



Books on youth ministry – list 1

available to borrow from the **United Media Resource Center** <http://www.igrc.org/umrc>

Contact us at umrc@igrc.org

or search for and request items using [the online catalog](#)

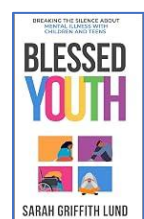


5 VIEWS ON THE FUTURE OF YOUTH MINISTRY: PERSPECTIVES ON WHAT COULD OR SHOULD BE (821124)

Author: Oestreicher, Mark, editor. Is youth ministry thriving? Stagnant? Evolving? Dying? What does any of that mean for us as youth workers, or, more critically, for the young people we care about? In this book, a group of youth ministry thought leaders are asked two key questions: What are the problems youth ministry currently faces? And what is the pathway forward? Each chapter represents a thoughtful, practical, and challenging viewpoint. At the end of each chapter, there is a sidebar from an in-the-trenches youth worker whose ministry is currently living out the future the chapter's writer foresees. Chapters and contributors: Stranger things – embracing the oddness of Jesus in youth ministry (Kenda Creasy Dean); The future is young, urban, and multiethnic (Tommy Nixon); The curious case of the disappearing youth worker (Mark DeVries); Engaging ALL families (Virginia Ward); Reflecting from this side of the pond - our reality and your future? (Chris Curtis); Re-weirdifying youth ministry – case studies (Kenda Creasy Dean). 141 Pages.

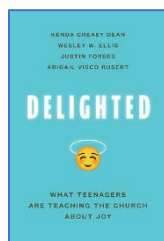


ALMOST CHRISTIAN (811005) **Author:** Dean, Kenda Creasy. What the Faith of Our Teenagers is Telling the American Church. Chapter titles: Becoming Christian-ish; The triumph of the "cult of nice;" Mormon envy -- sociological tools for consequential faith; Generative faith -- faith that bears fruit; Missional imaginations -- we are not here for ourselves; Parents matter most -- the art of translation; Going viral for Jesus -- the art of testimony; Hanging loose -- the art of detachment; Make no small plans -- a case for hope. Includes index. 254 Pages.



BLESSED YOUTH: BREAKING THE SILENCE ABOUT MENTAL ILLNESS WITH CHILDREN AND TEENS (823016)

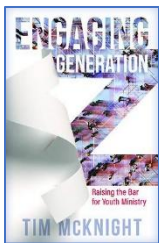
Author: Lund, Sarah Griffith. Young people are feeling overwhelmed and depressed in greater numbers each year. We must overcome the stigma and shame of talking about mental illness. This book discusses how parents, schools, faith communities and others can partner to share hope and healing for children from infancy to age 18 who are experiencing mental health challenges. The author, the Rev. Dr. Sarah Griffith Lund, is an ordained minister who also serves on the national staff of the United Church of Christ as the Minister for Disabilities and Mental Health Justice. *2024 UWF Reading Program: Nurturing for Community 112 Pages.



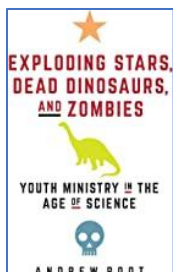
DELIGHTED: WHAT TEENAGERS ARE TEACHING THE CHURCH ABOUT JOY (820183)

Author: Dean, Kenda Creasy; Ellis, Wesley; Forbes, Justin; Rusert, Abigail V. What would youth ministry look like if it were based on a pursuit of authentic Christian joy? Joy is not often a word young people associate with church--but it should be. By reimagining three common practices in youth ministry through the theological lens of joy, veteran youth workers Kenda Creasy Dean, Wesley Ellis, Justin Forbes, and Abigail Visco Rusert demonstrate how to shift this association and become more honest about what youth ministry can, and can't, do to support young people and their faith. Grounding youth ministry in joy rather than in fear also models a way forward for the church. It reminds us that youth ministry is not a tool for anxious congregations to use to ensure their survival. Rather, youth ministry--

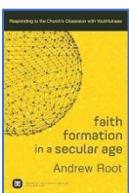
like all ministry--is a way to help people name and experience God's delight, free from fear and anxiety about their futures. Delighted is the first book to emerge from the Yale Center for Faith and Culture's Adolescent Faith and Flourishing project, offering a sustained reflection on joy's practical importance for youth ministry. With reflection questions offered at the end of each chapter, this book is easy for youth ministers, volunteers, and pastors to pick up and use immediately--tapping into young people's instinctive desire for joy for the entire church, as well as for ministry with teenagers. Chapters: Losing our scales – the adolescent experience of joy; “Ain’t never had a friend like me” – rethinking friendship in youth ministry; Wonder and onions – reframing celebration in youth ministry; Trace my hand – the promise of confession in youth ministry; Enjoying young dragons – snapshots of joyful youth ministries; Why we do this – passion as the labor of joy. Includes Scripture and subject indexes and discussion questions. 135 Pages.



