**School for Youth Ministry Directors and Workers**Director: Rev. O’Brien Wimbish

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A holistic program on youth ministry that offers a philosophical, practical and spiritual guide on how to build a sustainable and, healthy youth ministry in the life of the church. Attention will be given to the leader’s spiritual life, building prophetic components to the ministry, building a strong parent program, developing leaders, establishing budgets, and planning mission based events and activities.

**CURRICULUM FOR SCHOOL FOR YOUTH**

# Foundations of Youth Ministry (Monday)

The biblical, historical and philosophical principles of Youth Ministry are examined and applied. Attention is given to the development of a ministry philosophy and vision that will strengthen Youth Ministry in the local church. Models of ministry will be examined, developmental and age-characteristics appraised, and the teacher/learner process explored. This course is designed to investigate the merits of ministering to youth in the context of the family.

# Leadership in Youth Ministry (Tuesday)

Targeting the role of the Youth Ministry leader, this course examines strategies for effective management and leadership of Youth Ministry. Attention will be given to the personal qualities and skill areas germane to effective leadership. Principles of team building and equipping will be taught and demonstrated. Students will participate in case studies focused at problem solving and team building. Each student is expected to participate in a hands-on ministry experience

# Spiritual Formation in Youth (Wednesday)

This course is designed to study the aspects of spiritual formation in the lives of youth in the familial context.

The cognitive, social, emotional, and physical characteristics of children, birth to age twelve, are considered in detail. The principles of evangelism and discipleship on the life of a child will be studied in conjunction with developmental stages.

# Care & Counseling of Youth (Thursday)

Serving as an introduction to the pastoral care needs of youth, this course explores the stages of childhood development and their impact on counseling youth and families. A cursory examination of topics will be explored such as the special needs of youth, qualities of healthy families, ministry to divorced and blended families, counseling abused youth and caring for youth and families encountering grief. This course is designed to teach skills that will enable ministry leaders to address the concerns that a parent or teacher may have about a youth’s emotional, spiritual or psychological well-being. Life situations will be addressed in the class.

# Developing Youth Workers

This course is designed to teach youth workers how to sustain ministry through volunteer recruiting and retention. Methods will be discussed as to the best practice in recruiting and retaining leaders.

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| **OBJECTIVES AND INDICATORS** |

As a result of this course, the student will:

1. Understand the value and virtue of the spiritual life of the leader
2. Understand the components of a healthy ministry
3. Learn how to recruit and retain healthy volunteers
4. Plan and evaluate healthy programs that effectively build relationships
5. Build a strong and vibrant parent program for ministry support
6. Learn how to establish a healthy mission laden budget
7. Identifying a building healthy student leaders
8. Addressing and resolving conflicts in youth ministry 9. How to effectively plan a year calendar

10. How to build a strong leadership team.

Students will demonstrate mastery of these objectives by completing assignments and activities such as:

1. researching and writing a job description for their role in the youth ministry
2. write a description of a healthy youth ministry for their particular church and community
3. identify programs that are both appropriate and inappropriate for youth ministry in both the Black and urban communities.
4. compile a list of ideas that would increase and enhance our parent support
5. compile a list of the strong and weak departments in youth ministry and provide suggestions on how to strengthen those that are weak.
6. Write out a process for recruiting volunteers for the ministry
7. Write out a process for identifying and building student leaders
8. Write a “how to” paper on how to resolve conflict from the bible’s stand point
9. Create a standard for evaluating the effectiveness of youth programs and outreach
10. Write out and explain a calendar for youth ministry

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| **TEXT BOOKS & SUGGESTED READING** |

We will read articles and excerpts from the following text books:

Fields, Doug. *Purpose Driven Youth Ministry.* Grand Rapids: Youth Specialties. 1998.

Blackabye, Henry. *Spiritual Leadership.* 2005

Devries, Mark. *Sustainable Youth Ministry.*2005

Stanley, Andy & Hall, Stuart. (2001) *The Seven Checkpoints for Youth Leaders*, LA: Howard Publishing Co.,

Powell, K. E., Griffin, B. M., & Crawford, C.A. (2011). *Sticky Faith, Youth Worker Edition.* MI, Zondervan

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| **REQUIREMENTS FOR YOUTH MINISTRY CERTIFICATE** |

The essential requirement for this class is that each leader honor God and his or her ministry commitment to their church, parents, and children by being present each class with a loving heart and a willingness to participate in the building of the youth ministry.

