

SCHEDULE

Thursday, May 3, 2012

- 2:30 pm Registration
- 3:00 Worship
- 3:30 Workshops
- 5:30 Dinner
- 6:30 ***The Sticky Gospel***

Research from the Fuller Youth Institute revealed that students often leave our ministries carrying a gospel a lot like a jacket: It's mostly based on behaviors, and students feel like they can put it on or take it off when they want depending on the situation. In this first workshop, we will introduce the research and explore ideas for using relationships and our teaching to move students beyond a "Jesus jacket" gospel and into lives immersed in God's grace.

Friday, May 4, 2012

(*Youth Ministers are encouraged to extend a *Special Invitation* to their Pastors to attend this morning's keynote, "Sticky Church and Families," and eat lunch together with Kara Powell)

- 8:30 am Gathering Worship
- 9:00 Workshops
- 10:30 Break
- 10:45 * ***Sticky Churches and Families:***

Helping Adults Get Out of Their Seats and Into Kids' Lives

One of the most powerful things we can do in youth ministry is connect teenagers to adults: their own parents and caring adults in the faith community. Sadly, few youth ministries truly embrace the power of intergenerational relationships or harness that power to disciple students. In this Sticky Faith track workshop, you will leave with a host of practical ideas from churches engaging parents and the intergenerational church family to holistically surround kids.

- 12:30 pm Lunch downtown for participants

***Pastors with their Youth Pastors Lunch in Garden Level**

- 2:00 ***A Sticky Youth Ministry:***

Small Ministry Changes that Deliver Big Results

Graduation. Change. Transition. Unfortunately, more and more youth workers are finding that close to half of high school seniors' journeys after youth group are filled with twists and turns that leave their faith stranded. What can we do NOW that will help our kids develop a faith that sticks? This seminar in the Sticky Faith track will look at ways to structure the youth ministry environment to facilitate growth and will explore ideas to prepare seniors for the transition out of high school.

- 3:30 Ending Worship

WORKSHOPS

(Choose two)

Present-Future Youth Ministry

Reimagining "Middle School" Ministry

While programs have a beginning and an end, the practices we invite middle school students into transcend the time frame of their season with us. They begin to embrace a dynamic faith that grows with them beyond middle school through high school and into adulthood. Thus, age-appropriate ministry is more than being relevant: It calls for creating ministry strategies that encourage students' faith to connect with the broader faith community, and for their faith to mature as their life experiences grow. In this session you'll hear about practical ways to help make this happen. *Presenter is Jim Kast-Keats, WTS Distance Learning M.Div Student*

Preaching with your Mouth Shut...

Developing a Sacramental Youth Ministry

Does your program consist of a game, some singing, and then talking, talking, and more talking? In reality, a lot of our events and activities are based around the idea of using our mouths and ignoring the rest of who we are. There is a wealth of Christian experience that can be interpreted and applied to your students' context, from prayer and meditation to simulations and role playing: there are ways to help students learn deep truths while keeping your mouth shut. This session will deal with ideas and practical steps to move beyond just talking in your youth program. *Presenter is Josh Feenstra Wall, Middle School Director, Fair Haven Ministries*

Developing Future Today's Church Leaders

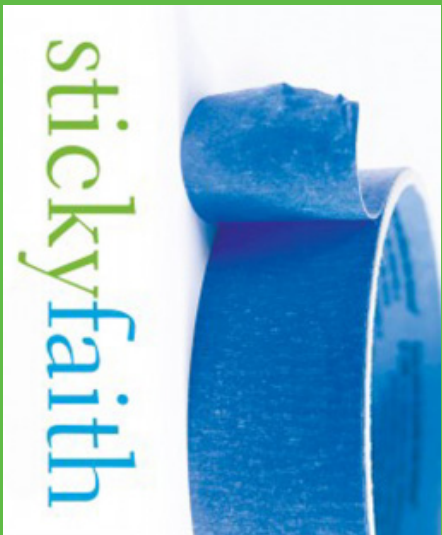
How can high school youth group help prepare students for college life and faith challenges? Campus ministers, Kate Davelaar (Hope College) and Pam Bush (GVSU), will help us creatively and openly explore this question. We will discuss how to help students transition from youth group in order to better connect to a faith community in college.

Walking Toward Despair: The Power of Empathy in Youth Ministry (OFFERED ON THURSDAY ONLY)

Life can be complex, confusing, depressing, and downright painful . . . especially if you're an adolescent. Yet it's precisely these realities that create opportunities for encountering the God of hope and healing. In this workshop, you'll learn basic skills of empathy and intervention that will enable you to walk toward and work with youth in the midst of their despair, grief, and perplexity. *Presenter is Theresa Latini, Associate Professor of Congregational and Community Care Leadership Luther Seminary*

Rites of Passage: Creating Seamless and Sustainable Transitions (OFFERED ON FRIDAY ONLY)

Research indicates a sharp drop-off of student involvement as they move from one stage of life to the next. This workshop explores practical ways to assist students with seamless transitions and celebrate their milestones through adolescence and into young adulthood. *Presenters are Gretchen Schoon-Tanis, Hope College Religion Dept. and Duane Smith, Staff Consultant of Youth Ministry Architects and RCA RSGL Youth Consultant*



2012 Youth Ministry Conference May 3-4 with Kara Powell

**Journey, Center for the Church's Learning
at Western Theological Seminary
101 E. 13th Street**

When the "Pomp and Circumstance" fades, what happens to your students?

If you're like most youth ministries, close to half of your graduating seniors pick up their diplomas and ditch their faith. Why is that? For those graduates who remain connected to Jesus, what is it that makes the difference? And how can we be made aware of the ways we may be subtly sabotaging our students' faith throughout high school, despite our best intentions?

This seminar takes a deep look at ongoing research conducted by the Fuller Youth Institute on seniors—as well as youth group graduates—just like yours. You'll leave with all sorts of practical ways to keep students in middle and high school engaged in your ministry, and more importantly their faith, so that they build faith that sticks.

Dr. Kara E. Powell

Executive Director of the Fuller Youth Institute (FVI) and a faculty member at Fuller Theological Seminary
Learn more about Kara at fulleryouthinstitute.org/about/leadership/



Presented through a partnership of



Workshop Registration

- Present-Future Youth Ministry, *Kast-Keat*
- Preaching with Your Mouth Shut, *Feenstra Wall*
- Developing Future Today's Leaders, *Bush and Davelaar*
- Walking Toward Despair, *Latini (Thursday only)*
- Rites of Passage, *Schoon-Tanis and Smith (Friday Only)*
- My pastor is attending the Friday morning keynote and luncheon. Pastor's name _____
Pastor's email _____

Name _____

Address _____

City/State/Zip _____

Email _____

Phone _____

Dietary Restrictions _____

Method of payment (must accompany registration)
Check enclosed # _____ (Journey/WTS) or
Credit card: MasterCard/VISA/Discover

cc # _____ exp. date _____

3 digit code _____ name on card _____

Registration fee: \$95 (includes Thurs. dinner and Fri. lunch)
Deadline: April 15, 2012 (\$120 after deadline)

Send registration and payment to:
Journey/WTS, 101 E. 13th St., Holland, MI 49423 - (Fax)616-392-7717
or register online at www.westernsem.edu/journey
Lodging: Haworth Inn (800-903-9142) or area motels