SYLLABUS

YM 591 Theology & Principles of Dynamic Youth Ministry  
Prof. Dean Borgman
Gordon-Conwell: Hamilton/Charlotte, Fall, 2009  
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Course Focus

Youth ministry courses strive to balance passion for youth with the professional skills needed for acting as evangelist, pastor, teacher, social worker, event planner and more. It draws on sound biblical and theological principles as well as lessons from the social sciences and personal experience. Youth ministry demands a lifetime of learning and a willingness to reflect on the dynamic process of praxis, theory and praxis. Class discussions will take note of the nature of adolescence, adolescent development, and today's youth culture. Reference to past and current models of youth ministry will be noted—especially from student questions.

Ten stages of youth ministry—urban, rural, and suburban, in the US and globally—will be developed as a universal guide to any youth ministry. Class sessions will be organized around these ten stages.

Assuming a self-revealing triune God, our doctrinal emphasis will be on the Incarnation. This focus emphasizes a relational style and outreach to youth unrelated to churches and generally alienated from adults and youth programs. To do this, we will use a pattern in the Four Basic Questions. Such considerations should benefit those who work with young people in any setting no matter what previous experience or training you have received.

This course deals with the spirit and philosophy of youth work more than it does with techniques and programs. The latter are not unimportant, but we are more concerned here with you as a total person—more with how you "come off" to young people—than what you know about youth work. We want you to have a strong biblical, theological, and social science foundation to support creative youth ministry in any context.

The most important things about adolescents will be learned from young people themselves—they are the "experts" on themselves and the youth culture around them. The rapidity of their personal and cultural change further justifies the nature and style of this course. You need to take our questions and suggestions to young folks themselves this semester. You must meet some of them to complete our assignments and the course's intent. Your skill as a listener/learner will serve you well in ministry.

Different than most seminary courses, our approach will be more general, interactive, practical, and subjective. Attempting to cover broad ranges of information and ideas, this course could be critiqued as superficial or a "tease" if it doesn't coax you into deeper, continued study, research and further training. Though not a requirement, the course works best if you are currently involved in youth ministry or at least around young people. This course is a seminar—drawing on the resources of an entire class who have actually been adolescents themselves and who have worked with youth in different ways. If YM 191 is for you, ask and expect help from fellow students and your instructor. A personal time with him can help to integrate and personalize some things that might not come together otherwise for you. Studying people is holy business; it is dangerous without help from our divine Teacher.
Course Goals

Expected outcomes from this course include the following:
1. an excitement about meeting and relating to young people as evidenced in class discussions and in journal
2. an understanding how the disciplines of anthropology, sociology, psychology and theology apply to youth ministry judged from discussions/journal
3. an appreciation for the need of research in any kind of ministry and added skills for topical and especially community research in youth ministry as seen in discussions and in final paper
4. an ability to apply understanding of various ages and stages of development to youth ministry evidenced in class discussions and final paper
5. an understanding of how youth ministries may be developed and an ability to evaluate youth programs seen from discussions and final paper
6. memorization and understanding of Ten Stages and Four Basic Questions measured by pop quiz, discussions and final paper
7. increased skills in relating, listening, and communicating to young people measured by pop quiz, discussions and journal.

Course Format

This class will consist of lectures, discussions and small group activities. The content and direction of our class times will be somewhat determined by the size of the class and student needs/interests. Your participation is important and attendance is expected.

Required Texts

(I suggest reading David Elkind’s All Grown Up… and then Patricia Hersch’s A Tribe Apart, first, then Borgman, Burns and further reading. Study Questions do not need to be answered in written form; they are to help you focus and absorb critical information. Use them before and after reading the chapter. Study Questions (including those for other texts can be found on Blackboard—or if you don’t have access, from the professor.)

Borgman, Dean (1997) When Kumbaya Is Not Enough: A Practical Theology for Youth Ministry, Peabody: Hendrickson, 234pp. Read, Ch. 11 first, then Ch. 5, and finish with Preface through Ch. 4. This is what will be covered in your quiz for this course. The rest of this book is particularly relevant to YM 693 as well as to understanding of youth culture—so you can save it till you take that course or become more involved with secular pop culture.


