

Resources for Youth Ministry

Recommendations from Alberta and Northwest Conference

The following resources were recommended by the Alberta and Northwest Conference "Principles in Youth and Young Adult Ministry Course" held in August 2006.

Programming Resources

Awesome Possibilities (Alberta and Northwest Conference, The United Church of Canada, 1993).

Bass, Dorothy, and Dorothy Richter, eds., *Way to Live: Christian Practices for Teens* (Nashville, TN: Upper Room Books, 2002).

Written by youth and adults together, each chapter covers a Christian practice in an engaging and challenging way. The chapter on "stuff" is worth the cost of the book alone. The Leader's Guide may be downloaded from www.waytolive.org.

Calderone-Stewart, Lisa-Marie, *Faith Works for Senior High* (Winona, MN: Saint Mary's Press/Christian Brothers, 1993).

Canfield, Jack, Mark V. Hansen, and Kimberly Kirberger, eds., *Chicken Soup for the Teenage Soul on Tough Stuff* (Deerfield Beach, FL: Health Communications, 2001).

Grothe, Rebecca, *More Building Assets together: 130 Group Activities for Helping Youth Succeed* (Minneapolis, MN: Search Institute, 2002).

Perry, Cheryl, *Youth Spirit* (Winfield, BC: Wood Lake Books, 1997).

Coming to us from *The Whole People of God* curriculum, these solid program ideas are organized according to church season.

Peterson, Eugene, *The Message* (Colorado Springs, CO: NavPress, 1995/2002).

This new version of the Bible contains accessible, fresh, sometimes surprising language.

Seeds & Sowers, Youth (Toronto: The United Church of Canada, 1990s).

Stevens, Kelly, *Youth Retreats for All Occasions* (Prescott, AZ: Educational Ministries, 1996).

Wezeman, Phyllis Vos, and Colleen Aalsburg Wiessner, *When Did We See You? Sixty Creative Activities to Help Fourth to Eighth Graders Recognize Jesus Today* (Notre Dame, IN: Ave Maria Press, 1994).

Wolfelt, Alan D., *Healing a Teen's Grieving Heart: 100 Practical Ideas for Families, Friends and Caregivers*. (Fort Collins, CO: Companion Press, 2001).

Alan Wolfelt is considered one of the wise ones in the field of grief work.

Theory of Youth and Young Adult Ministry

Clark, Chap, *Hurt: Inside the World of Today's Teenagers* (Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Academic, 2005).

Creasy Dean, Kenda, and Ron Foster, *The Godbearing Life: The Art of Soul Tending for Youth Ministry* (Nashville, TN: Upper Room Books, 1998).

Evans, Patricia, *Teen Torment* (Avon, MA: Adams Media, 2003).

Holy Bible, New Revised Standard Version (various publishers).

McCarty, Robert J., *Survival in Youth Ministry* (Winona, MN: Saint Mary's Press, 1994).

Parks, Sharon Daloz, *Big Questions, Worthy Dreams: Mentoring Young Adults in Their Search for Meaning, Purpose, and Faith* (San Francisco: Jossey-Bass/Wiley Company, 2000.)

A highly recommended book. Parks urges thoughtful adults to assume responsibility for providing strategic mentorship to young adults in their 20s, a puzzling and challenging time for most.

Senter III, Mark H., ed., *Four Views of Youth Ministry and the Church* (Grand Rapids, MI: Youth Specialties Books/Zondervan, 2001).

Westerhoff III, John H., *Will Our Children Have Faith?* (New York: The Seabury Press, 1976).

A religious education classic.

White, David F., *Practicing Discernment with Youth* (Cleveland, OH: Pilgrim Press, 2005).

White calls for congregations to engage their young people in practices of discernment, bringing their lives more fully into partnership with God's work in their particular place. He models how to do this through historic Christian practices such as silence, Quaker clearness counsels, and the Ignatian examen.

Children's Books

Gilman, Phoebe, *Something from Nothing* (Toronto: Scholastic Canada, 1992).

Viorst, Judith, *Alexander and the Terrible, Horrible, No Good, Very Bad Day* (New York: Aladdin, 1972).

Wood, Douglas, *Old Turtle* (New York: Scholastic Press, 1992).

Other

Dyson, Drew, *52 Devotions to Feed Your Fire* (Nashville, TN: Abingdon Press, 1989).

More Voices (Toronto: United Church Publishing House and Kelowna, BC: Wood Lake, 2007).