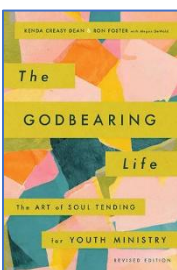
ENGAGING GENERATION Z: RAISING THE BAR FOR YOUTH MINISTRY (822001) Author: McKnight, Tim. Based on years of personal experience and practice, this book by pastor and professor Timothy McKnight provides everything youth ministers need to equip, grow, and encourage today's generation of young people to follow Christ, and to take their student ministry to the next level. Following an overview of the beliefs, attitudes, and practices of Generation Z, he provides youth pastors and volunteers with a complete plan for discipling adolescents through the local church. Chapters: Introduction – every generation must be taught anew; The world has changed, but the Gospel has not - analyzing the current culture of student ministry; Meet Generation Z – the next great generation; The potency of expectancy – why we can be optimistic; Truth or consequences – biblical teaching confronts contemporary practice; Entertaining children or assembling an army? – lessons from history; From the parachurch to the local church – a brief history of youth ministry; Teaching the youth well – building a ministry on the Word; Habitual love – stirring the affections of youth; Get real - sharing Jesus consistently; Life is worship – recalibrating the focus of students; Advice to parents - it's time to grow up; Meanwhile, back at the church – staff relations and leading a ministry; Rites of passage – seasons of change; Conclusion – raising the bar. 197 Pages.



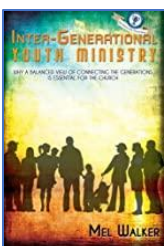
EXPLODING STARS, DEAD DINOSAURS, AND ZOMBIES: YOUTH MINISTRY IN THE AGE OF SCIENCE (818036) Author: Root, Andrew. Many things threaten the faith of youth today, but none more than science. The commitments of science and Christianity seem to be at odds — science makes truth claims based on experiments and proofs, while religion asks for belief and trust. But the author demonstrates that, in fact, the two are not incompatible. Andrew Root, a renowned expert on adolescent spirituality, shows how science overstates its claims on truth, while faith often understates its own claims. Both faith and science frame the experience and reality of teenagers, and both have something valuable to offer as adolescents develop. Drawing on a fictional account of a youth pastor and the various students he encounters, he paints a compelling picture of how faith can flourish, even in our scientific age. 292 Pages.



FAITH FORMATION IN A SECULAR AGE: RESPONDING TO THE CHURCH'S OBSESSION WITH YOUTHFULNESS (820135) Author: Root, Andrew. The loss or disaffiliation of young adults is a much-discussed topic in churches today. Many faith-formation programs focus on keeping the young, believing the youthful spirit will save the church. But do these programs have more to do with an obsession with youthfulness than with helping young people encounter the living God? Questioning the search for new or improved faith-formation programs, leading practical theologian Andrew Root offers an alternative take on the issue of youth drifting away from the church and articulates how faith can be formed in our secular age. Chapters: The boring church and the pursuit of authenticity; The history of youthfulness; The perceived scam of the mass society; The rise of the hippie and the obsession with youthfulness; The rise of hip; Churches filled with bobos – the beasts of authenticity; Faith and its formation in a secular age; What is faith?; From membership to mystical union; The music of formation; Is God a favor bestower or gift giver?; Practical steps to consider as the household of ministry. Includes index. 218 Pages.

