ministry exists to share the biblical truths of God’s redemptive love with adolescents and facilitate their journey of becoming genuine disciples of Jesus Christ. As youth ministry educators, we are called to prepare, refresh and challenge current and future youth ministers.

The *Journal of Youth Ministry* is intended to be a peer-reviewed medium through which professional youth ministry educators may share with, encourage, and challenge each other through our various academic and practical disciplines related to youth ministry education. This journal allows us to share research, promote critical thinking, and encourage innovation associated with the practice and theory of Christian youth ministry.

The journal is composed of articles, book reviews, and research reviews. Research articles are peer reviewed. While occasionally essays pertaining to current issues are published, articles most often take the form of research, and/or praxis. Research articles may use theoretical, empirical, quantitative, qualitative, ethnographic, applied or any other accepted method of scholarly research. Exploratory articles focusing on research in progress are also appropriate for the journal. Praxis articles which lay a strong theological, philosophical, or other theoretical foundation for the practice of youth ministry or the education of youth ministry professionals are also welcomed.

The journal is published twice a year in April and October by the Association of Youth Ministry Educators. The editorial board is comprised of the editors and the board members of the Association of Youth Ministry Educators.

**JOURNAL EDITORS**

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Dr. Bradley Widstrom, Research Review Editor
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Inquiries concerning the journal may be addressed to Dr. Kelly at: paulkelly@gs.edu
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Dear AYME Friends,

Like many of you, I’ve had tons of experience leading ministry events. I once thought spit and shine efforts were the key to hosting a great gathering. Now I’m convinced if the right people convene in a refreshing venue, wonderful things happen without a lot of heavy-handed steering. I hope this is more than seasoned wisdom.

We’ve got an amazing location and a fantastic line-up of plenary speakers, co-hosts, breakout presenters. Most importantly, AYME colleagues who share a similar calling from Christ to form formidable faith in young people have assembled to bring some kind of benefit to one another. Collaboration that’s sensibly compelling draws upon the depth of Solomon: it wisely leverages synergistic efforts for daunting ministry challenges.

But I’m eager to exceed our collective empirical insights. Jesus’ prayer for our unity on the eve of his crucifixion alerts us to a more profound reckoning. It’s taken a minute, but I’ve come to realize my need for the steady and reassuring correction Jesus offered Martha as she bustled about to serve her guests well. Whatever else might be said of collaboration, if we use our time to join forces so that more young people become fruitfully empowered as Christ’s disciples, we can be confident we are engaging a heart-priority of our Lord Jesus with this year’s theme.

You will become acquainted with the TENx10 Collaboration during this conference. It’s the responsible thing to do, given its girth and diversity. Our AYME “classic” contributions of research, writing and teaching will be needed. More importantly, our humility is necessary. Innovation thrives when collaborators selflessly listen, learn, and serve. Breakthroughs in youth discipleship are long overdue. May this time together mobilize AYME for unparalleled synergy, helping make faith matter for millions of young people who can invigorate Christ’s Church.

Welcome to San Diego!

Dave Rahn
AYME VP & Conference Chair, 2022

Board of Directors: Brian Hull, Dave Rahn, Megan Brown, Sharon Ketcham, Sarah Farmer, Theresa O’Keefe, Kevin Turner, Mark Cannister, Paul Kelly.
PLENARY SESSION PRESENTERS

Dr. Kara Powell serves as Chief of Leadership Formation at Fuller Theological Seminary, Executive Director of the Fuller Youth Institute (FYI), and Professor of Youth and Family Ministry. Kara also serves as a Youth and Family Strategist for Orange, and volunteers in student ministries at Lake Avenue Church in Pasadena. A prolific author, her most recent book, with Brad Griffin, is *3 Big Questions That Change Every Teenager: Making the Most of your conversations and Connections* (Baker Books).

Dr. Montague Williams serves as Professor of Church, Culture, and Society at Point Loma Nazarene University and is an ordained elder in the Church of the Nazarene. His research offers an ecclesiological proposal that focuses on the pastoral needs of youth and young adults in multiracial and multicultural ministry contexts. He is the author of *Church in Color: Youth Ministry, Race, and the Theology of Martin Luther King Jr.* (Baylor Univ. Press).

Dr. Andrew Root serves as the Carrie Olson Baalson Professor of Youth and Family Ministry at Luther Seminary. He writes and researches in areas of theology, ministry, culture and younger generations. Root has offered important texts on pastoral ministry more generally, asserting that “the theological substance of youth ministry is no different than ministry generally. A prolific author Andy’s most recently book is *The Church After Innovation* (Baker Academic).