Websites

www.thesource4ym.com/teenlingo/index.asp
www.pbs.org/wgbh/pages/frontline/shows/cool/view/
www.spankmag.com

United Church and Other Church Youth Ministry Websites

www3.telus.net/vanyaya
www.egadideas.com/
www.yayaen.org/
www.united-church.ca/allages/youth
www.ottawayaya.org
www.gbod.org/youngpeople
www.funattic.com/game_youthgroup.htm
www.presbyterian.ca/
www.gilmoreparkunited.org/spiritual_gifts.shtml
www.bc.united-church.ca/Healthy_Congregations
www.united-church.ca/files/handbooks/mpecommittees.pdf

Recommendations from Five Oaks Education and Retreat Centre

Each year Five Oaks Education and Retreat Centre in Ontario recommends a list of resources for the participants of the Centre's Neos program. For 2006–07, the list included some of the resources listed above. It also included:

Berryman, Jerome W., *Godly Play: An Imaginative Approach to Religious Education* (San Francisco: Harper San Francisco, 1991). (Plus there are six volumes of *How to Lead* books.)
 Berryman adapts the techniques of Montessori, creating a method in which children and teachers become partners in religious education to experience God in the midst of play.

Buchanan, Aimee Wallis, Bill Buchanan, and Jodi B. Martin, *Making Worship Real* (Louisville, KY: Geneva Press, 2001).
 Suggestions of ways youth can meaningfully and creatively "make worship."

Dean, Kenda Creasy, *Practicing Passion: Youth and the Quest for a Passionate Church* (Grand Rapids, MI: Wm. B. Eerdmans, 2004).
 For those who are more academically inclined, this latest book from Dean is meaty. Teens are known for their passion, and Dean argues for joining the passion of youth with God's passion for them to create a passionate faith. A model for engaging today's youth, this book is also a challenge to the church to recapture its passion for God.

Fields, Doug, Laurier Polich, and Duffy Robbins, *Spontaneous Melodramas: 24 Impromptu Skits that Bring Bible Stories to Life* (Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan, 1996).

Holderness, Ginny W., and Robert S. Hay, *Teaming up: Shared Leadership in Youth Ministry* (Louisville, KY: Westminster John Knox, 1997).
 Holderness presents a practical step-by-step process for developing youth-owned youth ministry by partnering youth and adults in the church.

Lytch, Carol E., *Choosing Church: What Makes a Difference for Teens* (Louisville, KY: Westminster John Knox, 2004).

Theological educator and sociologist Carol Lytch presents this well-researched study of what attracts American teenagers to the church and what keeps them there.

Miller, Beth, *Worship Feast: 15 Sketches for Youth Groups, Worship and More* (Nashville, TN: Abingdon Press, 2003).

Worship Feast resources are designed for youth leaders who want to reach postmodern young people in their worship services by taking the sacred traditions of the worshipping church and blending them with current experiences.

Norman, Jonathan, *Worship Feast: 50 Readings, Rituals, Prayers and Guided Meditations* (Nashville, TN: Abingdon Press, 2005).

Overholt, L. David, and James Penner, *Soul Searching the Millennial Generation: Strategies for Youth Workers* (Toronto: Novalis, 2004).

Two Canadian veteran youth workers "soul-search" the millennial generation and suggest ways to create programs that fit these teens' needs and aspirations.

Sengele, Mark, and Jane Fryar, *Youth Ministry Basics* (St. Louis, MO: Concordia, 2002).

Each of the 15 chapters covers a different aspect of youth ministry: word and sacrament, spirituality, youth Bible study, leadership, support system, congregational connections, community, outreach, and more.

Stairs, Jean, *Listening for the Soul: Pastoral Care and Spiritual Direction* (Minneapolis, MN: Fortress Press, 2000).

Although not specific to youth ministry, Jean Stairs, Principal of Queen's Theological College, has written a wonderful book that reclaims pastoral care from the therapy model and infuses it instead with the wisdom of spiritual direction.

Tigert, Leanne McCall, and Timothy Brown, *Coming Out Young and Faithful* (Cleveland, OH: Pilgrim Press, 2001).

Gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgender, and questioning teenagers tell their stories, describing their experiences in their communities and churches and sharing their hopes and dreams for themselves and their churches.

Turpin, Katherine, *Branded: Adolescents Converting from Consumer Faith* (Cleveland, OH: Pilgrim Press, 2006).

White, Daniel S., Jonathan Norman, and Beth Miller, *Worship Feast: 50 Complete Multisensory Services for Youth* (Nashville, TN: Abingdon Press, 2003).

White, Daniel S., *Worship Feast: 100 Awesome Ideas for Postmodern Youth* (Nashville, TN: Abingdon Press, 2003).

Recommendations from Sally Shaw, adjunct faculty at Emmanuel College

Cloud of Witnesses, a free audio journal on youth, church, and culture produced by the Institute for Youth Ministry at Princeton Theological Seminary. Available in CD format or online, the journal brings together scholars, pastors, laypeople, and youth to support church leaders in their ministry. To request a free subscription contact iym@ptsem.edu.

The Princeton Lectures on Youth, Church, and Culture. Published yearly by the Institute for Youth Ministry, Princeton Theological Seminary, the lectures—which are written by world-renowned theologians such as Shirley Guthrie, Miroslav Volf, Jürgen Moltmann, Martin Marty, Cynthia Rigby, Leonard Sweet, and William Willimon—are available from www.ptsem.edu and in all theological college libraries.

United Church Resource Distribution (UCRD) at www.united-church.ca/sales/ucrd/ carries a selection of helpful books on youth ministry.