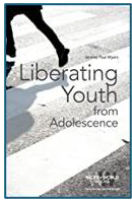


GODBEARING LIFE: THE ART OF SOUL TENDING FOR YOUTH MINISTRY - REVISED EDITION (823007) Author: Dean, Kenda Creasy; Foster, Ron; DeWald, Megan. This book is founded on the truth that we are all Godbearers to one another, and therefore youth ministry is more about people than programs. The book is conversationally written, grounded in scripture, and grows out of all three authors' own pastoral experience. This updated edition addresses the profound shifts in society and ministry over the past twenty-five years—from the interconnection of technology to the professionalization of youth ministry. It reimagines the means of Godbearing youth ministry in a post-pandemic digital age in the twenty-first century while holding on to the fact that young people are continuously transformed by the message. Youth ministry is ministry that invites young people into deep soul work and spiritual friendships. The basic message is this: young people need adults who practice faith alongside them. Chapters: Part 1: Redefining Youth Leadership. From programs to people; From gung-ho to Godbearer; Heeding while herding. Part 2: Soul Tending on Holy Ground. Tending the fire - finding holy grounds for youth ministry; Sharing the mantle - a community of co-laborers. Part 3: Ingredients of the Godbearing Life. A rhythm of life - practices that shape the soul; A circle of friends - inviting spiritual friendship. Part 4: Godbearing Practices for Youth Ministry. Handholding and finger-pointing - practices of Communion; Youth who could care more (or less) - practices of compassion; Breaking water - practices of teaching and nurture; Stick-holding - practices of witness; Sacred space making - practices of dehabitation; From awful to awe-full - practices of worship. Includes discussion questions. 268 Pages.

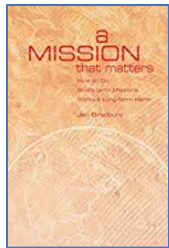


INTER-GENERATIONAL YOUTH MINISTRY (819069) Author: Walker, Mel. Why a Balanced View of Connecting the Generations is Essential for the Church. Chapters: Generation gap - why can't we all just get along?; The invention of the teenager - how traditional youth ministry got it wrong; Passing the baton - the generation-to-generation principle in Scripture; It takes a church - when parents and the church actually work together; Entrust to reliable men - being an inter-generational church; Children's ministry - no longer children; Youth ministry - that the next generation would know; Young adult (college-age) ministry - don't let anyone look down on you because you are young; Adult ministry - then they can train the younger; Senior adult ministry - even when I am old and gray; Mentoring - being intentional about connecting the generations; Graduating from church? - helping teenagers

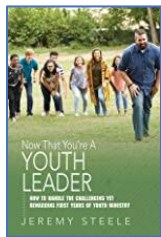
transition into the overall life of the church; Family ministry - continue in what you have learned; Changing the paradigm - from age-segregated to inter-generational churches; Caution - swinging pendulums - don't throw the baby out with the bathwater. Includes bibliography. 231 Pages.



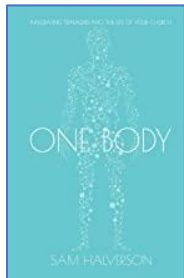
LIBERATING YOUTH FROM ADOLESCENCE (818195) Author: Myers, Jeremy Paul. Culture tells our youth (children - young adult) that they are undeveloped, identity-less, self-centered, commodified consumers. This book discusses how we must counter this perception and emphasize to them that they are called, relational, cocreating children of God. Chapters: The undeveloped consumer - youth in bondage to the adolescent; Vocation as liberation from the undeveloped consumer; Called; Child of God; Relational; Created cocreator. Includes discussion questions and a bibliography. 186 Pages.



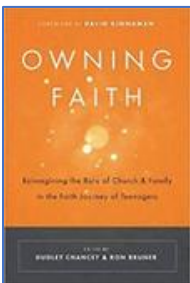
MISSION THAT MATTERS: HOW TO DO SHORT-TERM MISSIONS WITHOUT LONG-TERM HARM (818145) Author: Bradbury, Jen. Jen Bradford helps you create a comprehensive missions strategy that offers the best chance for lasting impact on teens and relationships with mission partners. Chapters: A theological framework for short-term mission trips for youth ministries; Short-term missions - more harm than good?; Integrating your congregation's heart into mission trips; Removing the exotic - choosing communities to return to again and again; Choosing your team; Fundraising for more than just you; Preparing for your mission trip; Making every moment count while you're on the ground; Reentry and debriefing; Sharing your experience; Mission trips as vehicles for hope. 192 Pages.



NOW THAT YOU'RE A YOUTH LEADER (818146) Author: Steele, Jeremy. How to Handle the Challenging Yet Rewarding First Years of Youth Ministry. Practical information makes this book a helpful resource for all youth leaders. Chapters: Self-care; The big pitfalls; Finding and taking youth ministry jobs; Hiring youth ministry staff; Intro to adolescence; Counseling teens; On, the drama of youth ministry; Recruiting, keeping, and firing volunteers; How to manage and plan basic programs; Evaluating youth ministry programs; The boring administration stuff; Communication plan for youth ministry; Your first year in detail - month by month; Small groups/teaching. 196 Pages.

