

Gordon-Conwell Theological Seminary and Straight Ahead Ministries

I. Program Description:

This six-course intensive program is the first of its kind, offering a certificate or seminary concentration in Juvenile Justice Ministries. Each 5-day course will be taught by experienced practitioners presenting the most innovative as well as tried and true methods of engaging with high-risk youth. Students will develop a comprehensive Christian approach for effective intervention with juvenile offenders that is both biblically and historically grounded, and is practical for churches, parachurch ministries, chaplaincy programs, and for Christians working within secular social service agencies.

The focus of this program emphasizes understanding juvenile offenders, and ministering within the juvenile justice system and in re-entry to the community. Particular attention is given to understanding one's own issues of pain, anger and prejudice, as well as individual leadership style. Through the use of individual assessment tools and mentored coaching, students will also develop ministry plans for effective outreach in their own particular venue.

II. Course Descriptions (5-days each):

Course 1:

Engaging High Risk Youth: Transformational Approaches

*To be offered in Boston on August 4-8, 2008**

This course lays a theological, theoretical and philosophical methodology for working with juvenile offenders in ways that transform character. It is grounded in Scripture, research evidence on resilience and transformational change theory, brain science, and positive youth development, translating the latest research into practical methods

for creating transformational environments and interactions that are proven effective for even the most challenging youth. Highly experiential and enlivened by videos and small group practice, the course is designed so that participants will gain specific competencies that can be passed on to other staff and volunteers with the goal of helping them become more effective in working with high risk youth.

Course 2:

The Minister's Role in Juvenile Justice Ministry

To be offered in Boston in January 2009

This course will focus on the transformational character change versus incremental self-improvement that is needed for today's most at-risk teens and those who work with them. Particular attention is given to understanding one's own issues of pain, anger, unmet needs, and prejudice. Individual assessment tools will be used to discover one's unique leadership styles. We will also explore expectations, motivations, and the pitfalls that occur over the course of developing, growing and maintaining a troubled youth ministry and examine strategies for long-term effectiveness, including team building strategies and spiritual formation practices.

Course 3:

Juvenile Delinquency and its Contributing Factors

*To be offered in Boston in June 2009**

There are a myriad of complex internal and external risk factors that contribute toward delinquency in children. Focused attention will be given to understanding the impact of dysfunctional family systems, over-stressed communities, learning and mental health issues, racial tension and disproportional minority confinement, gangs, criminal thinking patterns, and various types of addiction and substance abuse issues.

(Courses continued on the back)

Course 4:**Effective Juvenile Justice Aftercare Models**

To be offered in Massachusetts in August 2009

Students will get in the trenches of urban ministry with high-risk gang kids, and experience first hand several effective models of collaboration with juvenile justice agencies, police, city officials, and funding agencies. Models of residential aftercare, community-based aftercare, mentoring, youth aftercare church ministries, community service, and community collaboration will be explored and explained in detail. Students will develop their own aftercare models after experiencing several active programs of evangelism and discipleship in the context of community outreach, mentoring, case management, job training, educational services, and court and family advocacy.

Course 5:**The Juvenile Justice System and How to Best Work Within It**

To be offered in San Diego, CA in January, 2010

To be effective in juvenile ministry, chaplains and ministers must fully understand the environment in which they labor. Juvenile facilities are a cross-cultural environment with multi-complex and competing interests. Participants learn to be systems sensitive in dealing with the divergence of mental health issues, staff concerns of safety and security, and an environment that is often skeptical of the influence of religion on young lives. Part of the course will be conducted inside a local juvenile detention center.

Course 6:**Contexts for Effective Institutional Juvenile Justice Ministry**

To be offered in Massachusetts in June 2010, combined with cohort graduation

Innovative models will be experienced within a local juvenile facility, including Bible studies, Christian recovery groups, character development programs,

and chapel services, with a mind toward spiritual development in high-risk youth. As a final project, students develop a strategic plan that incorporates: establishing a compelling vision and mission, staffing, volunteer recruitment, ongoing training, developing resources, and measuring outcomes.

Course 7:**Internship**

We will help facilitate a local Supervised Ministry context for those completing M. Div. or MA degrees who would like a juvenile justice ministry context.

III. Options for taking courses:

These six 5-day intensive courses will be offered in multiple sites. Students may enroll in these courses in three different ways:

1. Seminary or Graduate School Credit

- Cost is \$475 per 3-credit course to fulfill requirements for a Concentration in Juvenile Justice Ministries in a Gordon-Conwell Theological Seminary MA or M. Div. program

- Transfer credits can be awarded for any other ATS approved seminary, graduate or undergraduate institution for each course (4 credits per course)
- Involves 30+ hours of face-to-face instruction with pre- and post-classroom work

2. Certificate in Juvenile Justice Ministries issued from Gordon-Conwell Theological Seminary

- \$275 per course (\$1,650 total for 6-course certification)

3. CEU/audit

- \$275 per course
- Up to 28 contact hours of CEU credits per course for counselors, social workers, psychologists and teachers

* Housing at Eastern Nazarene College in Quincy, MA available for \$300 for Boston 5-day course.

JOIN US for the Juvenile Justice Ministries Concentration and Certificate Program through Gordon-Conwell Theological Seminary

Please send me an application on this program. I'm interested in taking this program through:

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone number: _____

Email address: _____

Please Fax to 508-438-0182 or Mail back to Straight Ahead Ministries, 100 Grove Street, Worcester, MA 01605

Concentration in Juvenile Justice Ministries in M.Div program

Certificate in Juvenile Justice Ministries

CEU credit hours

Concentration in Juvenile Justice Ministries in Youth Ministry M.A. Program

Participation in program with no need for credit