Fields, Doug First Two Years of Youth Ministry, Zondervan, 290pp. This text will give you what mine won’t—more “nuts and bolts” and getting started. Along with Ginny Olson’s Youth Ministry Management Tools, you will have an adequate tool kit for ministry.

**Highly Recommended Supplemental Texts**

(You are asked to read three Article Reviews by Dean Borgman under Youth Ministries at [www.cys-ministry.org](http://www.cys-ministry.org): They are “Four Basic Questions,” “The Ten Stages,” and “Theology, Philosophy and Models of Youth Ministry.” You will find these articles basic for our course. Choose at least one book from the following (Highly Recommended or Further Reading to complete your assigned 1500+ pages of reading for this course.)

Olson, Ginny, Diane Elliot, & Mike Work (2001) *Youth Ministry Management Tools*, Youth Specialties & Zondervan, 420pp and Youth Assistant CD-ROM. You don’t need to read this book for this course, but get it if you are in youth ministries. As a follow up to Burns, here’s all the nuts and bolts you will need to organize, plan, and carry out program. Events planning, Time Management, Risk Management, Budgeting and Finances, Office & Personal Organization, Building a Leadership Team, Calendars and Scheduling, How to Get and Leave a Job… and much more. There on Windows (the CD) you have forms and letters galore ready to be adapted and printed off. A valuable resource for you personal and church libraries.

**Further Reading**

Borgman, Dean (2003) *Hear My Story: Understanding the Cries of Troubled Youth*, Hendrickson, 415p. Used as the text for “Ministering to Troubled Youth” and “Counseling the Adolescent,” this book is for all who care especially for youth at high risk and want to deal with the theology of intervention, suffering, violence, healing and reconciliation. It deals specifically with many forms of childhood and youthful violence to others, self-injury and suicide to self. The chapters on healthy/unhealthy growth and development as well as the chapter on sexuality go beyond similar discussions in *When Kumbaya Is Not Enough*. I don’t mind if you skim or skip a few chapters, such as 12 and 14. But I hope this book will be a reference for you in the future. An index makes this a useful reference for many difficult issues in youth ministry.

Burns, Jim and Mike DeVries (2001 revised) *The Youth Builder*, Gospel Light, 307pp. Jim Burns is an esteemed trainer of youth leaders. He put this book out many years ago. It is a basic “nuts and bolts” youth ministry text. Mick DeVries, an experienced youth minister who promotes “family-based” youth ministry, helped Jim revise and expand this text. You may skim parts of this book. If you have a good bit of youth ministry experience and feel skilled in the basics, please substitute another book for this reading.

Twenge, Jean M. (2007) *Generation Me: Why Today’s Young Americans are More Confident, Assertive, Entitled—and more Miserable Than Ever Before*, Free Press, 304pp. A provocative study based on wide research and rebutting Howe and Straus’ *Millennials Rising* (2000) predicting the rise of America’s greatest generation and optimistic civil servants. She may go to far in countering the popular self-esteem and love-yourself emphases, but her analysis of current media and research is critically important.

Clark, Chap (2004) *Hurt: inside the world of today’s Teenagers*, Baker Academic236pp. A professor at Fuller Theological Seminary uses his research and experience with youth to demonstrate the too important place of hurt (and stress) among today’s teenagers—and who’s responsible.

Nielsen, Linda. *Adolescence: A Contemporary View*, Third Edition, New York: Harcourt Brace, 1996, 643 pp. Give this book a good overview: Preface to Instructor and Student, Table of Contents, Theories (pp. 3-22), Skim chapters quickly, and Index. Note what an important reference book this is—though you may disagree on some points with this Wake Forest professor. It (or some other text you prefer) should be on your office shelf or in the church library for all to browse.

