

Youth Ministry

Visiting Instructor Mark Davis



Covenant Theological Seminary
The Seminary of the Presbyterian Church in America

Course Information & Table of Contents

NOTE TO ACCESS STUDENTS: *Course Information has been revised especially for Access students. References in the tape may not correspond to the organization here, but all information is the same.*

I. PT523 Youth Ministry

II. Course Description

This course offers a theological and practical approach to youth ministry in the church, including the place of youth ministry in the church's philosophy of ministry and principles for overseeing a youth ministry program.

III. Purpose & Objectives

The purpose of this course is to lay a biblical foundation for the practice of youth ministry, while equipping the student to effectively minister to today's youth. We will examine the following areas

- An introduction to youth ministry
- Developing a biblical vision for youth ministry
- Evaluation of youth ministry models
- An introduction to youth culture
- Building a ministry team
- Relational youth ministry
- Skills for connecting to youth
- Skills for leading a youth ministry
- An introduction to ministry to families
- Youth ministry in an electronic age
- Youth ministry programs
- Skills for evaluation

IV. Methods

- Lecture delivered via DVD or CD
- Discussion with course mentor
- Discussion with fellow students, via Internet-based discussion boards
- Readings and interaction related to youth ministry and interactive responses based on the readings
- Research paper on one of three given topics.

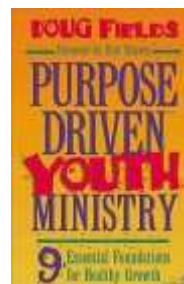
V. Themes and Key Words

- History
- "Because Youth Ministry is Calling"
- Calling & Identity
- Youth Culture
- Vision
- Team Relationships
- Team Job Descriptions
- Relationships
- Target Groups
- Planning
- Administration
- Lost Children

VI. Texts

These books can be purchased from most Christian booksellers, or you can order them online from the Covenant Seminary bookstore (at a 20% discount) by visiting www.covenantseminary.edu or by calling the bookstore at 314-434-0110.

- *Purpose Driven Youth Ministry*, Fields, Doug; Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan Publishing House: 1998.
- *Starting Right: Thinking Theologically About Youth Ministry*, Dean, et al; Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan Publishing House: 2001.
- *Connecting*, Crabb, Larry; Nashville, TN: W Publishing Group: 1997.



VII. Course Requirements

Assignments should be submitted to access@covenantseminary.edu
or via standard mail to:

Covenant Theological Seminary
Attn: Access Office
12330 Conway Road
St. Louis, MO 63141

We recommend that you save a copy of all assignments in your files.

- **Reading Responses (30%)** : Students must complete the assigned readings (required books and relevant youth periodical) and write a two-page response paper for each text reflecting on a theme from the book or an individual section of the book. It's desired that the student will engage the material and share how the material shapes his or her understanding of youth ministry. The student will also record what percentage of the reading they completed.
- **Research Paper (60%)** : Each student is required to write a 12-15 page paper researching one of the topics listed below. These topics are general, so it is desired that the student will focus in on specific areas relating to the topic. The expectation is that the student's work will be done in a manner that will allow their material greatly benefit the field of youth ministry. The topics are:
 - ❖ ***A Review of Youth Ministry Resources***
(Reference the bibliography of youth ministry resources included in *Purpose Driven Youth Ministry*.)
This paper will be the result of a critical review of 7-10 youth ministry resources that are currently available to youth ministers. The student will give an honest and fair review of how these resources help or hinder a biblical youth ministry model. The student, course mentor, and the professor will select the resources.
 - ❖ ***Youth Ministry in an Electronic Age***
How does the modern electronic revolution change the way we minister to middle school and high school students? What are the dangers and opportunities that exist? This paper will help identify how youth ministers can effectively use today's technology to more effectively reach today's techno-minded student.
 - ❖ ***My First Year***
This paper will be the result of the student developing a mission statement and action plan for implementing a biblical, purpose-driven youth ministry for a local church. The paper will include a list of goals and objectives that the youth pastor will seek to accomplish within a specific time period: first 30 days; first 3 months; first 6 months; first year.
- **Class Participation (10%):**
 1. Students in the *Access* program participate in the class in two ways. Most students are required to interact by phone with a course mentor based in St. Louis twice a month. Some students meeting in church-based groups of five or more credit-seeking students will meet with a local, Covenant approved course mentor. Additionally, students are required to interact with other students in threaded discussions taking place on the Internet (<https://portal.covenantseminary.edu>) and moderated by St. Louis-based teaching assistants.
 2. Bring to iCourse any questions and comments you might have about what Prof. Davis says in class or about the questions and discussion you hear on tape.
 3. Students should do all the reading and bring questions or comments you have about the books or articles to your course mentor or iCourse discussions. If you come across any articles that you think are valuable to our discussions, feel free to bring them to the iCourse discussions.

