



AMBS

explore ~ prepare ~ serve

youth ministry

fact sheet

■ program description

The Youth Ministry program at AMBS is designed to prepare you to serve as a pastor, leader, sponsor or mentor of youth and young adults in the church. The education informing this preparation:

- is holistic and integrating in its approach, seeing youth ministry as a matter of:
 - participating in and preparing for whole-life worship and witness in the church, not as a task separated from the “real” work of the church.
 - equipping youth and young adults for ministry and participation in the church, not treating them exclusively as the “objects” of ministry.
 - a ministry that is relational (incarnational) at its core.
- emphasizes Anabaptist-Mennonite perspectives on youth ministry, such as:
 - personal transformation characterized by personal decision and commitment to God.
 - social transformation with a missional orientation: a clear understanding and ownership of the good news of Jesus Christ for life, personally and globally.
 - faith formation that relies on nurture and accountability in the community of faith.
 - the centrality of peace, justice and service in our understanding of the good news.
 - the importance of lifestyle decisions in expressions of discipleship.

■ approach to youth ministry

AMBS seeks to prepare ministers and pastors who will work with youth and young adults within the context of a congregation. Our program prepares for real spiritual engagement with youth and young adults. We see relationships as a primary vehicle for ministry to and with youth. We seek to prepare ministers who can do the kind of cultural reading and critique that informs ministry. We value intergenerational approaches to youth ministry. We seek to prepare ministers who can help youth and young adults become ministering people.

■ programs of study

The MDiv Youth Ministry concentration of 90 credit hours prepares youth ministers who are biblically, historically and theologically informed and capable of providing pastoral leadership not only to youth and young adults, but also to their parents and congregations.

Master of Divinity, Youth Ministry concentration
(90 credit hours)

faculty

Andy Brubacher Kaethler,

Ph.D. candidate,

Instructor in Christian Formation and Culture, Explore Director, AMBS

Daniel Schipani, Dr. Psy., Ph.D.

Professor of Pastoral Care and Counseling, AMBS
Member, Princeton Theological Seminary Institute for Youth Ministry's International Research Group on Globalization, Youth and the Church

Bob Yoder, D.Min.

Campus pastor and Assistant Professor of Youth Ministry, Goshen College

Nancy Kauffmann, D.Min.

Denominational Minister for Mennonite Church USA Executive Leadership

ministry options

Ministry options include associate pastor, pastor for youth and family ministries, congregational youth minister, conference youth minister, camp counselor, college or university campus pastor, and camp pastor.

The Master of Divinity concentration prepares pastors for whole-congregation, intergenerational ministry. The Master of Arts in Christian Formation concentration prepares people for a specific ministry alongside a lead pastor.

Graduates of the youth ministry concentration are expected to:

- demonstrate an understanding of the biblical and theological foundations for (youth) ministry.
- attend to their own personal spiritual formation.
- exhibit appropriate self-awareness as a ministering person.
- be conversant with the philosophical and historical development of the models of youth ministry currently being practiced.
- articulate a philosophy of ministry to youth and young adults in light of the process and challenges of adolescent development and of society's influences on the spiritual life of youth and young adults.
- be able to provide effective administrative leadership of a congregational or conference youth ministry program.
- help youth and young adults discern, recognize and respond to God's call on their lives and to equip them for their ministries.

■ program resources

!Explore: A Theological Program for High School Youth

The !Explore program at AMBS introduces high school youth to theological reflection and a vocation in ministry. The director of this program, Andrew Brubacher Kaethler, also teaches part-time in the AMBS youth ministry curriculum. The program provides students of youth ministry a variety of internship opportunities.

■ additional information

- **AMBS web site:** www.ambs.edu
Select *Academics*, then *Degree programs*, then *Master of Divinity* for more detail about the youth ministry concentration.
- **AMBS Admissions Office**
admissions@ambs.edu or 800.964.2627
- **AMBS Catalog**
Request from Admissions Office or consult online at www.ambs.edu/student-resources/catalog

graduate comments

"I appreciate AMBS's emphasis on spiritual engagement; this is precisely what equips pastors to minister across generational lines. Ministering to the youth automatically means that you minister to the congregation. AMBS's approach to youth ministry within the context of general pastoral care course is crucial."

Brenda Sawatzky Paetkau, MDiv,
pastor, Eighth Street Mennonite Church,
Goshen, Ind.

sample courses

- Faith Formation and Spirituality of Youth and Young Adults
- Pastoral Care of Youth and Young Adults
- Supervised Practicum in Youth Ministry
- Principles of Youth Ministry
- Reading the Bible with Youth
- Spiritual Disciplines for Youth and Young Adults
- Worship and Ritual in Youth Ministry
- Doing Theology with Youth
- Youth Ministry Colloquium
- Engaging Youth in Mission, Service, and Peacemaking
- Paradigms for Congregational Youth Ministry
- Relationships and Sexuality
- Technology, Culture and Adolescent Formation