Garbarino, James. *Lost Boys: Why Our Sons Turn Violent and How We Can Save Them*, NY: The Free Press, 1999, 274 pp. In my opinion, Garbarino is the expert on violence and troubled youth. I would recommend this as the best single book on why boys have become violent in our society and what we can do to help them and save our society.


Kindlon, Daniel J. (2003) *Too Much of a Good Thing: Raising Children or Character in an Indulgent Age*, Miramax Books, 288p. Based on a study of middle- and upper-class “millennials” and their parents. Explores how “boomer” parents are over-indulging and neglecting young people, and covering up their mistakes, how youth are responding to this, and what can be done better.


David White (2005) *Practicing Discernment with Youth: A Transformative Youth Ministry Approach*, Cleveland, OH: Pilgrim Press, 209p. A substantial contribution to youth ministry criticizing the tendency of great churches and paraparochial organizations in Southern California and Colorado for setting the expectations, imaginations and practices of youth work. Instead each congregation is encouraged to help youth take time to reflect upon and discern their world and their lives. Tools for discernment can be found in the historic church.

Yanconelli, Mike (2003) *The Core Realities of Youth Ministry*, Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan. Nine realities of youth ministry that committee and leadership team might read and discuss with profit.

Yanconelli, Mark (2006) *Contemplative Youth Ministry: Practicing the Presence of Jesus*, Youth Specialties/Zondervan, 251pp. Mike’s son, who was the leader of a Youth Ministry Spirituality Project—from which this book was written. Youth’s need for quiet contemplation and adult need to learn with youth are both highlighted here. You need to consider the vision of this book.

**Assignments and Instructions**
1. Keep a *Personal Journal* throughout this class. You might use the Four Basic Questions to guide these responses to our class. Organize and pass in this Journal as three chapters. In the first, describe yourself and your life these days, reflect on your family, how it shaped your identity and character, and then on your adolescence. Begin to respond to this class: its content, style, classmates and professor. You might also include some gut reactions to your readings. How are all the elements of this class helping you to grow? What is your future dream (or dreams), and how do you intend to get there? Your second section or chapter can be a briefer reaction to the class and your reading. Its final section will include your personal evaluation of the course, how you have already been using the basic questions and ten stages along with you sense of your readiness for ministry and how you will use principles from this class in that ministry. (About 20% of grade)

2. *Annotated Bibliography* of everything read this semester for this class. This is for your future reference. Provide bibliographic data (as in a proper footnote or reference), describe the type of book (or articles), its main point or argument, how developed, your impression on reading it, critical assessment from your point of view, and use for future ministry. (This should be about a page per book, and about 20% of grade)

3. Consider what is meant by and what *Topical Research* entails. Spend an hour+ perusing the Encyclopedia of Youth Studies ([www.eys-ministry.org](http://www.eys-ministry.org)), in light of the ongoing process of topical research in your ministry. In a 2-3 page paper, critique EYS and show how you would assess the needs and deal with the problems of young people using topical research. (15% of grade)

4. Begin *Community Research* in some place you are, have or might be doing ministry. Describe the specific steps you would take in doing community research in a town or urban neighborhood for a new ministry. Provide initial information about this town or neighborhood as a context for youth ministry noting schools, hangouts, churches. (Approximately 25% of grade.) Number of pages will vary in terms of maps, statistics, etc. included... maybe 10-14 pages)

5. Then, suggest a *Model of Youth Ministry*, using the Ten Stages, that might meet the interests/needs and could use the resources of that area. (6-10 pp. and about 20% of grade)

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**Tentative Schedule**

Sep  Personal Introductions, Syllabus and Mechanics of Course
Youth Ministry Courses, Call to Youth Ministry
Adolescence in Perspective: Human Development; Factors and Issues; History
Video of Kids talking about Youth Leaders (12 min. ?)
Small Group Discussions: What do Students see in us?
Class Conclusion: What is relevant youth ministry to real kids today?