VIII. Grading

- **Course Participation*** 10%
- **Book Reports** 30%

- **Term Paper**

60%

*Course Participation is defined as Course mentor Interaction AND iCourse Discussion Boards OR attendance and discussion participation in Church-based groups with an approved local course mentor.

IX. Grading Scale

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|------------|------------|------------|------------|
| • A 100-95 | • B 88-85 | • C 78-76 | • D 69-66 |
| • A- 94-92 | • B- 84-81 | • C- 75-74 | • D- 65-64 |
| • B+ 91-89 | • C+ 80-79 | • D+ 73-70 | • F 63 – |

X. Class Calendar (including fixed assignments)

VIDEO TAPE	LESSON	TITLE/TOPIC	Video Tape Time	PAGE
1	Introduction	Introduction: Course Information & Schedule (30 min) Take a moment to visit the Youth Ministry area of iCourse (https://portal.covenantseminary.edu) and introduce yourself. Tell us your reasons and interests in taking this course. How do you hope it will help you in your current ministry? How do you hope it will help you in your future ministry?	0 :00 :00 – 0 :29 :30	
	LESSON 1	The Growing Up of Youth Ministry (55 min)	0:29:30 – 1:25:00	
2	LESSON 2	Because Youth Ministry is a Calling (50 min)	0:00:00 – 0:50:30	
	LESSON 3	The Cost of the Calling & Identity (50 min)	0:51:00 – 1:42:00	
3	LESSON 4	Restoring My Identity (53 min)	0:00:00 – 0:53:17	
	LESSON 5	Understanding Youth Culture (45 min)	0:53:00 – 1:38:00	
4	LESSON 6	Developing a Vision Statement (49 min)	0:00:00 – 0:48:40	
	LESSON 7	Developing a Vision Statement (con't) (50 min)	0:49:00 – 1:37:00	
5	LESSON 8	Building a Ministry Team (Have a Plan) (48 min)	0:00:00 – 0:47:00	
	LESSON 9	Building a Ministry Team (Build Relationships) (53 min)	0:48:00 – 1:41:00	
6	LESSON 10	Building a Ministry Team (Have Job Descriptions) (Part 1) (49 min)	0:00:00 – 0:48:00	
	LESSON 11	Building a Ministry Team (Have Job Descriptions) (Part 2) (53 min)	0:49:00 – 1:42:00	
7	LESSON 12	Reaching the Harassed & Helpless (Rev. Hugh Bartlett) (55 min)	0:00:00 – 0: 55:00	
	LESSON 13	Reaching the Harassed & Helpless (Rev. Hugh Bartlett) (46 min)	0:56:00 – 1:42:00	
8	LESSON 14	Relational Youth Ministry (50 min)	0:00:00 – 0:48:00	
	LESSON 15	Profile of a Relational Youth Minister (50 min)	0:49:00 – 1:40:00	
9	LESSON 16	Profile of a Relational Youth Minister (con't) Learning to Listen (45 min)	0:00:00 – 0:44:00	
	LESSON 17	Relational Youth Ministry – Listening Skills (55 min)	0:45:00 – 1:40:00	

10	LESSON 18	Relational Youth Ministry – Target Groups Programs with Vision – Purpose + Target <i>(53 min)</i>	0:00:00 – 0:53:00	
	LESSON 19	Programs with Vision – Planning <i>(48 min)</i>	0:53:10 – 1:41:00	
11	LESSON 20	Administration of the Ministry <i>(43 min)</i>	0:00:00 – 0:42:00	
	LESSON 21	Administration of the Ministry Frontline: Lost Children of Rockdale County (Pt 1) <i>(68 min)</i>	0:42:00 – 1:50:00	
12	LESSON 22	Frontline: Lost Children of Rockdale County (Pt 2) & Discussion <i>(1 hour, 35 min)</i>	0:00:00 – 1:39:00	

ABOUT THE PROFESSOR



Mark Davis joined Covenant Theological Seminary’s faculty as Visiting Instructor in practical theology in 2000. He has served in youth ministry for 20 years after having come to faith through the youth ministry of Young Life. He served on staff as youth minister in Oklahoma City at Heritage Presbyterian church for 5 years before coming to Covenant Theological Seminary to complete his M.Div. studies. While pursuing his M.Div. studies and since graduating he has served as youth pastor at Chesterfield Presbyterian Church in St. Louis. In 2000 he was invited to serve as organizing director for Covenant Seminary’s Youth In Ministry Institute (YIMI). Since January 2003 Mark has been serving on staff at Park Cities Presbyterian Church in Dallas, Texas.