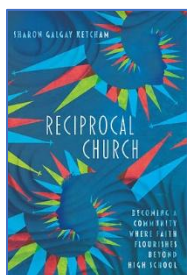


ONE BODY: INTEGRATING TEENAGERS INTO THE LIFE OF YOUR CHURCH (820158) Author: Halverson, Sam. This book addresses how even the most active youth ministries can unknowingly hinder the development of their adolescents by preventing them from being integrated into the body of Christ. It also reveals practices that hinder growth within the body and suggests some exciting ways to connect the stories and lives of the youth and adults in your church. Let's get teenagers out of their ministry silos—their youth group ghettos—and start building relationships beyond the youth room. Let's dream together of moving our congregations toward a better understanding of their biblical call to disciple and be One Body with youth. Chapters: Bring them in from the silo – why is integration important?; The dangers of playing the numbers game; The body at its best – the blessings of being an integrated church; Relationships based on presence; What is your integration factor?; Stumbling blocks and pitfalls; Ways to add integration your church's ministries; A chronicler of grace – the youth minister as an agent of integration; All churches should be doing youth ministry. 157 Pages.



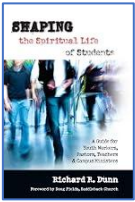
OWNING FAITH: REIMAGINING THE ROLE OF CHURCH AND FAMILY IN THE FAITH

JOURNEY OF TEENAGERS (818190) Author: Chancey, Dudley and Bruner, Ron, editors. This book is for youth leaders, parents, grandparents, and all adults interested in our youth. Chapters: You're not supposed to do this by yourself; To be a parent is to be a youth minister; Disciples learn from disciples; What is a youth minister's job, then?; Building faith at home; Discernment - core spiritual practices of the disciple; Comfort with the comfort we receive from God; Human sexuality - we have a lot to talk about; Adoptive parenting - coming to understand the heart of God; Life among the people of God; Life with peers; Friends, mentors, heroes - connecting with other generations; Bringing in the outsider - hospitality in the way of Jesus; Maintaining a holy identity while wholly immersed in a culture; Dreams, visions, and real life. Includes discussion questions. 319 Pages.

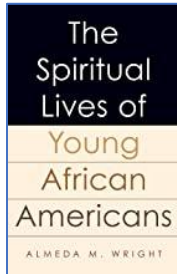


RECIPROCAL CHURCH: BECOMING A COMMUNITY WHERE FAITH FLOURISHES BEYOND HIGH SCHOOL (819046)

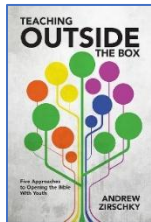
Author: Ketcham, Sharon Galgay. Sharon Galgay Ketcham reflects theologically on the church community and its role in forming faith. She exposes problems in the way leaders conceive of and teach about the relationship between personal faith and the local church, offering fresh solutions in the form of values and practices that can shape a community into a place where faith will flourish in those both young and old. Chapters: Eating melon on Tuesdays - young people and faith; Galloping mares - the gospel without Christ's church; A vital identity - God gathers a people; A vital purpose - Christ is reconciling relationships; A vital avenue - The Spirit transforms you, me, and us; Tetherballs and floodlights - valuing memory; The oxpecker's gift - valuing mutuality; Seeing beyond the epidemic - recognizing potential; Moving beyond the epidemic - valuing contribution; Windmills of hope - valuing maturity; Faith flourishes with practice. Includes discussion questions. 195 Pages.



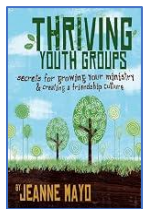
SHAPING THE SPIRITUAL LIFE OF STUDENTS (808159) Author: Dunn, Richard. A Guide for Youth Workers, Pastors, Teachers, and Campus Ministers. Section headings: 1) A Vision for Twenty-First-Century Ministry; 2) Sacred Practices of Loving Well; 3) Exploring the Terrain of Adolescent Journeys; 4) Spiritual Care for Spiritual Caregivers. Includes questions for discussion and reflection and a bibliography. 256 Pages.