Sep  Brief History of Youth Ministry
    Models of Programs
    DVD: “Breakfast Club” Scene 14 Group Therapy (16? min.)
    Small Group Reaching Cliques & Subcultures of Youth

Sep  DVD: “Lost Children of Rockdale Country” Pt. 1
    Small Groups: Reaching Kids Where They’re At
    Class Groups Discussion
    Four Basic Questions
    Ten Stages of Youth Ministry

Oct  Foundation of Youth Programs: Building a Support Base (1)

Oct  NO CLASS  Columbus Day Holiday & Reading Week (Use well)

Oct  Context of Ministry: Topical and Community Research (2) Networking (3)

Oct  Spirit and Style of Youth Ministry: The Incarnation and Contact Work (4)

Nov  Ministry as Experiential Education: Activities, Trips, Camps and Mission Trips (5)

Nov  NO CLASS  Veterans Day and Reading Week (Work on Projects)

Nov  Dark Side of Youth Ministry: Counseling and Referral (6)
    DVD: “Lost Children of Rockdale Country” Part 2
    Counseling DJ, Miguel, Amy and Nicole
    Discussion… Responding in Triads if time allows

Nov  Heart of Youth Ministry: Proclaiming the Gospel (7)

Dec  Growth of Youth Ministry: Discipling Young Christians (8)

Dec  Challenge of Youth Ministry: Kingdom Work, the Cost of Discipleship, Service (9)
    Managing Youth Programs (10)

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**Recommended Reading and References**

**About Girls**
Barras, Jonetta Rose. *Whatever Happened to Daddy’s Little Girl: The Impact of Fatherlessness on Black Women*, One World, 2000, 272 pp. “By the time I was 8 yrs. old, I had already lost three fathers—Bill, John, Noel. Each one had abandoned me…. I know the symptoms of this syndrome… I think every man wears my father’s face… I go from house to house, from bed to bed… The search is relentless…. ” Such quotes let you know this book is hard-hitting and courageous, if controversial, in raising tabooed topics. The issue of fatherlessness in the lives of all girls and boys, urban and suburban, is clearly critical for the health of young people and our society.

Blais, Madeline. *In These Girls, Hope Is A Muscle: A True Story of Hoop Dreams and One Very Special Team*, Warner Books, 1005. 266 pp. The Amherst Lady Hurricanes were a Massachusetts’ high school basketball team that played over their heads to stay in state playoff contention for a half dozen years. This book takes you through one year of their lives. The author is clearly a fan, and this is a good book about girls’ basketball. But it seems to fail in bringing what is practically a subculture to life and probing the deeper issues of these young lives.


Hine, Thomas. *The Rise and Fall of the American Teenager*, Bard Books, 1999, 324 pp. This cultural historian sees adolescence as a New Deal invention to get teenagers out of the job market. Of course, universal high school education did that. The historical background here is important and many of its social implications. But emphasizing youth as a social construct may miss some other factors.

Orenstein, Peggy. *School Girls: Young Women, Self-Esteem, and the Confidence Gap*, New York: Doubleday, 1994, 335 pp. Research done with the American Association of University Women. Shows how girls begin first grade with same ambition and skills as boys but tend to lose out as they pass through middle school. Insightful interviews; important conclusions even though these have been criticized by some.


Ryan, Joan. *Little Girls In Pretty Boxes: The Making and Breaking of Elite Gymnasts and Figure Skaters*, Warner Books, 1995, 243 pp. This book is a polemic and will be condemned as unfair by many good coaches, parents and athletes. But the dangers of extreme competition and training at early ages needs to be pointed out.

Shandler, Sara. *Ophelia Speaks: Adolescent Girls Write About Their Search for Self*, HarperCollins, 1999, 285 pp. The author read Pipher’s *Reviving Ophelia* when she was 16. So while still a teenager at Wesleyan University in Middletown, CT, she convinced a number of adolescent females to give extended voice describing their struggle toward adulthood.

### About Boys

Bissinger, H. G. *Friday Night Lights: A Town, A Team, and a Dream*, HarperCollins, 1990, 363 pp. You should know about the jock and football subculture and about Friday night football games in much of America. You will become interested in Odessa, West Texas and get caught up in the
excitement of the Permian Panthers—and some of the best high school football in the country. And you will ask yourself about the cost. A B-movie, “Varsity Blues” was made from this story.

