



**PRESBYTERIAN YOUTH
WORKERS' ASSOCIATION**

2018 Youth Ministry Innovation Cohort Information

Ministry Architects is partnering with the Presbyterian Youth Workers' Association to connect, uphold, and inspire youth workers through a 12-month innovation cohort program. One of the challenges today in youth ministry (and in churches for that matter) is, "How do we create a thriving, missional ministry that serves the community around us?" This cohort will work together to tackle this challenge by engaging the factors that contribute to the problem, focusing on sustainable ministry systems, and creating and testing innovative solutions to the problem. The findings of the cohort will be presented to multiple conferences throughout the spring of 2019.

The work of the innovation cohort is intended to be an investment for congregations who are looking to rethink their approach to ministry with youth and who want to stay ahead of our changing culture. A maximum of 12 churches will be invited to begin the process in January of 2018 in Louisville, KY. This one-year cohort will include two face-to-face gatherings and eight virtual gatherings plus an opportunity to present the cohort's findings at a conference. In addition to these gatherings, each church in the cohort will receive up to six hours of individualized, customized coaching from Ministry Architects.

Schedule

- **First Gathering**—January 30–February 3, 2018, in Louisville, KY (during the APCE Annual Event)
- **Second Gathering**—February 26–March 1, 2018, in Baltimore, MD (during the NEXT Church National Gathering)
- **Tentative First Presentation**—2019 APCE Annual Event in Galveston, TX

Cohort Components

- **Inspiring Innovation:** The cohort will work together to create and test innovative solutions to the identified challenge and then present their findings for other congregations to utilize. During this process, each cohort participant will receive up to six hours of coaching from Ministry Architects. The coaching will focus on accountability for having a healthy climate and systems while implementing the innovation.
- **Sustainable Principles of Ministry:** During the face-to-face gatherings, the cohort will participate in extended sessions led by Ministry Architects. These sessions will help youth workers learn key concepts in developing sustainable ministry and to create an implementation plan for each topic, especially regarding the problem with which they will be engaged.
- **Connecting Youth Workers:** What better way to engage a seemingly universal challenge in youth ministry than to create deep relationships with people who share your passion? The cohort will emphasize the importance of relationships throughout the year. To do this, the group will engage together in Bible study, prayer, and spiritual practices and will read and discuss at least four books around the topics of sustainable youth ministry and innovation.

Financial Info

Cost per person: \$1350–\$1500 (TBD once the number of churches is determined)

The cost of the cohort depends on the number of churches participating. The cost decreases as the number of participants increases. Cost includes Sustainable Principles sessions, conference registrations, and coaching. Cost does not include travel expenses (airfare, lodging, meals, etc.) for conferences.

Application Deadline

Application due 12/1/17; Deposit (\$600) due 12/15/17; 2nd Payment (\$500) due 4/1/18; Final Payment (amount TBD) due 8/1/18

For More Information, Please Contact Brian Kuhn (brian.kuhn@ministryarchitects.com).