

SPEAKERS FOR YOUTH MINISTRY AND CON ED EVENTS*

Recommended by Kenda Creasy Dean

Note: I teach regularly with these folks at Princeton Theological Seminary and through PTS's Institute for Youth Ministry. I consider them "up and coming" speakers and educators in youth and family ministries, who are also exemplary pastors with children, youth, and emerging adults. All have or are pursuing Ph.D.s in areas related to youth, church and culture, and have been recognized for outstanding leadership in youth/young adult/family ministry and Christian education. They also regularly preach for college, congregational, judicatory and youth ministry events, to pastors, youth leaders, and young people themselves.

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TIMOTHY SCHOLARS: recognized for outstanding leadership in youth and young adult ministry and its related disciplines, and who have demonstrated unusual scholarly potential in these fields. The program is limited to American students studying at PTS.



The Rev. **Stephen Cady** (Timothy Scholar*/*United Methodist*), originally from Kansas, is pastor of Kingston United Methodist Church and is a member of the Kansas East Annual Conference. A lifelong United Methodist and graduate of Garrett Evangelical Theological Seminary and Ohio Wesleyan University, he served churches in Chicago before moving to New Jersey. Stephen started his professional life as an actor and wound up as a youth pastor when he found himself wishing more young people would go into ministry. A John Wesley Fellow, Superman aficionado and yo-yo master (no kidding), Stephen's research focuses on the importance of intergenerational worship in adolescent faith formation, and he has a particular interest in the writing and witness of Howard Thurman. He and his wife Emily are the parents of two small children, Ellie and Charlie.

Research and Teaching Interests

Popular culture and youth ministry

Communicating the gospel with young people

Worship and youth/young adult ministry

Intergenerational worship and faith formation

Changes in youth ministry for the twenty-first century church

Bivocational ministry: When God's call means wearing more than one hat

Stephen.cady@ptsem.edu (base airport: Newark or Philadelphia)

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The Rev. **Katherine (Katie) Marie Douglass** (Timothy Scholar*/*Presbyterian Church USA*), originally from Ohio, was the youth pastor of the ecumenical American Church in Bonn, Germany before returning to Princeton Seminary for her Ph.D. A graduate of Princeton Theological Seminary and Grove City College, Katie is passionate about the formation of teachers, and the importance of pedagogy in Christian formation. She initiated and oversees the peer-led professional development curriculum

offered for doctoral students at PTS. Katie writes curriculum for young people for *The Thoughtful Christian* and serves as an associate editor for the Theology and Youth Ministry Series (Abingdon), developing their online curriculum supplements. Katie's research focuses on the importance of the arts in the religious formation of young adults. She and her husband John can be found, most weekends, on some form of outdoor adventure.

Research and Teaching Interests

- The arts and faith formation in emerging adults
- Family and parents in faith formation
- Using popular culture in church curriculum for teenagers
- Curriculum development for youth ministry
- Teaching methods for adolescents
- Working with "third culture kids"

Katherine.douglass@ptsem.edu (base airport: Newark or Philadelphia)

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The Rev. **Amanda Hontz Drury** (Timothy Scholar*/*Wesleyan*) is a native of Holland, Michigan, and lives in Marion, Indiana where she serves an adjunct professor of youth ministry at Indiana Wesleyan University. She is ordained in The Wesleyan Church and served as youth pastor at Doylestown United Methodist Church in Doylestown, Pennsylvania before starting the Ph.D. program in practical theology at Princeton Seminary. Amanda is a frequent speaker and preacher at churches, youth conferences and denominational youth ministry training events here and abroad. Amanda finds preaching and teaching equally important paths to reaching young people with the gospel; her research focuses on the importance of testimony in the faith formation of adolescents. Amanda and her husband John have a toddler, Sam.

Research and Teaching Interests

Partnering with families in youth ministry
Marriage and the ministry
The power of testimony with adolescents
Worship and youth ministry
Money, sex and power in youth ministry
Recruiting, training, and leading adult volunteers
Changes in youth ministry for the twenty-first century church
Amanda.drury@gmail.com (base airport: Indianapolis)

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The Rev. **Drew A. Dyson** (Timothy Scholar*/*United Methodist*) lives in Frederick, MD and is Assistant Professor of Evangelism and Youth at Wesley Theological Seminary in Washington, DC. A member of the Greater New Jersey Annual Conference of The United Methodist Church, Drew served local churches in Bridgewater, Clinton, and Basking Ridge, New Jersey, and was Executive Director of the Shared Mission Focus on Young People of the General Board of Discipleship. He was the team leader and primary author of General Conference legislation creating the Division on Ministries with Young People of the General Board of Discipleship in 2004. The author of several books on youth ministry and a John Wesley Fellow, Drew's research focuses on the contributions of Wesleyan theology to the missional church conversation, and the importance of mission for ministry with emerging adults. He and his wife Diane have two children, Allison and Jeremy.