Dobson, James (2000) Bringing Up Boys: Practical Advice and Encouragement for Those Shaping the Next Generation of Men, Conservative activist offers helpful advice to parents. Interesting read on homosexuality to which some may take exception, he may be too hard on working mothers, and there is a militant tone toward those he sees attacking family values. Strong, biblical, and practical advice to parents.

Gurian, Michael. The Wonder of Boys: What Parents, Mentors, and Educators Can Do To Shape Boys into Exceptional Men, New York: Putnam, 1996, 294 pp. Several books were written in the nineties about society’s abuse of young women. Apart from the works of Jawanza Kunjufu written about black boys in the 1980s, this is a first consideration of boys.


Kindlon, Dan and Michael Thompson. Raising Cain: Protecting the Emotional Life of Boys, Ballantine Books, 1999, 287 pp. Another glimpse into the inner lives of boys with practical suggestions as to how to stay tuned and help them develop their autonomy with “emotional literacy.”

Lefkowitz, Bernard. Our Guys: The Glen Ridge Rape and the Secret Life of the Perfect Suburb, NY: Vintage Books, 1998, 516 pp. How could the most popular boys in town rape a retarded girl they had known since kindergarten? How could a town deny and defend them and turn on the victim? What would you have done as a youth worker in this town? We should all grapple with this story.

Pollack, William. Real Boys: Rescuing Our Sons from the Myths of Boyhood, Random House, 1998, 447 pp. The subtitle of its Introduction gives us two clues: “Listening to Boys’ Voices” Rescuing Ophelia’s Brothers.” It is not only girls who are suffering from low self-esteem, and boys need to the voices of boys. This book does not deny the difference between boys and girls, but it tries to counter the myths of “real manhood” and “big boys don’t cry.” The soft, emotional core of a boy needs tending.

Pollack, William S. (2000) Real Boys’ Voices: Boys speak out about drugs, sex, violence, bullying, sports, school, parents, and so much more, NY: Random House, 390p. Clinical psychologist and author of Real Boys: Rescuing our Boys from the Myths of Boyhood here presents boys in their own voices talking deeply about real issues that concern them. This book should encourage you to get teenagers talking.

Silverstein, Olga and Beth Rashbaum. The Courage to Raise Good Men, Viking Press, 1994, 275 pp. Note the date; this book is one of the first in the rash of books about boys—following those on girls. The authors anticipate the emphasis of later writers to break the codes of manhood and raise boys who exude “empathy, love, and connection.”

Sommers, Christina Hoff. The War Against Boys: How Misguided Feminism Is Harming Our Young Men, Simon & Schuster, 2000. This book is meant to be a stiff antidote for feminism as found in Carol Gilligan, Mary Pipher and William Pollack. These experts sold the media and public on the notion that ours is a male-dominated culture harming girls, but their research appears flawed. Boys still get the short end of the stick and are in much graver danger of suicide, homicide and permanent damage.

Thompson, Michael. Speaking of Boys: Answers to the Most-Asked Questions about Raising Sons, NY: Ballantine Books, 2000, 288p. Co-author of Raising Cain, which championed the emotional life of boys, here provides parents and others with practical and very useful advice—along with the sense that they/we are not alone in our communication frustrations. This advice is delivered in sections: “nature of boys,” “mothers and sons,” “fathers and sons,” “siblings,” “divorce,”
“friendship,” “girls, love, and sexuality.” There even a chapter for teachers—which would help youth workers.

Further Books on Culture

Danesis, Marcel (2003) *My Son Is An Alien: A Cultural Portrait of Today’s Youth*, Rowman & Littlefield, 240p. This is not just about boys; it is about the culture and adolescents. It’s a controversial argument, in my opinion. Danesis demonstrates how in cultures that do not define adolescence, young people are feeling less pressure and distress. Could it be that these cultures also have simpler life styles? Danesi urges an elimination of our category of adolescence and a lessening of the repression we put on youthful sexuality.

