

MN 164W Developing LGBTQ-Inclusive Youth Ministry

Instructor: Ross Murray

1 Credit; Elective, for MDiv Youth & Family Ministry distributional requirement, or for YCM Concentration

Description:

This course will provide a theological, pragmatic, and developmental approach to youth ministry with LGBTQ youth. We will examine language and terminology, the reality of LGBTQ youth in the United States, theological and biblical foundations, best practices, and resources to support LGBTQ youth through their growth and spiritual development.

Objectives:

- Familiarize oneself with the language and terminology used to describe the LGBTQ community, as well as the current reality for LGBTQ youth today
- Articulate a culturally relevant theological and biblical foundations that undergird ministry with LGBTQ youth
- Learn the decision-making values and develop contextually relevant best practices for ministry with LGBTQ youth
- Understand the distinction between ministry of hospitality within the congregation and the ministry of advocacy outside the congregation, as it pertains to LGBTQ youth

Reading:

- REQUIRED: *Made, Known, Loved: Developing LGBTQ-Inclusive Youth Ministry* by Ross Murray
- REQUIRED: *Transforming: The Bible and the Lives of Transgender Christians* by Austen Hartke

Topics:

- Understanding the LGBTQ+ community
 - Language & Terminology
 - Data and trends
- Theological & biblical foundations for LGBTQ youth ministry
- Contextual understanding for logistical questions
- Internal congregational welcome
- External LGBTQ youth witness and advocacy

Evaluation:

- At the end of the semester, students will produce an action plan that describes what ministry with LGBTQ youth looks like in their local context.
 - Students will need to choose a context. Contextual education site (do they have these?), home congregation, internship site.
 - Identify scripture passages and theological frameworks that inform your ministry with LGBTQ youth.

- Research or estimate the LGBTQ youth population in the state/city.
- Identify what is happening in the state/city that may impact LGBTQ youth
- Identify what LGBTQ resources exist for LGBTQ youth in the state/city.
- Evaluate the congregation's internal ability to serve LGBTQ youth: affirmation, resources, cultural competency, welcome, etc.
- Evaluate the congregation's external ability to serve LGBTQ youth: advocacy opportunities, relationships with LGBTQ youth-serving organizations, etc. What adjustments are desired or urgent? What learning needs to take place? What opportunities exist.
- In light of all the information you have gathered, conclude with an exploration of your own discernment concerning ministry with LGBTQ youth. How much can this be integrated into your overall ministry? In what ways can you personally serve? Will this be a separate ministry, or one that is integrated elsewhere?

Schedule:

- Thursday evening 6:30 to 8:30 pm Central Time (2 hours)
- Friday afternoon 1:00 to 5:00 pm; 6:30 to 8:30 pm (6 hours)
- Saturday 8:00 to 12 noon; (if needed) 1:30 to 4:30 pm (7 hours)