

THIS DOCUMENT OUTLINES 5 EXAMPLES OF YOUTH MINISTRY TRAINING. THESE EXAMPLES RANGE FROM FREE ONLINE COURSES TO UNIVERSITY-ACCREDITED CERTIFICATE PROGRAMS. YOUR LOCAL EDUCATION INSTITUTION MAY HAVE COURSES ON HOW TO WORK WITH CHILDREN AND TEENS. TO FIND THE TYPE OF TRAINING THAT SUITS YOUR NEEDS, IT MAY BE HELPFUL TO SEARCH ONLINE.

YOUTH MINISTRY EDUCATION: EXAMPLE #1

ST. MICHAEL'S COLLEGE, UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO Canadian Certificate in Youth Ministry Studies

The Canadian Certificate in Youth Ministry Studies is designed for coordinators of youth ministry, volunteer youth ministers, pastors, pastoral workers, high school chaplains and teachers, guidance counselors, campus ministers and parents. It provides an introductory understanding of core areas of Catholic beliefs as well as Scripture, Christology, Ecclesiology, Christian Ministry, Sacraments, Morality and Social Justice. Participants will develop techniques for a creative and comprehensive youth ministry in any setting whether it is in a church, a school, with families or in the community.

To obtain a certificate a student must:

Complete all 8 courses (offered in two seminar weekends with 4 courses per weekend)

Complete two chaplaincy weekends: in a school or parish in supervised youth ministry practice

CYCLE I Seminar Weekend: Courses 1-4 as listed below

CYCLE II Seminar Weekend: Courses 5-8 as listed below

1. Principles of Youth Ministry

This course presents the fundamental principles for developing an effective, comprehensive ministry with younger and older adolescents. Course topics include: the pastoral foundations for ministry, healthy adolescent development, family friendly youth ministry, ministry with youth in the parish, school and civic community, media awareness and multi-cultural awareness.

2. Developing Youth Ministry

Developing Youth Ministry deals with the skills and processes for collaborating with a youth ministry team and with the community to do effective youth ministry. Course topics include: preparing and nurturing adult and young leaders in ministry, and developing youth ministry through a process, which includes planning, implementing and evaluating.

3. Foundations of Christian Leadership

This course invites Christian leaders to look at the principles and priorities that guide their lives. It presents a model of principle-centered leadership and Christian spirituality that provides tools for synchronizing activities with principle and priorities. Participants develop a personal mission statement and strategies for self-care, personal renewal, leadership development and growth in ministry.

4. Skills for Christian Ministry

This course addresses the theories and skills that ministers need to work with and through people. Participants will

develop: a practical, working understanding of leadership processes and skills necessary for empathic communication; group dynamics and development; facilitation of group processes; win/win negotiating and conflict management.

5. Fostering the Faith Growth of Youth through Prayer and Worship

This course investigates the role that Christian worship and sacraments have in fostering the spiritual growth of youth. Participants develop the theoretical and practical skills necessary for preparing and celebrating liturgy, prayer and worship experiences, for designing youth retreat experiences and for fostering the prayer life of youth. The goal of the course is to develop a realistic, integrated, and practical approach to worship within a comprehensive ministry to youth.

6. Fostering the Faith Growth of Youth through Evangelization and Catechesis

This course explores the theological understandings of faith discipleship and Catholic identity and a contemporary vision and approach for evangelization and catechesis with young people. Participants develop practical approaches, strategies and skills for doing outreach with youth, sharing the Good News (story-telling), creating evangelization experiences, and designing effective learning experiences for adolescents.

7. Fostering the Faith Growth of Youth through Justice and Service

This course explores the theological and scriptural foundations for engaging young people in the work of justice and service. Participants develop the practical processes and skills for creating justice education programming, developing service and action opportunities, and nurturing the social consciousness and spirituality of young people.

8. Fostering the Faith Growth of Youth through Pastoral Care

This course explores the principles and methods of caring for young people and their families. The course goals are to equip ministers with tools for promoting healthy adolescent development and developing preventative interventions for families with adolescents.

TUITION: \$350.00 per weekend which includes cost of books and lunch

YOUTH MINISTRY EDUCATION: EXAMPLE #2

RENISON COLLEGE INSTITUTE OF MINISTRY, UNIVERSITY OF WATERLOO

Basic Certificate in Children's and Youth Ministry

Essentials for ministering with children and youth.