Groothuis, Douglas (1997/1999) *The Soul in Cyberspace*, Eugene, OR: Wipf & Stock Publishers, 192pp. Its Introduction may sound a bit like right-wing polemic, but the book levels off to present challenging cautions about the influence of the Internet and the doctrines of its intellectual admirers. Groothuis picks up on the idea of Technique and Technology as discussed by Jacques Ellul, Paschal and other critics, pays attention to theorists such as Marshall McLuhan, Sherry Turkle and Mark Heim, and challenges ideas of postmodern thinkers with insights from philosophers such as Albert Borgman.

Johnson, Eric (1994) *Say You Want a Revolution: How we found ourselves transported into a deceptive and deadly 90’s culture*, DeBary, FL: Longwoods Communications, 367pp. A popular speaker takes a rather negative and dramatic view of culture and approach to youth ministry. You will have to decide what is challenging and helpful in this book.

Luce, Ron (2005) *Battle Cry for a Generation: The Fight to Save America’s Youth*, Colorado Springs, CO: NEXGEN of Cook Communication Ministries, 213pp. Here again is a dramatic, if not sensationalistic, description of real dangers threatening our youth.

Mueller, Walt (2006) *Engaging the Soul of Youth Culture: Bridging Teen Worldviews and Christian Truth*, InterVarsity Press, 239pp. This book reflects Mueller’s study of postmodern generations in his DMin work at GCTS. Stories from and about youth in this cultural context lead up to a challenging application of Paul’s address to the Athenians on Mars Hill.


Mueller, Walt (2007) *Youth Culture 10*, Youth Specialties/Zondervan, 480pp. Walt Muller’s latest book takes leads youth workers, parents, pastors and educators through the maze of popular culture. Although Mueller acknowledges good in popular culture, his emphasis is on discerning the dangerous—and there is plenty of it. (Make sure to check out [www.cpyu.org](http://www.cpyu.org))

Turkel, Sherry (1995) *Life on the Screen: Identity in the Age of the Internet*, Simon & Schuster Paper Backs, 347pp. Identify-formation continues throughout life to some degree, but it is of special and critical importance during adolescence. Here’s the first paragraph of this book’s Introduction. “We come to see ourselves differently as we catch sight of our images in the mirror of the machine. A decade ago, when I first called the computer a second self, these identity-transforming relationships were almost always one-on-one, a person alone with a machine. This is no longer the case. A rapidly expanding system of networks (Internet) links millions of people in new spaces that are changing the way we think, the nature of our sexuality, the form of our communities, our very identities.” It is important to process this reality—or perception of today’s realities.

Ward, Pete (1999) *God at the Mall: Youth Ministry that Meets Kids Where They’re At*, Hendrickson Publishers, 147pp. Pete Ward is a personal friend and mentor of many across Great Britain. Ward takes a much more positive view of popular culture than many others and encourages us to engage that culture and befriended young people in that culture—something that we cannot do if we are
doomsayers and fervent critics of their culture.

More Youth Ministry Books


Beaudoin, Tom. *Virtual Faith: The Irreverent Spiritual Quest of Generation X*, San Francisco: Jossey-Bass Publishers, 1998, 210 p. This remarkable analysis of Postmodern Generation X and their spiritual use of popular art and entertainment will challenge our understanding of pop culture and spirituality. Whether the author is from your generation or not, or speaks from your framework or not, this is crucial reading for those who share the Gospel with, or provide spiritual counsel to, contemporary postmoderns.


Burns, Jim. *The Youth Builder*, Harvest House Publishers, 1988, 325 pp. One of the best “nuts and bolts” books on youth ministry from a nationally established practitioner and trainer. Burns and Rice should be in your and every church or organization’s library.


Coleman, Lyman. *Up Front on Tough Issues*, Serendipity, 1983, 48pp. Basic, direct discussions about materialism, lust, and fears. If used occasionally and appropriately it will generate good discussion.