Leaders are also expected to dialogue and discourse with a loving attitude without gossip, slander, or church bashing. The expectation is that we are meeting and training to build and establish a more healthy youth ministry to strengthen the entirety of our church and to carry out the vision of our Bishop. Leaders are expected to be on time and prepared each month.

# A. Youth Minister Qualifications and Job Description

Each student will research and create a youth ministry job qualification list and job description. The qualifications list and job description should each be one page, single-spaced. Please use a coversheet. Stapled with your work should be three examples of youth minister qualifications and job descriptions that served as models for these original works. These examples may be from youth ministry books, websites, or gathered directly from churches. (Due on Thursday)

B. **Reading Reports**

Each student must read the required texts for this course. (Daily recorded)

# C. Your Theology and Philosophy of Youth Ministry

Each student will write an original paper describing his or her theological and philosophical basis for youth ministry. (Due June 1, 2017)

# D. Planning a Youth Ministry Event (100 possible points)

Using the DiscipleNow Planning Guide available free online at [www.lifeway.com](http://www.lifeway.com/) and the planning tools available free at [www.sbcstudents.com,](http://www.sbcstudents.com/) plan a DiscipleNow event that will occur in your church youth group during the Fall 2017. (Due July 1, 2017)

# E. Youth Ministry Policy Manual (100 possible points)

Create a model policy manual for youth ministry at your church. Please use 8.5” x 11” paper in standard portrait orientation and staple the manual together at the upper left hand corner. Include all of these topics but other topics may be included to suit your church’s youth ministry: purpose, youth eligibility, listing of youth ministry programs and regular events with purposes and any applicable qualification for membership and expectations, behavior expectations/guidelines, dating at youth events expectations/guidelines, transportation policies, sexual harassment/abuse statement, youth worker screening policies, youth ministry teacher qualifications and expectations, volunteer worker qualifications and expectations, and two addendums: youth emergency contact/medical information form and teacher covenant. Prepare this policy manual in a way that forms a possible manual for a future youth ministry. (Due September 1, 2017)

**F. Youth Ministry Interviews.**

The task of this assignment is to understand the commonly held attitudes (be they right or wrong) concerning youth ministry. You must frame excellent questions to help you understand what each interviewee thinks about and how each values youth ministry. What do they think are the most important elements of youth ministry and why? What, in their view, is youth ministry supposed to be accomplishing? Conduct several interviews with persons in your church who are associated with youth ministry. At minimum you should interview a younger youth, an older youth (Make sure these youth are different genders.), a mother of a youth, a father of a youth (These parents must be unrelated.) and two unrelated volunteer youth workers. Include a brief description of each person you interview and their relationship with youth ministry in your church. Using your questions and the data you gather from the interviews, synthesize a paper describing your church’s likely view of youth ministry. Make sure that you include all the questions you ask in your interviews. How does this view of youth ministry support and compliment your text readings, the class lectures, and discussions? How does this view conflict your readings and class experiences? What obstacles do you find in your interviews that would conflict an effective youth ministry? How could these obstacles be overcome? This interview may include first person references. Be sure to include a proper coversheet and a bibliography. The body of this paper should be about 4-6 pages in length. (Due August 1, 2017)

# G. Attendance

1. Students are expected to attend daily. When a student is unable to attend he/she should contact the instructor at least 2 hours prior to class (via text or email) to get assignments. The student also should email their assignments to the instructor prior to class.
2. Students are expected to contact one of their classmates to get information they missed from being absent.

# METHODS FOR ASSESSING OUTCOMES

1. Completion of related class assignments:
   1. Youth Minister Qualifications and Job Description
   2. Your Theology and Philosophy of Youth
   3. Planning a Youth Ministry Event D. Youth Ministry Policy Manual

E. Youth Ministry Interviews.

1. Class attendance and participation
2. Student evaluations of class and instructor

# GENERAL INFORMATION

1. **The GPA System** adopted by Minister Wimbish is:

A: 4.0 B: 3.0 C: 2.0 D: 1.0 F: 0.0

1. **Method of Instruction:** The following methods of instruction will be included in this course:
   1. Lecture
   2. Electronic presentations
   3. Video presentations
   4. Guest speakers
   5. Discussions
   6. Written assignments
   7. Readings