



THE MINISTRY
COLLABORATIVE

A Project of the
Macedonian Ministry
Foundation

“Youthanize 2.0”: Navigating the Death of Conventional Youth Programming and the Resurrection of Enduring Faith

A NATIONWIDE COHORT FOR MINISTRY LEADERS

COHORT DETAILS:

AUGUST 2023 - APRIL 2024

REGISTRATION FEE: \$1,100

**Your financial contribution covers all sessions, workshops, resources, as well as lodging and content for a 3-day, 2-night opening retreat (travel will be covered by each participant). Scholarships available on an as needed basis. Please contact Laura Long for information at LLong@MMinistry.org*

The cohort will last approximately 8 months, meeting 2x per month via Zoom on the 2nd and 4th Monday of every month at 1 p.m. ET, beginning August 14th, 2023, and ending April 22nd, 2024, with guest presenters and workshops interspersed. Additionally, it will include an opening retreat in Denver, CO, August 7-9, 2023. Space is limited, so we recommend reserving a spot soon if interested. Please contact any of the facilitators asap with questions.

FAQ'S:

[WHAT TO EXPECT FROM THE COHORT EXPERIENCE.](#)

[WHO & WHAT IS A COHORT?](#)

Click the links above to read more about our cohorts.



Facilitated by: Kyle Bender, Bianca Howard, & Brittany Porch

It's the end of the life span of youth ministry as we've known it, so we are collaborating, dreaming, and having courageous conversations about where the Spirit is taking this vitally important work. Why 2.0? Because the feedback from last year's "1.0" version made clear that learning communities focused in this area of ministry are especially needed right now. We're building on that initial learning and experience, envisioning an even more valuable process of gathering, collaborating, and resourcing.

This cohort is for anyone engaged in ministry to youth and families – whether new or experienced - as our current moment requires the collective wisdom of us all. We envision a diverse, ecumenical cohort that discusses what it looks like to faithfully work with youth on critical issues like mental health, racism, environmental and economic justice, collective trauma, and the emerging ways of walking with Jesus in the years ahead. We will dream together and discern how to move from old models that no longer serve the church and how we might shape ministry today through new forms of leadership and experimenting with new ideas. Join us as we share fresh ideas and work together to collaborate on what's next in ministry to young people.

Reserve Your Spot Now!

**Space is Limited to 20 Participants*

Meet the Facilitators!



Kyle Bender, Marriage and Family Therapist

Kyle has served on church staff in roles of children and student ministry over the last 20 years. Most recently, he served as Director of Family Ministry at Westlake Hills Presbyterian Church in Austin, TX. In the last year, he has transitioned to a new career as a marriage and family therapist. Kyle and his wife spend most of their time as a taxicab service for their 3 daughters. In his free time, he will watch any sport that is in the playoffs and enjoys music, good food, and getting out of town and outside. (Email address for Kyle: kylebender@gmail.com)



Bianca Howard, Dir. of Parent & Family Ministry Initiatives and Resources, Orange

Rev. Bianca Howard has served in Youth Ministry for almost two decades. She has a great desire to support those in the trenches of Youth ministry. She is an ordained minister in the Baptist church and graduate of Howard University School of Divinity and Princeton Theological Seminary. She received a Certificate in Youth Innovation and recently taught a workshop on Youth & Black Theology for the Institute for Youth Ministry at Princeton. She currently works for Orange as the Director of Parent & Family Ministry Initiatives and Resources and this year she plans to begin doctoral work in Youth, Family & Culture at Fuller Theological Seminary. She is mother of two little ones and is married to another minister of the gospel. They resided in Atlanta, Georgia. (Email address for Bianca: biarob@icloud.com)



Brittany Porch, Dir. of Mission and Education, Broad Street Presbyterian Church

Brittany Porch has a Masters of Arts in Practical Theology from Columbia Theological Seminary and is a certified Christian Educator in the Presbyterian Church (USA). She serves as the Director of Mission & Education at Broad Street Presbyterian Church in Columbus, OH. She is married to Trip Porch, pastor, and together they have two children Ward (6) and Arden (2). She loves pulling weeds in her garden, reading novels with her book club, and walking her dog in the quiet early morning. Her life's work has always and will always include a calling to children and youth.

(Email address for Brittany: bporch@bspc.org)

Resources Available to You:

Published twice per week, our [blog](#) aims to advance conversation topics that we believe are the most crucial for navigating ministry today. Additionally, our weekly [podcast](#) features a series of honest conversations about the opportunities, challenges, and joy of ministry today.

[Sign Up to Receive our Weekly Articles & Podcast Episodes!](#)