Research and Teaching Interests

The missional church
Sanctification, mission, and young adults
Leadership and spiritual vitality in ministry
Ministry with junior highs
Emerging adult spirituality
Theological foundations of youth ministry
Changes in youth ministry for the twenty-first century church
(Also consults with individual churches about youth and young adult ministry)
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The Rev. **Christiane Lang** (Timothy Scholar*/*Presbyterian Church, USA*) lives in Princeton, NJ, and is a Washington State native. A graduate of Whitworth University and Princeton Seminary, she served on the middle school ministry at University Presbyterian Church in Seattle and as the Associate Pastor for Christian Education and Discipleship at The Brick Presbyterian Church in New York City. She has extensive experience with children's and youth ministries in church, camp, and conference settings, and has written youth and adult curriculum for national and international curriculum producers.

Research and Teaching Interests:

Training and equipping youth leaders and teachers
Curriculum development and selection
Theological foundations for educational and formational ministry
Partnering with parents and families in youth ministry
Storytelling and drama as ways to teach and form faith
Youth leadership in contemporary and traditional worship
Identity formation and faith formation in youth and young adults
Needs of girls and young women
Boundaries, safety, risk, and adventure in youth ministry
Christiane.Lang@gmail.com (base airport: Newark or Philadelphia)

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The Rev. **Jason Brian Santos** (Timothy Scholar*/*Presbyterian Church, USA*) serves as Associate Pastor for Youth and Families at University Presbyterian Church in Seattle. An Ohio native with an M.Div. from Princeton Theological Seminary, an M.A. in Systematic Theology from Wheaton College Graduate School, and a B.S. in Youth Sociology from North Central University. Before coming to PTS to pursue his doctorate, Jason served as a youth minister in London and Bonn as well as Chicago and New Jersey. Recognized for his work on the Taize community in France, Jason speaks both in the US and internationally and trains youth

ministers in the importance of spiritual practices. His recent book, *A Community Called Taize* (IVP; foreword by Desmond Tutu) has been endorsed by the brothers of the Taize community. Jason's research focuses on what American churches can learn from communities like Taize about the formative importance of community in adolescent faith formation. Jason and his wife Shannon have a ten year old son, Judah.

Research and Teaching Interests

The role of communities in forming faith (especially in young people)
What youth ministry can learn from intentional communities
Spiritual practices and youth ministry
Oblates and youth ministry
Alternative models of youth ministry
The Taize community's lessons for churches in the U.S.
Changes in youth ministry for the twenty-first century church
Jason.santos@ptsem.edu (base airport: Seattle)

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The Rev. **Nathan T. Stucky** (Timothy Scholar*/*Mennonite Church, USA*) hails from Kansas but lives in Princeton, NJ where he works closely with youth leadership education initiatives offered by the Mennonite Church. He has a special interest in the role of community formation and Sabbath in the education of pastors, youth ministers, parents, and teenagers. A musician, frequent retreat speaker, and former farmer, Nate holds a B.A. in music from Bethel College (Kansas), and a M.Div. from Princeton Seminary. Before starting his Ph.D. at Princeton Seminary, Nate simultaneously served as a youth pastor for Mennonite, Brethren, and Presbyterian churches on the eastern shore of Maryland. He and his wife, Janel, have three children, Joshua, Jenna, and Isaac.

Research and Teaching Interests

Sabbath and faith formation
Ecumenical youth ministry
The historical Anabaptist practice of simplicity
Music as analogy for and expression of the journey of faith
The community of faith as a witness
Food and faith
Nathan.stucky@ptsem.edu (base airport, Newark or Philadelphia)

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The Rev. **D. Andrew Zirschky** (Timothy Scholar*/*Nazarene*) lives in Nashville where he serves as academic director of the Center for Youth Ministry Training, and teaches youth ministry at Memphis Theological Seminary. Raised in the Willamette Valley of Oregon, he served (simultaneously) as a reporter, a graphic designer, and director of high school ministry before finally becoming a youth minister in Twin Falls, Idaho. While in Twin Falls, Andrew developed an interest in the fledgling emerging church movement through his work in young adult/college ministry. A graduate of Northwest Nazarene University and Princeton Theological Seminary, he also serves as a consultant with Youth Ministry Architects. His research explores the relationship between technology and communion in young people. Andrew and his wife Kristina have two young children, Evan and Anna.

