

Save the Date and Pass the Word!

[Youth Ministry:Now](#) will host a week-long symposium on Urban Youth Ministry this June 2-6.

"God Power! Youth Power! Transforming the City: A Yale Symposium on Building and Sustaining Urban Youth Ministries"

This week-long offering will include both morning and afternoon courses. In the mornings, we will have daily lectures and lunches by leading scholars and practitioners of urban youth ministry. In the afternoon, our own Yale professors, Yolanda Smith and Almeda Wright, will offer a five-day course on the core practices of youth ministry entitled: "My Faith, My way: Youth Spirituality and Christian Practices".

Here is a short summary of the lectures we will offer each morning 9:00-11:30:

June 2, 2014: Dr. Anne E. Streaty Wimberly, Director, Youth Hope-Builders Academy, Interdenominational Theological Center

Dr. Wimberly is a Professor of Christian Ethics at the Interdenominational Theological Center where she is also the Director of the Youth Hope-Builders Academy. She is the author of several books including "In Search of Wisdom: Faith Formation in the Black Church". Drawing on her research and writings, Dr. Wimberly will address the core practices of urban ministry and why relational youth ministry is critical to faith formation for young people in the city.

June 3, 2014: Dean Evelyn L. Parker, Perkins School of Theology

Dr. Parker is the associate Dean for Academic Affairs and Associate Professor of Practical Theology at Southern Methodist University and author of "Trouble Don't Last Always: Emancipatory Hope Among African American Adolescents". Drawing on her research and writings, Dean Parker will lecture on youth ministry practices that nurture spiritual development among African American young women.

June 4, 2014: Dr. Mark R. Gornik, founder and director, Dr. Janice A. McLean Farrell, and Dean Maria Liu Wong, City Seminary of New York

Dr. Gornik is the founder and director of City Seminary of New York and author of Christianity Today's 2012 Missions/Global Affairs Book of the Year Award for his book, "Word Made Global: Stories of African Christianity in New York City". Dr. McLean-Farrell is a faculty member at City Seminary of New York and co-editor of "Understanding World Christianity: The Vision and Work of Andrew F. Walls". Dean Liu Wong is the dean of City Seminary of New York and author of "Christ in the Capital of the World: How Global Christians are Revitalizing NYC Far Beyond Manhattan". Professors Gornik, McClean-Farrell and Liu Wong have been leading their "Next Generation" project in New York City, studying youth ministry in urban immigrant communities. Their lecture will share the practical lessons they've drawn from the exemplary ministries in their study.

June 5, 2014: Pastors Rebecca and Jorge Gonzales, founders and directors, Power House Youth Ministries, Centro Cristiano Bethesda, Chicago, Ill.

Pastors Rebecca and Jorge Gonzales have been the architects and leaders of the dynamic Power House Ministries at Centro Cristiano Bethesda for more than 20 years. Their lecture will share the lessons they've learned over two decades of youth ministry with Latina and Latino youth in Chicago.

June 6, 2014: Dr. Gregory C. Ellison, II, Candler School of Theology

Dr. Ellison is the Assistant Professor of Pastoral Care and Counseling, Candler School of Theology, Emory University and author of *Cut Dead But Still Alive: Caring for African American Young Men*. Drawing on his research and writings, Dr. Ellison's lecture will present approaches, insights and practices for offering pastoral care to African American young men.

Here is a short description of the course Yale Professors Smith and Wright will offer each afternoon at 1:30-4:00:

Course Title: My faith, My way: Youth, Spirituality and Christian Practices

Course Description:

Despite what many believe, youth ministry is more than pizza parties and mission trips. To be sure, a vital role of youth ministry is to aid in the spiritual formation of young people. But how might youth ministry deepen and expand a sense of spirituality in today's youth? In this course we examine ways of carefully attending to the lives, contexts, and spiritual formation of adolescents. We will explore creative ways of nurturing youth spirituality through the lens of Christian practices. We move beyond simply rehearsing the "problems" of youth and explore how we can listen with youth as they explore their faith in personal and communal ways, with the goal of "making their faith their own." Our approach is to invite participants into a conversation about the ways that Christian practices, which are individual and communal, ancient and contemporary, are powerful tools for helping young people grow in their faith journeys. In particular, we will discuss the ways that young people shape and are shaped by Christian practices, such as prayer, Sabbath, worship, testimony sharing, artistic narrative, and honoring

the body.

**Yes! Both Morning and Afternoon Offerings will be Offered
Gratis!**

Our Youth Ministry Initiative is pleased to offer both the morning lecture series and the afternoon course taught by Professors Smith and Wright free of charge. A generous grant will make it possible for all interested pastors, lay leaders and students to register for these programs for a nominal fee which will be refunded on the day of the programs. You will find more information and an online registration process on the Summer Study page of the Yale Divinity School website.

Taken together, our two courses offer an enlightening look at the world of urban youth ministry. We hope you'll consider exploring this topic with us.

For information, contact
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