Rev. Dr. Virginia Ward serves as the Dean of Gordon-Conwell Theological Seminary’s Campus of Urban Ministerial Education (CUME) preparing diverse men and women seeking the peace of the city in varied ethnic contexts. Virginia’s involvement in the training of youth leaders spans three decades. She has extensive experience as an urban pastor, ministry organizer, and youth ministry expert. A third-generation minister, Rev. Ward is an Associate Pastor at Abundant Life Church.

Dr. Josh Packard serves as Executive Director of Springtide Research Institute. He is an accomplished researcher with an expertise in the sociology of religion and new forms of religious expression. Josh is a prolific writer, having published in both academic and popular outlets. With a PhD in Sociology from Vanderbilt University, Josh has more than 10 years of teaching experience and is a frequent guest on radio shows and podcasts.

Dr. Ron Hunter serves as Executive Director & CEO of Randall House and D6 Family Ministry and as adjunct professor at Dallas Baptist University. He is the co-founder and Director of the D6 Conference, which is based upon Deut. 6, creating an international venue for church and home discipleship in all areas of family ministry. Previously, he served for eleven years in ministry in Florida and Tennessee. A prolific writer his most recent book is *Recalibrate: A New Measure for Family Ministry* (Randall House).

Dr. Arthur Satterwhite serves as the Vice President of Diversity, Belonging & Strategy for Young Life and is also the founder of Satterwhite Co., LLC, a management consulting firm that specializes in leadership and generational diversity. He previously served with American Bible Society for more than eight years. His passion is seeing leaders and institutions tap the power of their communities’ diversity to overcome organizational issues and achieve flourishing.

Mr. Tommy Nixon serves as the Chief Executive Officer at Urban Youth Workers Institute (UYWI). Prior to UYWI, he was a Founder and Executive Director of Solidarity, a nonprofit organization that strengthens urban communities, as well as the founding pastor at One Life City Church. He is passionate about helping urban leaders lead from a place of depth with God while having a dynamic impact in the Kingdom on the local & global scale.
Engaging Youth Ministry’s Collaborative Frontier of Discipleship

Daily Schedule

FRIDAY, October 21, 2022
4:00-6:00pm  Registration and Exhibits Open
6:00-8:00pm  Dinner Banquet & Plenary Puzzle #1 (California Ballroom)
8:00-8:45pm  New Members Reception (Sierra)
8:00-9:00pm  Exhibits Open & Free Time to Connect
9:00-10:00pm Late Night Conversation

SATURDAY, October 22, 2022
7:00-8:00am  Breakfast on your own & Exhibits Open
8:00-8:50am  Research Presentations 1 (Sierra A, B, Plaza A, B)
9:00-9:50am  Research Presentations 2 (Sierra A, B, Plaza A, B)
10:00-10:30am Break & Refreshments
10:30-11:20am Research Presentations 3 (Sierra A, B, Plaza A, B, C)
11:30-12:20pm Research Presentations 4 (Sierra A, B, Plaza A, B)
12:45-1:30pm Lunch, Business Meeting, Exhibits Open (California Ballroom)
1:30-1:45pm  Break, Exhibits Open
1:45-3:15pm  Plenary Puzzle #2 (California Ballroom)
3:15-9:00pm  Explore San Diego’s Gaslamp Quarter & Seaport Village — Dinner on your own
9:00-10:00pm Late Night Conversations

SUNDAY, October 23, 2022
7:00-8:00am  Breakfast on your own & Exhibits Open
8:00-8:50am  Research Presentations 5 (Sierra A, B, Plaza A, B)
9:00-9:30am  Distinguished Educator Award (California Ballroom)
9:30-11:00am Plenary Puzzle #3 (California Ballroom)
11:00am  Conference Closes — See you in Chicago for AYME 2023!
Local Area Map

Directions to Seaport Village and the Gaslamp District
About 10-min. walk to either place

Nearby Breakfast Options
Panera Bread
Dunkin’ Donuts
Corner Bakery Café
Ralph’s Grocery Store

Most Restaurants in the Gaslamp District are on 4th and 5th Ave

Seaport Village QR Code
Gaslamp District QR Code

CIU Columbia International University
AYME
Scholastic Achievement Award

Each year AYME members serving as faculty members are welcome to nominate students for the AYME Scholastic Achievement Award.