Participants are required to complete four workshops:

1. Safe Church (4 hours)

About the Workshop:

A must for everyone involved in working with children and youth. Basic principles of ministering with children and youth; working within guidelines and legislation related to protection of vulnerable people; screening and support of children and youth leaders (volunteer and paid); and group discipline that develops a caring environment and fosters positive relationships in your group.

2. One of the "ministering with" workshops (4 hours). Each workshop will explore principles and approaches of pastoral care with young people and their families, resources for encouraging age-appropriate faith development, and ideas for congregational activities to foster an active ministry with one of the following age groups.

- Ministering with under 5's and their families
- Ministering with school-age children and their families
- Ministering with adolescents and their families

3. One Faith Formation workshop (4 hours). Practical ideas for fostering faith in young people through:

- Worship & Prayer
- Justice & Service
- Hearing Scriptures Personally
- Pastoral Care
- Observing the Church Year

4. One Skills Workshop (4 hours)- develop abilities to:

- use Creative Storytelling and Drama
- implement Creative Communications
- discuss Christianity and Popular Culture
- plan Events
- select and work with curricula

Workshops are offered throughout the year.

YOUTH MINISTRY EDUCATION: EXAMPLE #3

‘NEOS’ CERTIFICATE FIVE OAKS’: UNITED CHURCH EDUCATION & RETREAT CENTRE PARIS, ONTARIO

Youth Ministry Certificate Program

"I have been a Youth Ministry volunteer for 9 years and have been searching for some formal training. This program was exactly what I was looking for. Each program I attended I learned effective strategies on how to minister to the youth in my church and my community. I met others with the same passion as I do and was able to share experiences and learn new ways of how to meet the spiritual needs of youth. The weekends are spiritually uplifting and I return energized and ready to continue in youth ministry." - Donna

Neos is an ecumenical youth ministry training program aimed at equipping mainline church leaders with skills, knowledge and confidence in their ability to minister with youth. Neos exists because we need to invest in the leadership of future generations of the church.

Goals of the Neos Program...

Enrich participants through sharing, worship and community

Develop a supportive network

Engage participants in relevant and practical education

Celebrate and energize intentional youth ministry

Anyone can attend a Neos program! - whether you work with youth or are considering it. Church volunteers, camp staff, staff associates, order of ministry, outreach workers, chaplains, pastoral care providers, confirmation leaders & mentors would all benefit from the Neos Program. Neos is for people of all denominations.

How to obtain the Neos Certificate in Youth Ministry...

Every fall, winter and spring, there is a **Neos** program for training in youth ministry. These programs run Friday night to Sunday afternoon. To **obtain the Certificate, one needs to complete six Neos programs**. Two of the programs, *Beyond Bowling; Faith Development with Youth*, and *Nuts & Bolts of Youth Ministry*, are compulsory for the Certificate and are held bi-annually each fall. Four other ‘choice’ programs focus on topics such as worship, leadership, pastoral care, outreach and current issues. To enroll in the Certificate please contact Five Oaks. There is a \$25 administration fee. Please enroll in the Certificate before you register for your sixth **Neos** program. **Can I attend a Neos program without enrolling in the Certificate?** YES! **Neos** programs are open to all - one does not need to be enrolled in the Certificate to participate.

PROGRAM EXAMPLE: Beyond Bowling: Faith Development with Youth (Neos)

Fri. 7:30pm-Sun. 12:30pm, Cost: \$250 (\$280 after Oct. 15) - includes tuition, meals & accommodation

Youth leaders often have a difficult task of keeping youth interested and engaged in coming out to youth group, special events, projects and programs, let alone trying to nurture and explore with youth a sense of Christian identity and faith. It can be challenging to keep things creative and contemporary for youth, while at the same time taking care of one’s own spiritual needs as a leader. During this weekend at Five Oaks we will explore the role of the youth leader when it comes to faith development. You will deepen your understanding of Christian practices and how they might be integrated in to ministry with youth. Specific topics that will be explored include biblical engagement, worship, types of prayer, ‘rites of passage’ such as confirmation, developing youth ministry in the congregational setting and much more. All people in paid accountable ministry, as well as active volunteers, will benefit from this program. You will come away with lots of resources and practical tools to put to use in your ministry with youth as well as meet a network of energetic colleagues and friends. (Youth Leaders are encouraged to bring youth to Five Oaks during this weekend for a fun Youth Retreat. Please refer to the Children, Youth & Family program listings for more information.)

