

YOUTH MINISTRY CERTIFICATION

2025-2026 Cohort #3

This program is designed for ministerial staff and lay leaders of the Youth Ministry of a church who have a passion for ministry but have no formal education on the basics of ministry. These certification courses equip the ministry leader to meet the needs of teenagers, teachers and parents through events, training events and outreach opportunities.

Details and Requirements

- Our 2025-26 cohort will be limited to 15 students.
- Cost is \$500 for the year or 2 payments of \$250 (August & January).
- Monthly meetings from August - May. **YOU MUST BE ONLINE & ON CAMERA FOR ALL OF THE MEETINGS.** You may miss up to two meetings MAX but it will need to be made up by watching a replay of the Zoom meeting.
- Texts, reading and written reports will be required throughout the course along with written summaries of each session.
- Sessions will be led by Kurt Krodle (Youth Ministry Specialist) & Cory Liebrum (Director, Discipleship & NextGen) with special guests every month

Dates

Unless otherwise noted, all classes will take place via Zoom from 9:00 am-3:00 pm (CST.)
There will be a 1 hour break for lunch (noon - 1 pm.)

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| ● August 14, 2025 | ● January 29, 2026 |
| ● September 11, 2025 | ● February 19, 2026 |
| ● October 6-7, 2025 (Conclave NextGen) | ● NO MARCH SESSION |
| ● November 6, 2025 | ● April 9, 2026 |
| ● December 4, 2025 | ● May 7, 2026 |

Assignments

Each time we meet you will have 3 different assignments:

1. Book Review – You'll write 2-3 page overview of each book we read.
2. Ongoing Book Review – We will be reading two books (Emotionally Healthy Leader & Lead Them to Jesus) throughout the year. You will write 2-3 sentences for each chapter of the book that is due that month.
3. Session Review – Using the notes you will take from the previous session, you will submit a 1-2 page report of the most helpful insights from the previous Zoom. This could be an overview of the discussion we had OR it could be an action step you would like to integrate after the previous lesson.
For example, on September 12 you will turn in a session review of our opening Zoom gathering on August 15. This is why it's so vital to keep notes throughout the day.

These papers will need to be emailed to caitlin.merriman@txb.org

While you won't receive a letter grade for content but they will be checked to make sure they are complete.

Youth Ministry Certification Sessions

- **SESSION 1**

Philosophy of Youth Ministry - August 14, 2025

Why do churches invest in youth ministry? What is the best way to start in youth ministry? We'll answer these questions and many more as we take a closer look at discovering your personal philosophy of youth ministry.

- **SESSION 2**

Teaching Teenagers the Bible through Small Groups – September 11, 2025

Teaching students starts with the right Bible study leader who is called to lead teenagers. There are various learning styles you can implement to help create a more effective environment. We will discuss various options to optimize learning during a small group Bible study.

- **SESSION 3**

Conclave NextGen 2025 - October 6-7, 2025 FBC Arlington

Registration to Conclave NextGen is included in your Certification cost. We will give you registration information during Session 1.

- **SESSION 4**

Leading Volunteer Leaders - November 6, 2025

Recruiting, training and empowering adults is a vital skill in leading youth ministry. We will discuss some proven techniques to build a framework that will help volunteer leaders onboard into your ministry.

- **SESSION 5**

Family/Parent Ministry – December 4, 2025

Family Ministry isn't just an 'add-on' to youth ministry. The work of reaching & serving parents should be woven through everything happening in a church's youth ministry. This session will address the different models of family ministry so you can implement the best method in your church context.

- **SESSION 6**

Event Planning 101 – January 29, 2026

Camp, D-Now, Retreats, and Mission Trips are just a few of the events that happen during a calendar year for a youth ministry. There are some tools that can help any church leader navigate these events to help you work smarter and not harder. How you protect students, youth leaders and your church is also an important part that we will consider.

- **SESSION 7**

- Communication and Navigating Relationships in Youth Ministry – February 19, 2026**

- Leading youth ministry in the local church can feel isolating but it doesn't have to be. Youth leaders have more influence than they realize when it comes to building relationships with other individuals and ministries in the church. The youth ministry should exist to serve the church and not as a parachurch organization looking from the outside in.

- **SESSION 8**

- The Youth Leader's Health and Family - April 9, 2026**

- Youth ministry is a calling. For some that is for a lifetime and for others it's a season. However long you serve in youth ministry, you need to make sure you are taking care of yourself and your family.

- **SESSION 9**

- Student Leadership & Calling out the Called - May 7, 2026**

- Youth ministry has the unique opportunity to enlist teenagers to help serve in their own ministry. There are some effective ways to help empower these students as they begin their leadership journey. Some of these students will be our future church leaders, ministers and pastors. We will discuss how to encourage those sensing God's call to ministry and how to pursue that calling.

Textbooks & Resources

(included in registration cost)

- McGarry, Mike. (2021). *Lead them to Jesus: A Handbook for Youth Workers*. New Growth Press.
- Scazzero, Peter. (2015). *The Emotionally Healthy Leader: How Transforming your inner life will deeply transform your church, team and the world*. Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan Reflective.
- Blanks, Andy. (2012). *The 7 Best Practices for Teaching Teenagers the Bible*. Birmingham, AL: youthministry360.com.
- Blevins, Nick. (2023). *The Volunteer Playbook :A proven framework to help your church recruit, train and empower more volunteers*. Volunteerplaybook.com
- Byrd, Grant & Wheelington, Rusty. (2022). *Following Your Call to Ministry: Recognizing and Responding to God's Call*. Dallas, TX: GC2 Press.
- Dean, Jody and Jackson, Allen. (2019). *Protect: A Youth Worker's Guide to Navigating Risk*. Birmingham, AL: youthministry360.com.
- Earley, Justin Whitmel. (2021). *Habits of the Household: Practicing the Story of God in Everyday Family Rhythms*. Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan
- Franklin, Doug. (2010). *Student Leaders Start Here; Assessments & Tolls to Help You Grow as a Leader*. Carol Stream, IL: LeaderTreks.
- Scroggins, Clay. (2017). *How to Lead When You're Not in Charge: Leveraging Influence When You Lack Authority*. Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan.
- Trent, Chris. (2022). *Youth Ministry for the Longer Haul: A Field Guide for Longevity*. Birmingham, AL: youthministry360.com.