

Celebrate!

30
YEARS

INSTITUTE FOR
YOUTH MINISTRY

PRINCETON THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY

THE PRINCETON FORUM ON YOUTH MINISTRY

APRIL 29 - MAY 2, 2025

Why We Celebrate

Thirty years ago, a group of Christian leaders committed to ministry with young people imagined a future where theologians and ministry leaders were part of a dynamic learning community that formed thoughtful, just, and creative ministries with teenagers. The result of this collective dreaming became the Institute for Youth Ministry (IYM) at Princeton Theological Seminary, and since 1995, the IYM has helped shape the theory and practice of youth ministry around the world.

Youth Ministry is Celebration

The 2025 Forum on Youth Ministry invites you to reflect with us on the role that celebration plays in ministry with young people. In a time of uncertainty and distrust, youth ministry can be a safe place that celebrates, affirms, and bears witness to the lived experiences of young people. As we celebrate God's work in the world through Jesus Christ, we believe that Christians are well equipped to help young people know and celebrate that they belong to God – no matter what.

2025 PRINCETON LECTURERS IN YOUTH, CHURCH, AND CULTURE



KENDA CREASY DEAN

MARY D. SYNNOTT PROFESSOR OF YOUTH,
CHURCH, AND CULTURE AT
PRINCETON THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY



ANDREW ROOT

PROFESSOR AND CARRIE OLSON BAALSON
CHAIR OF YOUTH AND FAMILY MINISTRY AT
LUTHER SEMINARY

Our Leaders Include



TRACI BLACKMON

The Rev. Traci Blackmon is the former associate general minister of Justice & Local Church Ministries, United Church of Christ. Traci's life work focuses on communal resistance to systemic injustice. She has spent the last two decades preaching and teaching a theology that consistently and unapologetically calls community to hear the cries of the suffering in the world. Drawing on her wealth of experience, she will lead a workshop titled, "Celebration as Activism."



DREW DYSON

The Rev. Dr. Drew Dyson serves as the Chief Executive Officer of the Center for Modern Aging Princeton, where he works with the board and staff to help older adults thrive. Prior to this, Drew served for 25 years in ecclesial settings in the United Methodist Church as a pastor, seminary professor, denominational executive, and district superintendent of more than 70 churches in central New Jersey. With this background, Drew will lead a workshop titled, "Celebration as Ritual."



DARLENE HUTTO

Rev. Dr. Darlene Hutto is an ordained Itinerant Elder in the African Methodist Episcopal Church and is employed as the Director of Experience Design for the Forum for Theological Exploration, a non-profit organization that advocates excellence and diversity in pastoral leadership and theological scholarship. Known for her creative and inclusive approaches to designing sacred encounters and experiences, she will lead a workshop titled, "Celebration as Discipline."



NANCY GROSS

Rev. Dr. Nancy Lammers Gross is the Arthur Sarell Rudd Professor of Speech Communication in Ministry at Princeton Theological Seminary. A member of the Academy of Homiletics, she teaches speech communication with special interest in assisting women to claim their voices, preaching, especially preaching from the Apostle Paul, and worship. Involved in the IYM since its beginnings, Nancy will preach during the Forum on Youth Ministry.

JOIN US TO *Celebrate!*



NATHAN STUCKY, DIRECTOR OF THE FARMINARY

An Afternoon at the Farm

Full conference attendees are invited to join us for an afternoon at the Farminary on Wednesday, April 30. Celebrating its 10th Anniversary this year, the Farminary is an initiative at Princeton Theological Seminary born out of a love for youth ministry and young people, alongside a commitment to cultivating a restorative relationship with the earth they (and we inhabit). Designed to challenge society's 24/7 culture of productivity by following a different rhythm, the Farminary invites reflection on the seasons and Sabbath. See more at farminary.ptsem.edu!

MARTIN SAUNDERS, DEPUTY CEO OF YOUTHSCAPE

A Celebration Banquet

There is so much to celebrate over 30 years of ministry, and the IYM invites you to join us for an evening of feasting and merrymaking on Thursday, May 1. Featuring a "honey-roast" of past IYM Directors and moments of joyful storytelling, the IYM Celebration Banquet will be an opportunity for connection, laughter, remembrance, and gratitude. Hosted by IYM friend Martin Saunders of Youthscape, this meal will create space for delight and dreaming about the wonderful (and weird) vocation of youth ministry.

WHAT'S Happening

TUESDAY April 29

10am: OPENING GATHERING
11am: LECTURE — **KENDA CREASY DEAN**
12pm: LUNCH & SMALL GROUPS
2pm: WORKSHOPS — **FIRST ROTATION**
4pm: HAPPY HOUR
7pm: EVENING PRAYER

WEDNESDAY April 30

9am: MORNING PRAYER
10am: WORKSHOPS — **SECOND ROTATION**
11:45am: LUNCH & SMALL GROUPS
2pm: AFTERNOON AT THE FARMINARY
4pm: HAPPY HOUR AT THE FARMINARY
7pm: EVENING PRAYER

THURSDAY May 1

9am: MORNING PRAYER
10am: LECTURE — **ANDREW ROOT**
11:30am: LUNCH & SMALL GROUPS
1pm: WORKSHOPS — **THIRD ROTATION**
3pm: HAPPY HOUR
5pm: IYM CELEBRATION BANQUET
7pm: EVENING PRAYER

FRIDAY May 2

9am: YOUTH MINISTRY PAST, PRESENT, FUTURE
11am: CLOSING WORSHIP

TICKETS

Book your tickets directly at iym.ptsem.edu/events, where you will also find information on where to stay, other leaders, and our faqs. Join us for the full conference for only **\$399** or purchase a one-day pass for Tuesday or Thursday only **\$99**.



Scan Me

GIVEAWAYS

Participants will receive complimentary SWAG, along with entry into contests for free resources to support your ministry.

LOCATION

We look forward to welcoming you on the beautiful campus of Princeton Theological Seminary in Princeton, NJ.

iym.ptsem.edu

[@princetonseminaryiym](https://twitter.com/princetonseminaryiym)