DJ Chuang (?) *Asian American Youth Ministry*, L2 Foundation. I have no idea as to its date or why, at 158pp it costs $120. for a used copy. But I hope someone can find this in a library and report on it.


Dean, Kendra Creasy, Chap Clark and Dave Rahn (2001) *Starting Right: Thinking Theologically about Youth Ministry*, Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan. Many professors of youth ministry and experts look at the broad scope of youth ministry in terms of practical theology. An important book even though the chapters may be of somewhat uneven quality.


French, Thomas. *South of Heaven: Welcome to High School at the End of the Twentieth Century*, Doubleday, 1993, 363 pp. Unfortunately this book is out of print, but... find it. Takes you inside a typical high school, and what you will find will be troubling, heart touching and instructive.

Howe Neil and Bill Strauss. *13th Gen: Abort, Retry, Ignore, Fail?* Vintage, 1993, 229 pp. This may be the best single book on Generation X. Can be difficult or overwhelming to read.
Larson, Scott (2000) *Risk in our Midst: Empowering Teenagers to Love the Unlovable*, Loveland, CO: Group. Director of Straight Ahead Ministries believes that youth groups often avoid troubled youth dear to the heart of this author. From his vast experience with felons, he here tries to enable Christian youth to serve as friends and peer counselors to those at risk.


Mueller, Walt (see above under Culture)

Ng, Donald, ed. (1988) *Asian Pacific American Youth Ministry: Planning Helps and Programs*, Valley Forge, PA: Judson Press, 160pp. Authors here are Chinese-, Korean-, Filipino- and Japanese-American. This is dated, and you may not get all you need, but there are thoughtful chapters here on youth and youth ministry.

Rice, Wayne. *Junior High Youth Ministry*, Zondervan, 1987. Perhaps the first book to read on youth ministry, and the first to give to your volunteers and interns. It is a readable and inspiring book. This is an excellent introduction to youth ministry, junior highs, *adolescent development*, and ideas for youth programs.


Robins, Duffy (1999) *Youth Ministry: Nuts and Bolts*, Eugene, Wipf and Stock. Like Burn’s YouthBuilder, this is a practical how-to book covering what tends to be missed in seminary classes. Of particular note is Robbin’s emphasis on the evaluation of youth programs.

Roehlkepartain, Eugene C. *Youth Ministry in City Churches*, Loveland, CO: Group Books, 1989, 251pp. Why do such good and needed books go out of print? This is one of the few comprehensive primers on urban youth ministry.


Senter, Mark H. III (2001) *Four Views of Youth Ministry and the Church: Inclusive congregational, Preparatory, Missional, Strategic*, Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan. Four professors, Malan Nell, Wesley Black, Chap Clark and Mark Senter speak, in the order above, for these positions and each replies to each in a discussion that could be a little more extreme and provocative.
Shelton, Charles M. Adolescent Spirituality: Pastoral Ministry for High School and College Youth, Loyola, 1983, 300 pp. Ch. 3 is long, but is one of the best summaries of the main developmental theories. It develops in greater depth the introduction to adolescent development found in Rice. Chs. 7 on Sexuality and 5 on Spiritual Counseling will also be of significant help. This book is geared to later senior high and college age youth.

Strommen, Merton, Karen E. Jones and Dave Rahn (2001) Youth Ministry That Transforms: A comprehensive analysis of the hopes, frustrations, and effectiveness of today’s youth workers, Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan. A grand old researcher of youth ministry is joined by two newcomers and professors to report on their study of youth workers today—what’s working, what’s not, and how to do it better.


Ward, Pete, Sam Adams & Jude Levermore, Youthwork: and how to do it, Oxford, Eng.: Lynx, 1984, 158 pp. Hard to find. A very thoughtful “how-to-do-it” and “how-to-train-others” manual. (See also other fine books by Pete Ward.)

Woodruff, Mike. Managing Youth Ministry Chaos, Group, 2000, 110 pp. With Borthwick’s book out of print, this may be the only book with organizational tips and principles.