YOUTH MINISTRY EDUCATION: EXAMPLE #4

FREE ONLINE COURSE THROUGH COVENANT THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY (United States)

Youth Ministry Course Description: This course offers a theological and practical approach to youth ministry in the church, including the place of youth ministry in the church's philosophy of ministry and principles for overseeing a youth ministry program. **Assignments should be submitted to access@covenantseminary.edu**

Reading Responses (30%) : Students must complete the assigned readings (required books and relevant youth periodical) and write a two-page response paper for each text reflecting on a theme from the book or an individual section of the book. It's desired that the student will engage the material and share how the material shapes his or her understanding of youth ministry. The student will also record what percentage of the reading they completed.

Research Paper (60%) : Each student is required to write a 12-15 page paper researching one of the topics listed below. These topics are general, so it is desired that the student will focus in on specific areas relating to the topic. The expectation is that the student's work will be done in a manner that will allow their material greatly benefit the field of youth ministry. The topics are:

1. ***A Review of Youth Ministry Resources***

(Reference the bibliography of youth ministry resources included in *Purpose Driven Youth Ministry*.)

This paper will be the result of a critical review of 7-10 youth ministry resources that are currently available to youth ministers. The student will give an honest and fair review of how these resources help or hinder a biblical youth ministry model. The student, course mentor, and the professor will select the resources.

2. ***Youth Ministry in an Electronic Age***

How does the modern electronic revolution change the way we minister to middle school and high school students? What are the dangers and opportunities that exist? This paper will help identify how youth ministers can effectively use today's technology to more effectively reach today's techno-minded student.

3. ***My First Year***

This paper will be the result of the student developing a mission statement and action plan for implementing a biblical, purpose-driven youth ministry for a local church. The paper will include a list of goals and objectives that the youth pastor will seek to accomplish within a specific time period: first 30 days; first 3 months; first 6 months; first year.

Class Participation (10%):

1. Students in the *Access* program participate in the class in two ways. Most students are required to interact by phone with a course mentor based in St. Louis twice a month. Some students meeting in church-based groups of five or more credit-seeking students will meet with a local, Covenant approved course mentor. Additionally, students are required to interact with other students in threaded discussions taking place on the Internet (<https://portal.covenantseminary.edu>) and moderated by St. Louis-based teaching assistants.
2. Bring to iCourse any questions and comments you might have about what Prof. Davis says in class or about the questions and discussion you hear on tape.
3. Students should do all the reading and bring questions or comments you have about the books or articles to your course mentor or iCourse discussions. If you come across any articles that you think are valuable to our discussions, feel free to bring them to the iCourse discussions.

Class Calendar (including fixed assignments)

ONLINE or VIDEO TAPE LESSON TITLE/TOPIC Video Tape Time PAGE

Introduction

Introduction: Course Information & Schedule (30 min)

Take a moment to visit the Youth Ministry area of iCourse (<https://portal.covenantseminary.edu>) and introduce yourself. Tell us your reasons and interests in taking this course. How do you hope it will help you in your current ministry? How do you hope it will help you in your future ministry?

LESSON 1 The Growing Up of Youth Ministry (55 min) 0:29:30 – 1:25:00

LESSON 2 Because Youth Ministry is a Calling (50 min) 0:00:00 – 0:50:30

LESSON 3 The Cost of the Calling & Identity (50 min) 0:51:00 – 1:42:00

LESSON 4 Restoring My Identity (53 min) 0:00:00 – 0:53:17

LESSON 5 Understanding Youth Culture (45 min) 0:53:00 – 1:38:00

LESSON 6 Developing a Vision Statement (49 min) 0:00:00 – 0:48:40

LESSON 7 Developing a Vision Statement (con't) (50 min) 0:49:00 – 1:37:00

LESSON 8 Building a Ministry Team (Have a Plan) (48 min) 0:00:00 – 0:47:00

LESSON 9 Building a Ministry Team (Build Relationships) (53 min) 0:48:00 – 1:41:00

