



First Things in Youth Ministry

A FORMATIVE JOURNEY WITH NEW YOUTH MINISTRY LEADERS



Program Overview

Just starting in youth ministry and not sure where to start?

First Things in Youth Ministry is a seven-session online formation program for anyone new to youth ministry. Whether volunteer or paid, this training provides direction for the first six months of taking on a new leadership role. Think of it as basic training in comprehensive youth ministry.

Learn and Grow Together (Training Format)

First Things in Youth Ministry uses a cohort model to not only provide participants with the foundational information for leading a youth ministry program, but with a community of support as well.

- **Online Cohort:** 8-12 new leaders and 1 coach per group
- **3 Months of Virtual Formation:** Initial orientation and six 90-minute online sessions
- **Participant Preparation:** Approximately 3 hours of required reading, viewing content, and reflection activities prior to each session
- **Group Discussion:** Share insights on material and practical application to local situations
- **Practical Applications:** Apply learnings through tangible steps and strategies that assist in building a comprehensive youth ministry model
- **Diving Deeper:** Follow-up materials for further development available for each session



This program was developed as part of the [5-year strategy for NFCYM](#), with the over-arching goal to **Empower 15,000 Ministers to Advocate for Young People to be an Integral Voice within their Local Communities.**

First Things in Youth Ministry aligns under focus area one: *Embrace the Essential Elements of Comprehensive Youth Ministry.*

“What a wonderful opportunity for those new to youth ministry. It is always overwhelming to decide where to begin and First Things provides the how-tos right when you need them most.”

— Christie Smith, NFCYM Member

Setting The Foundation (Training Topics)

To see a summary of what is covered in each session, visit nfcym.org/first-things.

FIRST THINGS ON...

- Comprehensive Youth Ministry
- Understanding Young People, Culture, and Your Local Context
- Building a Leadership Team and Recruiting Volunteers
- Accompanying Young People and Their Parents
- Program Planning and Budgeting
- Resources and Networking

"I am so excited that NFCYM is offering this opportunity for youth ministry leaders. I wish that this was available to me 30 years ago. Knowing that parish, diocesan, and national youth ministry experts were part of putting this program together is so amazing. I need a refresher course, myself so I may take this as well. I hope and pray you will consider taking this program. You won't be disappointed."

— Jim Flanagan, NFCYM Member

Registration and Cost

Cohort groups are assembled three times per year. Individuals may sign up any time at nfcym.org/first-things for the next available cohort.

Fall:

**Register by second
Friday of September,
course starts in October**

Winter:

**Register by second
Friday of January,
course starts in February**

Spring:

**Register by second
Friday of May,
course starts in June**

In addition, at any point throughout the year, a diocese can choose to sponsor its own cohort and recommend a particular coach. *See the diocesan registration section for details.*

Cost per participant is \$150

(Includes a one-year Associate Membership to NFCYM, a \$75 value)

VISIT NFCYM.ORG/FIRST-THINGS TO REGISTER TODAY!

NFCYM

Christ leads. We accompany.

www.nfcym.org