This recognition is intended to provide a special opportunity to honor exemplary students. Each school may nominate one undergraduate, master’s degree, and doctoral degree student for the award.

**Award Criteria**

- Appreciated by peers and supervisors for their exemplary Christian character and spiritual life.
- Achievement of an excellent academic record.
- Provided excellent leadership in the practice of youth ministry.
- Developed exceptional potential for future youth ministry.

Please submit your request for award(s) by April 15th.
The stakes are high.

The opportunity is great.

We’re a diverse group of Jesus followers, a mosaic of cultures, ethnicities, beliefs, and backgrounds saying yes to follow where we believe God is already leading; a collaborative discipleship movement, rallying all parts of the Church to reimagine how we form the faith of young people — together.

Join us at TENx10.org
Research Presentations 1
Saturday, October 22 @ 8:00-8:50am

SIERRA A
Sharon Galgay Ketcham – Gordon College
Practicing Mutuality: Models from Luke’s Gospel for Intergenerational Thriving
Exploring three Lukan narratives uncovers models of mutuality through collaboration, which form an emerging vision for ministry with young people. These transformational models invite leaders to enact practices for teaching young people and adults to identify the Spirit’s present, dynamic motion. As churches evaluate program-driven ministry, which often reduces the church to another consumable product, they may reemerge as thriving intergenerational communities able to identify and align their lives with the Spirit.

SIERRA B
Hyun Ae Lee – Talbot School of Theology
The Effects of Intergenerational Ministry on Spiritual Maturity Among Korean Young Adults Who Participated in Ministry
Korean immigrant churches often experience severe generational separation due to language and cultural differences. Intergenerational ministry (IGM) seeks the transmission of faith to the next generation; what types are implemented in this context and what are its effects? This presentation will further discuss factors that contribute to and hinder effective IGM, its impact on intergenerational relationships, younger generations’ spiritual growth, and the preparation of older generations to become disciple-makers.

PLAZA A
Ebonie Davis – Arbor Research Group
Engaging Youth Discipleship through a Relational Discovery Paradigm
Using a discovery methodology, Arbor Research Group investigated Dunbar’s sympathy ring of a young person’s closest relationships by examining Bronfenbrenner’s preferred unit of measurement: relationship dyads. Freshly conceptualized for this research as forces of influence with the habit-forming attachment power of environmental cues, more than 2,000 of these adult and peer relationship dyads were studied. It’s suggested churches shift their strategic paradigm to prioritize relational discipleship practices for teens feeling systemically abandoned by adults.

PLAZA B
Ryan Hewitt – Johnson University
Sexuality, Shame, & Moral Incongruence: A Gospel-Centered Framework for Addressing Identity and Sexuality among Youth in the Church
Every young person is asking “Who am I?” In today’s culture, this critical identity question is often viewed through the lens of sexuality, and therefore both identity and sexuality must be addressed as part of the discipleship journey. This work explores the convergence of recent research on sexuality, shame, faith, and moral incongruence, with the goal of empowering leaders to develop a gospel-centered, collaborative framework for addressing sexuality as part of the youth discipleship journey.
At CYMT, we equip leaders to minister, innovate, and engage with youth so that they may experience the love and grace of Jesus Christ, leading to identity and purpose.

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The Center for Youth Ministry Training is a proud member of the AYME community.

The problem is that families are disconnected. But we believe God desires to reconnect families to churches, each other, and His Word. We understand the challenges, which is why we have spent over 20 years developing tools to connect church and home.

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Helping Kids and Parents grow together in God’s Word!
Research Presentations 2
Saturday, October 22 @ 9:00-9:50am

SIERRA A
Kayla August – Boston College School of Theology and Ministry
Preaching Prophets of Today: Can Gen Z be Bearers of Youth, Truth, and Justice?
Generation Z can find support for their challenges by drawing upon the Church’s rich heritage of prophets who have spoken to looming existential threats. This presentation considers how Jeremiah is a biblical model for the young prophetic voices of today. His witness to truth and justice is reflected in the relentless Gen-Z climate change activist, Greta Thunberg, as well as others. Jeremiah’s prophetic example inspires youth discipleship that will empower prophetic, young leadership to collaboratively work for constructive change.