LESSON 10 Building a Ministry Team (Have Job Descriptions) (Part 1) (49 min) 0:00:00 – 0:48:00

LESSON 11 Building a Ministry Team (Have Job Descriptions) (Part 2) (53 min) 0:49:00 – 1:42:00

LESSON 12 Reaching the Harassed & Helpless (Rev. Hugh Bartlett) (55 min) 0:00:00 – 0:55:00

LESSON 13 Reaching the Harassed & Helpless (Rev. Hugh Bartlett) (46 min) 0:56:00 – 1:42:00

LESSON 14 Relational Youth Ministry (50 min) 0:00:00 – 0:48:00

LESSON 15 Profile of a Relational Youth Minister (50 min) 0:49:00 – 1:40:00

LESSON 16 Profile of a Relational Youth Minister (con't) Learning to Listen (45 min) 0:00:00 – 0:44:00

LESSON 17 Relational Youth Ministry – Listening Skills (55 min) 0:45:00 – 1:40:00

YOUTH MINISTRY EDUCATION: EXAMPLE #5

Correspondence courses from www.youthtrain.org, based in New Zealand

Certificate in Youth Ministry: Outline of Information

The Certificate in Youth Ministry is an affordable course that allows you to study at your own pace, with no semesters or deadlines. The papers enable study to be completed with flexibility so you can continue on with your other commitments — other study, work, church, sport etc... You can do just one paper or all eight, with no obligation, agendas or pressure. If you decide to do more than one paper, they can be completed in any order and at any time throughout an entire year. Do one paper or all eight - the choice is yours! For each paper leaders receive an attractively presented 60 page manual and a 20 page workbook to record their answer in. They are easy to read and include learning exercises for assessment. The non-essay exercises are designed to be helpful for reflection and gaining insight. They will be marked in a way that will provide beneficial comments and advice as you enhance your leadership skills.

Attention Youth Pastors... Sign up a team!

Sign up 2 or more members of your leadership team and undertake to meet with them regularly and talk about that they are learning and we will send you a *free* copy of the study material for you to keep. This is a great way to raise the skill level of your key leaders with little effort on your part.

Details of each paper are as follows:

LEADING

Christian Leadership can be tough at times, but hugely rewarding. This paper looks at what being a Christian Leader is all about, including the characteristics, call, motivation, requirements, responsibilities, skills, style and trials of the effective Christian Leader.

MANAGING

Management can become a real pitfall to a ministry if not done well. This paper looks at the dynamics and requirements of management in ministry and covers time and financial management, marketing, planning, delegation, motivation, decision making, conflict resolution, change management and discipline.

DESIGNING

What is at the heart of a youth ministry? Why do we do what we do? The Designing paper answers these questions and more. Look at the aspects of a Biblical and appropriate youth ministry design including philosophy, purpose, models of ministry, implementation, and integration with the wider church.

PROGRAMMING

Ever wanted to develop your own youth programme? Here's your chance! In this paper, you will learn some of the principles and practices of the most effective youth programme elements such as Bible study, prayer, worship, camping, evangelism, mission, and recreation.

UNDERSTANDING

Adolescence is full of ups and downs — relate to your own experiences as you learn the developmental characteristics of adolescence such as physical, sexual, emotional, social, intellectual, moral and spiritual. Understand the impact of factors affecting behaviour such as personality, environment and the family.

CARING

There are many ways we can be there for the young people we lead. Learn various principles and practices of

pastoral care to adolescents including personal qualities, listening skills, building helping relationships, common pastoral care issues, handling crises, confidentiality and referral.

COMMUNICATING

Communication is essential to everything we do, learn principles and practices of effective communication through preaching, training and small group leadership. Gain an understanding of the principles of teaching, learning, preparation, presentation, group dynamics and learning styles.

CONNECTING

Explore the world of youth culture and all the various worldviews impacting young people today. Look at the cultural characteristics and trends including historical trends, environment, worldview, behaviour, implications and responses.

Cost: Each paper is a very affordable \$60 which includes a 60 page training manual and 20 page workbook. This is payable on registering for the paper(s) of your choice. Postage is free within New Zealand and \$5 per module for overseas students.

NEW OFFER: Sign up for all 8 papers and receive a one third discount. Instead of paying \$480 you pay just \$320. Even if you don't complete all your studies you still get to keep all 8 manuals.