Research and Teaching Interests

The impact of technology on community and adolescent faith

The role of doubt in emerging adult faith

Faith and adolescent brain development

The role of Eucharist/communion in Christian formation

Youth ministry in missional and emerging contexts

Changes in youth ministry for the twenty-first century church

(Also consults with individual churches about strengthening youth and young adult ministry)

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RELATED SPEAKERS:



The Rev. **Blair D. Bertrand** (*Presbyterian Church in Canada*), grew up in Southwestern Ontario and was ordained in Brampton, ON where he served as associate pastor for children, youth and families and taught youth ministry at Tyndale University. Growing up in the United Church of Canada, Blair made the switch to the other part of the Reformed family after completing his undergraduate at Queen's University and working for a Presbyterian congregation in Ottawa. Feeling a call to ordained ministry, Blair graduated from Princeton Theological Seminary and Knox College (Toronto School of Theology) with a focus in youth ministry. Now earning a doctorate in Christian Education, he has been involved in youth ministry for over 15 years, and has extensive experience in wilderness education, Ignatian spiritual practices, and in 2010 founded a "wiki" on Biblical themes in the most common books

assigned in high school English classes. Blair and his wife Vivian are the parents of two small children, Garrett and Sage.

Research and Teaching Interests

Helping young people discern God's call on their lives

Teaching the Bible to young people

Spiritual practices and youth ministry

Helping youth read the Bible

Alternative models of youth ministry

Wilderness spirituality and young people

Canadian youth ministry

Changes in youth ministry for the twenty-first century church

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Chanon Ross (*Presbyterian Church USA*) serves as Coordinator of the Connections Project, a Lilly-based research initiative on mentoring and peer networking for youth ministers at the Institute for Youth Ministry at Princeton Seminary. He works with more than 100 youth leaders serving congregations in the U.S. and Canada with whom he meets in person and in interactive, online classrooms. A graduate of Seattle Pacific University and Duke Divinity School, Chanon is a Ph.D. Candidate in theology at Garrett Seminary in Chicago. He has worked in youth and young adult ministry in various capacities for the last ten years in the Pacific Northwest, Southeast, Midwest, and Northeast. An avid hiker, when not exploring rocks and trails he explores more effective ways of doing youth ministry with people from all backgrounds and denominations. His research explores the relationship between media, worship, and young people, and the importance of mentoring in the Church. Chanon and his wife Shannon have a four-year-old son, Noah.

Research and Teaching Interests

Mentoring and youth ministry leadership

Networking youth leaders

The use of technology for youth ministry training

The impact of media on young people, culture, and worship

Advocating for youth ministers

Youth ministry for Sr. Pastors, judicatories, and youth committees

Changes in youth ministry for the twenty-first century church

chanon.ross@ptsem.edu (base airports: Newark or Philadelphia)

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Ryan S.K. Timpte (*Evangelical Lutheran Church in America/Christian & Missionary Alliance*), a native Coloradan who grew up in north Texas, currently serves as a children’s minister to a large Christian and Missionary Alliance congregation in Plainsboro, New Jersey. Ryan first became interested in Children’s and Family Ministry as a college student at the University of Oklahoma, where his call to the church eventually caused him to abandon plans for a career in medicine and become a full-time youth minister for a Lutheran congregation in Arlington, Texas. Ryan earned both his M.Div. and his M.A. in Youth Ministry from Princeton Theological Seminary. Ryan and his wife Kathy Joy live in Princeton, New Jersey.

Research and Teaching Interests

Faith formation with children

The interplay between children, families, and the church in faith formation

The bridge between childhood and adolescence

Models of curricula for the faith formation of families

Children as the paradigm for entering the kingdom of God

timptoe@gmail.com (*base airports: Newark or Philadelphia*)

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****A note about compensation:** *While all speakers negotiate fees with the sponsoring organization, most organizations offer honoraria and cover travel expenses. Honoraria generally range from \$500 (for a single talk that doesn’t require travel—meaning, they can come and go in a single day by car) to \$2000 a day (for multiple preparations and travel). This fee is generally modified according to the number of presentations, amount of preparation, and the audience involved (for example, regional training events, judicatory or multiply-sponsored events tend to pay more than local congregations).*

Preaching in local congregations is negotiated separately, guided by the practices of the sponsoring church. Youth ministry consultations are negotiated between individual congregations and the consultant; fee structures are available upon request.