SIERRA B
Michael Kipp – Northwest Nazarene University
Generative Practices of Faith-Based Internships
Internships are especially designed to foster the experiential learning that helps young people find a convergence between their identity and vocational purpose as Christ followers. This research identified four practical features of generative and helpful faith-based internship experiences, many of them funded by Murdock’s “Vision and Call” initiative. A presentation of the team’s qualitative data collection and analysis processes will be the basis for exploring the value and use of internships for collaborative youth discipleship.

PLAZA A
Jake Mulder and Zachary Ellis – Fuller Youth Institute
Mapping the Youth Ministry Landscape
Our team at the Fuller Youth Institute mapped the organizations and individuals that influence the youth ministry landscape across the United States. First, we identified over 500 ministries who influence the youth ministry landscape. Next, we collated basic information, social media followers and handles, audiences, and internet readership. Finally, we surveyed the most influential ministries to understand more about their reach. This paper will present the process for mapping the youth ministry landscape and outline key findings.

PLAZA B
Chris Clements – Columbia Bible College
Fostering Christian Hope Among Mistrusting Late-Adolescents
A faith ‘deconstruction’ process can be a prelude to deconversion among late adolescents and young adults in North America. In its common use, faith ‘deconstruction’ can refer to the process of realizing one’s faith-based hopes do not correspond with lived experience. Yet this process can also factor into a young person’s Christian discipleship. Lament, as a yearning for lost goodness, can equally be a prelude to hope, and a practice that offers the possibility of trusting God again.
Visit our table to get a discount code for 40% OFF BAKER ACADEMIC BOOKS!
Research Presentations 3
Saturday, October 22 @ 10:30-11:20am

SIERRA A
Abigail Michel and Riley Clatterbuck – University of Northwestern

Changing Churches: Beliefs of Megachurch Youth vs Small Church Youth
Does the size of a church influences student beliefs? Research focusing on church size and youth ministry is sparse. Youth discipleship draws upon leaders’ alignment with their denomination and church core beliefs and is subsequently reflected in what students believe. After surveying churched young people in order to identify relationships – or patterns – of their knowledge and adoption of church beliefs this study considered how the data correlates with church size.

SIERRA B
Nathan Wheeler – Cumberland Presbyterian Church

A Faith of Their Own: Expanding Theological Engagement in Ministry with Younger People
Can widening theological engagement lead adults and youth alike to embrace their traditional differences while activating collaboration? This presentation employs a way for young people to become self-aware of their implicit theology while contributing to their discipleship. By understanding “DRAFT” (Dominant, Regional, Affluent, Folklore, Theology) and widening our default theology, leaders alongside youth can participate in their own faith development and empower them to co-lead a church on the cusp of breakthrough change and innovation.

PLAZA A
Michael Mauriello – LeTourneau University

Bored and Lonely Christian Teenagers: Academic Theology Camp as Diagnostic of East Texas Youth Ministry Discipleship and Curriculum
This qualitative study examines the perceptions of theologically interested Christian teenagers in East Texas concerning their youth groups. Participants in LeTourneau University’s Theology Camp describe invigorating growth as academic fellows while they engaged in theology classes with college faculty and like-minded teenagers. These teenagers also describe feeling disconnected from the communal and educational life of their youth groups. This study suggests that congregations implement certain practices concerning curriculum and fellowship to mentor theologically interested teenagers.

PLAZA B
Jennifer Guerra Aldana – Fuller Youth Institute

Creative and Faithful Discipleship
Fuller Youth Institute launched the Living a Better Story project to explore how churches develop more Christ-centered narratives. We studied diverse churches and faith-based organizations that are faithfully and creatively discipling high school-aged teenagers. These organizations are imagining new ways to minister to and with teenagers that reflect their unique contexts. We will discuss the practices that lead to integrated, holistic ministries to and with young people we found in these creative and faithful ministries.

PLAZA C
CELEBRATING AUTHORS! hosted by Brian Hull, spotlighting new books published by AYME members
If you have published a book since we last met, this is the chance to make colleagues aware of your work. Bring your passion...show & tell...field questions...enjoy applause! Our host will lead the way in this informal gathering by introducing, Youth Ministry as Mission: A Conversation About Theology and Culture.
Receive a 30% discount when you call (800)-733-2607 and mention code: SPCE-22 or AYME-22. Discount valid through December 31, 2022.
SIERRA A
Tyler Greenway – Baylor University, with Brad Griffin and Kara Powell – Fuller Youth Institute
*Faith Beyond Youth Group: A Framework for Character-forming Discipleship in Youth Ministry*

Young people’s ability to thrive is made difficult by widespread challenges. Thankfully many core habits of the Christian faith serve as tools that equip young people to navigate their world, pursue peace and justice, and flourish. This presentation describes a research-based framework for character-forming discipleship that focuses on cultivating trust, modeling growth, teaching for transformation, practicing together, and making meaning. This framework also presents an opportunity for collaborative discipleship within and across church communities.