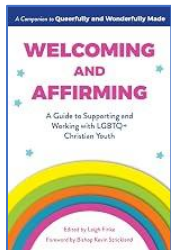
SPIRITUAL LIVES OF YOUNG AFRICAN AMERICANS (818048) Author: Wright, Alameda. Chapters: Talking fragments - fragmented spirituality in Black youth and churches; Fragmentation in context - psychological and sociological dimensions of fragmentation; Tapping into the legacy - African American spirituality and theological alternatives to fragmented spirituality; Does God care? - evil, suffering, and an insufficient theodicy; Being young, active, and faithful - Black youth activism reshaping Black Christian social witness; Choosing life with youth - vision and strategies of abundant life. Includes index. 332 Pages.



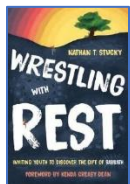
TEACHING OUTSIDE THE BOX: FIVE APPROACHES TO OPENING THE BIBLE WITH YOUTH (817228) Author: Zirschky, Andrew. Andrew Zirschky invites you to go on a journey with Jeremy Bevins, a fictional youth worker who discovers five unique approaches to teaching Scripture with the help of wise octogenarian, Seymour Mathetai. Weaving Jeremy's story with his personal insights, the author provides vivid explanations and examples of each teaching style: instructional, community of faith, interpretive, liberation, and contemplative. Larger than average print. *2020 UMW Reading Program: Leadership Development 157 Pages.



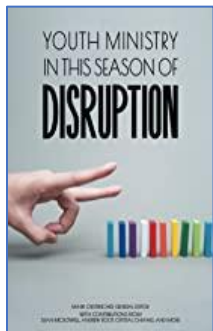
THRIVING YOUTH GROUPS: SECRETS FOR GROWING YOUR MINISTRY (805107) Author: Mayo, Jeanne. The author shares ideas for creating a friendship culture at your church where teenagers feel an authentic sense of affirmation and belonging. Chapter titles: Welcome to the world of frog-kissing; Seven steps to immediately change everything; Hosting your own guest reception; Operating follow-up; The death of Mr. Clique; Small groups made easy; What youth ministries can learn from the business world; The #1 killer of youth ministries and how to take aim; Creating a Cosby family feeling in an Osborne family world. 139 Pages.



WELCOMING AND AFFIRMING: A GUIDE TO SUPPORTING AND WORKING WITH LGBTQ+ CHRISTIAN YOUTH (820094) Author: Finke, Leigh, editor. A handbook for pastors, youth workers, church leaders, educators, and other adults in Christian settings, the book provides answers to the most pressing questions about sexuality, gender, mental health, safe sex, and more. Written by a team of LGBTQ+ adults, this book features first-hand, personal testimonials from queer young adults who have experienced the joys and hardships of being queer and Christian. Includes glossary and bibliography. 215 Pages.



WRESTLING WITH REST: INVITING YOUTH TO DISCOVER THE GIFT OF SABBATH (819079) Author: Stucky, Nathan. Chapters: Wrestling with rest - whoever said this was easy?; Rest is for the weak, and you'll die without it; Anxious for rest, anxious at rest; On the seventh day, God rested; Jesus and Sabbath; What do we do now?; What is practical theology? Includes bibliography and index. 230 Pages.



YOUTH MINISTRY IN THIS SEASON OF DISRUPTION (821004) Author: Oestreicher, Mark, editor. Chapters and contributors: Introduction, Mark Oestreicher; Disruption is nothing new, Sean McDowell; Here and now, Andrew Root; Loneliness and human connection, Crystal Chiang; Church politics and worldview tensions, Andrew Esqueda; Integration and community, Sam Halverson; Safety, Jeremy Steele; Fear and teenage catastrophic thinking, Bethany Peerbolte; Paralysis of analysis, Danny Kwon; Rethinking success, Kevin Libick; Reminders about soul-care and identity, Tandy Adams; Remember to love those who aren't showing up, Ben Knox; Celebrate the awesome, Jonathan Hobbs; Being true to our context, Marty Estes; Pausing for survival, Patrick Villa; Culturally creative, actively available, Mike Davis and Chaffawn Smith; Late-night talk show with community impact, Jim Gass; Virtual school study hall, Megan Faulkner; Asynchronous spiritual formation, Shannon LeMaster-Smith; Virtual camp for small churches, Vera Smith; Insta devos led by students, Matthew McNutt; Meeting the needs of our community, Ebonie Davis; Bridging the church to home, JJ Gibbs;

Refocusing on serving, Rhiannon Kelly; Rethinking confirmation, Ryan Schaible; Addressing deeper needs, Dustin Dick; Interactive whole-family worship, Jen Bradbury. 129 Pages.