



Bethany is coming to town.

The following **six workshops** are being offered to your church or district by the Institute for Ministry with Youth and Young Adults. Leaders are Bethany faculty and/or members of the Institute. Most workshops can be offered in time lengths from two hours to one day. To schedule a workshop, send a message to yya@bethanyseminary.edu. Or give us a call: **765.983.1809**

Russell Haitch, PhD, Director of the Institute

Rebekah Houff, MDiv, Coordinator of Outreach Programs

Help! How do we do youth ministry with fewer than five?

There's no reason to be embarrassed. It's just a fact of life that many congregations have too few youth. But you can still do good ministry with just two or three gathered in Christ's name. This workshop lets your church learn about various options—such as mentoring programs, intergenerational Sunday school classes, collaborating with other churches (or other denominations), or connecting youth to other Christian groups. Participants discuss the practical and theological aspects of these strategies.

Loving our enemies—at home and abroad

Young people *need* to know the church's historic peace witness, but they also *want* to know what it means to be living peacemakers in day-to-day life. How do we live it out in our relationships with friends and enemies ...within families ...within the church? This interactive workshop invites participants to discuss how the command of Jesus to love our enemies could apply to situations of international violence, but also cyber-bullying. It explores how God's love entails opposition to killing, but also a positive vision of *shalom* that includes healing, forgiveness and wholeness. The presentation is especially suited to a high school, college age, or intergenerational group.

Big questions about the Bible

The Bible says, "Be ready to give an answer..." (1 Pet. 3:15). What answer might you give to a young person asking these sorts of questions: Is the Bible "God's Word" even when people disagree about what it means? How did they know which books to include? Can we pick and choose which parts to believe? What about the sacred books of other religions? Does science contradict the Bible? This workshop offers theological education to explain how Christians, especially Brethren, have tried to answer these and other hard questions. It includes discussion of traditional teachings, such as the importance of communal, Spirit-guided interpretation. Specific questions and overall direction will be decided in consultation with the pastoral leadership of the host setting.

Why young people leave the church and what to do about it

Most young adults are striving for financial and emotional independence, and the energy they pour into this activity often draws them away from practicing faith. The percentage of young adults who leave the church has stayed pretty steady since the 1970s. But one thing has definitely declined: The hope that if we do nothing they will soon come marching back (along with spouses and kids). If we build a church, they may not come. But if they leave, what should we do about it? Young adults and church reformers may have definite answers to this question—though not all share the same answer. This workshop reviews recent proposals for how the church should change, explaining the ideas behind terms such as *missional* and *emergent*. Participants look at ways churches can connect with young adults and help young adults connect with the One who will “never leave them.”

#searching for intimacy in the @ generation

While churches continue to debate and divide over sexuality, this workshop looks at intimacy. It is proposed that intimacy is actually a deeper desire and better starting place for discussion. Intimacy includes spiritual dimensions. At its root is the human longing for relationality, the longing to know and be known inwardly (*intimus* = “innermost”). While a review of recent research suggests that American society has become increasingly individualistic, young people are still searching for intimacy and love that will last. Specific characteristics of intimacy are discussed, to help young people and others know what to seek in a relationship. It is explained how relationality with Jesus Christ provides the basis for human intimacy, including Christian marriage. This workshop is particularly suited to an audience wanting to do college-level learning and discussion.

Young people and the language of Love Feast

Attendance at Love Feast may be dwindling in some churches, but interest has certainly picked up among some young people, even in churches that are not Brethren. They want to know about footwashing and why we do it; about a simple meal that represents being part of a new family; about a bread and cup that Jesus calls his body and blood. This workshop looks at how the meaning of Love Feast has evolved over the years and how it can speak to young people today. It’s an opportunity for churches to discuss how they do Love Feast and how to live out the love, so the feast becomes an authentic act of discipleship.

Call soon to discuss details, including opportunities for sharing costs.
Russell Haitch, PhD, Director of the Institute. Rebekah Houff, MDiv, Coordinator of Outreach Programs. 765.983.1809. Or write to yya@bethanyseminary.edu

The Y/YA Institute provides intergenerational theological education for congregations and communities within the CoB and beyond. Our aim is to glorify God and edify the church.