SIERRA B
Theresa O’Keefe – Boston College School of Theology and Ministry
*Reading Discipleship through a Constructive-Developmental Lens*

Christian discipleship can mean many things, but in one way or another it involves how persons interpret their world, affiliate with others in community, and express their agency as Christians. This paper reads those three elements (interpretation, affiliation, and agency) through the constructive-developmental lens of Robert Kegan. The intent is to provide youth ministry educators with means of understanding and working with young people towards discipleship.

PLAZA A
Liam Craig and Ellie Emley – University of Northwestern
*Impact of Families in Flux*

Research suggests parental involvement in a child’s life critically impacts development. With families in flux, parental absence, and changing family dynamics, there is potential for spiritual development impact. This research used a survey of emerging adults (18-29) to understand how both parental involvement and parental absence throughout childhood may impact spiritual development during the adolescent years (12-18). Seeking collaborative, parent-involved youth discipleship, this study assessed how much parental presence is efficacious in the spiritual formation of young people.

PLAZA B
Justin Forbes – Flagler College
*Hospitality Shaped Pedagogy: Christian Education as Formation unto Communion*

This presentation explores the relationship between the Christian practice of hospitality and pedagogical design as a means to reimagine a ministry of teaching and discipleship. The nature of educational practices as grounded in the reconciling work of Christ are explored by leaning on the language of Willie Jennings and Karl Barth. This breakout session will then articulate pragmatic expressions of hospitality shaped pedagogy and call for a newly reimagined approach to the teaching ministry of the Christian.
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NEXT MOST
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LIKE YOU, YTN IS DEDICATED TO SEEING STUDENTS LIVE OUT THEIR PURPOSE, PASSION AND CALLING.

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The Youth Theology Network (YTN) is a coordinated initiative between the Forum for Theological Exploration (FTE) and the Lilly Endowment Inc.

youththeologynetwork.org

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Offer expires 10/31/2022
SIERRA A
Naomi Mbise – California Lutheran University
Youth in Double Cultures and Third Culture Kids
With the advancement of science, technology, and globalization, young adults are exposed to different cultures and life dynamics that make it complex to both navigate and be brave enough to achieve their true potential. This research focuses on the youth in double and triple cultures in modern society, exploring the secular, spiritual and multicultural worlds. How can institutions, the church, and individuals support their forward movement with affirmation and practicality?

SIERRA B
Barry Saylor – OneHope, Inc.
Family Matters: Understanding the Reality of Parents in the United States
In an exploratory study of 2,051 parents of children ages 7-19, OneHope sought to understand the contemporary relationship between parents and their children on matters of faith formation. This study recognized that many US parents self-identified as struggling, and documented confidence in navigating important conversations regarding faith and development. In accordance with OneHope’s biblical emphasis, this study examines parents’ view of scripture and demonstrates a correlation to their ability and confidence in addressing cultural issues.

PLAZA A
Mike Severe – Taylor University
Breakout Ministry: How Transformational Leaders Align the Practices of Organizational Change with Ministry Values
Transformational change in ministry is driven by aligning the organization’s core values and philosophy of ministry. Communities of practice and expert practitioners provide a clear window into effective change and organizational development procedures within the local church. This study performed semi-structured qualitative interviews with all leaders that have experienced significant effectiveness after periods of stagnation. Tools, policies, and best practices that promote philosophical and theological alignment will be presented.

PLAZA B
Jacob Sorenson – Sacred Playgrounds, LLC
The Role of Summer Camp Staff Experiences on Faith Formation and Leadership Development
The Christian summer staff experience remains largely unexplored, in spite of its strong record of success in developing faith and forming leaders in the church. A 2021 survey of over 800 staff members from 50 Lutheran camps in the United States offers valuable insights into the role of a summer camp staff experience on faith formation, personal development, and vocational call. Three factors impacted growth: support, agency, and consistency of faith in the camp community.
2023 AYME Conference

Multicultural Ministry in the Church and Academy

Friday—Sunday, October 27-29, 2023

Westin O’Hare Hotel
Chicago, Illinois

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