

CRAFT:

THE FUTURE OF YOUTH MINISTRY

THE PRINCETON FORUM ON YOUTH MINISTRY

APRIL 30 -
MAY 3, 2024

PRINCETON
THEOLOGICAL
SEMINARY

WORSHIP, WORKSHOPS,
SMALL GROUPS, LECTURES,
RESOURCES, & CONNECTION.

What is the future of youth ministry?

For some of us, this question worries us.

We wonder: Will there even be youth ministry in the future?

For others of us, this question energizes us.

We wonder: What new tools and opportunities will be available in the future of youth ministry?

For all of us, this question has an answer:

THE FUTURE OF YOUTH MINISTRY IS HOW WE DECIDE TO SHAPE ITS FUTURE.
LET'S CRAFT IT TOGETHER.

The 2024 Forum on Youth Ministry invites you to join us at Princeton Theological Seminary as we host productive conversations that give voice to our collective hopes, dreams, and ideas for the future of youth ministry.

MORE INFORMATION:
IYMFORUM.PTSEM.EDU



OUR THEME FOR 2024

CRAFT: THE FUTURE OF YOUTH MINISTRY

Youth ministry is changing. Those who are called to the holy work of caring for young people along their faith journey are facing much different realities than 10 or 15 years ago. Those who have been in youth ministry during or since the pandemic know that youth ministry is different now than it was even 5 years ago.

At this year's Forum on Youth Ministry, we're recognizing the obvious: the people who have the power to determine the future of youth ministry are the people who are doing it! As the real experts in the room, participants at the Forum will join in conversations and activities through workshops with others who have a similar number of years' experience in youth ministry. On Friday morning, representatives from each of these workshops will present their learnings to the entire Forum audience during the Festival of Ideas. Facilitated by some of our favorite thought leaders working in youth ministry today, these workshops will invite participants into the shared work of imagination about the essentials of the art—the **CRAFT**—of youth ministry now and in the future we want to create together.

The APPRENTICE Track

New to youth ministry? Participants with 0-2 years of experience will discern the needs and clarify the hopes of those who are new to the work. In a world that's changing so rapidly, our apprentices are well positioned to speak into the present moment. Unencumbered by expectations of what-has-always-worked, apprentices have the unique capacity to teach us what is or isn't working—now.

The SOJOURNER Track

Been in youth ministry for a few years now? Participants with 3-6 years of experience will connect with others who have learned some best practices and had some great ideas along the way. After mastering the basics and learning their strengths, our sojourners have developed wisdom about staying faithful to their calling in the face of ever-new challenges.

The MAESTRO Track

Lost count of how many years you've been at this? Participants with 7+ years of experience will bring their brilliance to bear as they share their expertise with others in the room. Drawing from time-tested practices and hard-won wisdom, our maestros will share what long obedience in the direction of youth ministry can look like in our lives, in our young people, in the church, and in the world.

The FESTIVAL of IDEAS

The gathered Forum audience will encourage and support one another by mapping resources, sharing gifts, forming friendships, and offering thoughtful feedback with a grand celebration on Friday morning.

2024 LEADERS INCLUDE



Dr. Patrick B. Reyes

Patrick is the Dean of Auburn Theological Seminary and the award-winning author of [The Purpose Gap](#) and [Nobody Cries When We Die](#). A Chicano writer, theologian and executive leader, Patrick will lecture at the 2024 Forum on Youth Ministry.



Dr. Reginald Blount

Reggie is the Murray H. Leiffer Associate Professor of Formation, Leadership, and Culture at Garrett Evangelical Seminary, as well as the Director of the Center for the Church and the Black Experience. Reggie will be our “Sojourner Track Leader.”



Mark Oestreicher

Marko is a veteran youth worker and founding partner in The Youth Cartel, providing resources and coaching for church youth workers. A prolific writer in youth ministry, Marko will be our “Maestro Track Leader.”



Rev. Dr. Aqueelah Ligonde

Aqueelah is an ordained PCUSA pastor, the Director of Coaching and Consultants for Ministry Architects, and the Vice President for Coaching and Training for Ministry Incubators. A longtime youth leader, Aqueelah will be our “Apprentice Track Leader.”



Rev. Abigail Visco Rusert

Abigail is the Associate Dean of Continuing Education at Princeton Theological Seminary. Passionate about innovation in the church and a champion for young people, Abigail will be our preacher and holy cheerleader.

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WHAT'S HAPPENING

TUESDAY

April 30

10am:	OPENING WORSHIP
11am:	WORKSHOPS — 3 tracks, based on years experience
1pm:	LUNCH
3pm:	LECTURE
4pm:	SMALL GROUPS — 5 groups, by geographic region
6pm:	WELCOME DINNER EVENT

WEDNESDAY & THURSDAY

May 1 & 2

9am:	WORSHIP
10am:	WORKSHOPS — 3 tracks, based on years experience
12pm:	LUNCH
2pm:	LECTURE
3:30pm:	SMALL GROUPS — 5 groups, by geographic region

FRIDAY

May 3

9am:	THE FESTIVAL OF IDEAS — presented by track reps
11am:	CLOSING WORSHIP — with communion

THERE'S MORE A GAME ROOM WHERE YOU CAN TEST AND PURCHASE RESOURCES TO DEEPEN YOUR MINISTRY; A FACILITATED CONVERSATION BETWEEN LECTURERS; SPACE TO PRAY, RELAX, & CONNECT WITH OTHERS.

TICKETS

Book your tickets directly at ymforum.ptsem.edu, where you will also find information on where to stay, other leaders, and our faqs. Join us for the full conference for only \$399, a two-day pass for only \$199, or a one-day pass for only \$99.

LOCATION

We look forward to welcoming you on the beautiful campus of Princeton Theological Seminary in Princeton, NJ.

GIVEAWAYS

Participants will receive complimentary SWAG, along with entry into contests for free resources to support your ministry.

INSTITUTE FOR YOUTH MINISTRY

PRINCETON THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY

We form Christian leaders for thoughtful, just, and creative ministry with young people. To learn more, visit us at ym.ptsem.edu