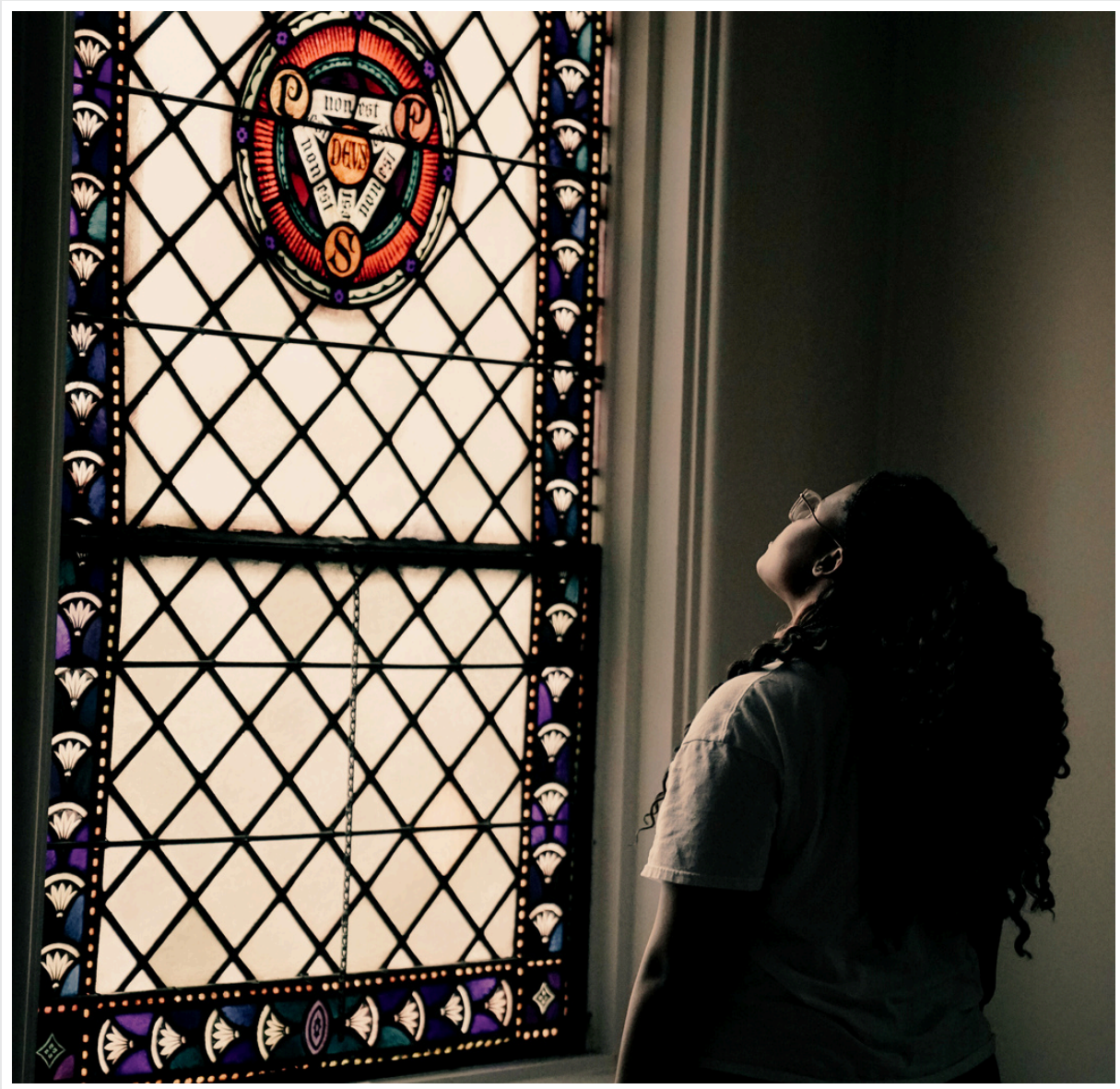
YOUTH BECOMING LEADERS

High School Christian Leadership and Global Transformation Institute

Church Partner Program



www.asbury.edu/ybl



Hello there!

Thank you for your interest in partnering with Youth Becoming Leaders (YBL). At Asbury University, we believe high school students are called to lead with faith, wisdom, and courage—not just in the future, but today. Through YBL, we equip students with theological depth, leadership training, and a Christ-centered community to help them step boldly into their calling.

Your church's partnership is more than just support—it's an investment in raising up the next generation of Christian leaders who will strengthen the Church and serve the world. I would love to connect and share more about how we can partner together in this mission!

Caleigh

ASSISTANT PROFESSOR OF YOUTH MINISTRY & YBL DIRECTOR



YOUTH BECOMING LEADERS
High School Christian Leadership and Global Transformation Institute

Caleigh Smith
859-858-3511 ext 2471
caleigh.smith@asbury.edu

YOUTH BECOMING LEADERS

High School Christian Leadership and Global Transformation Institute



WHY WE EXIST

We believe high school students are called to be Christ-like leaders today—not just in the future. The Youth Becoming Leaders (YBL) Institute equips students to deepen their faith, engage in theological study, and develop leadership skills to serve their communities and churches effectively.

WHY WE PARTNER

We partner with churches to invest in the next generation of Christian leaders by:

- Immersing students in Scripture, theology, and Christian traditions
- Encouraging spiritual disciplines, worship, and service
- Guiding students to discern their calling
- Equipping them to lead in a complex world

STUDENT EXPERIENCE

- Confidence in their calling.
- A close-knit Christian community from across the U.S.
- Tools for studying Scripture effectively.
- A theological lens for interpreting culture.
- Leadership and service through hands-on ministry experience.
- An intentional ministry project for their community.

HEAR FROM OUR STUDENTS:

"I have more peace with God and a steady fire for Him. I used to go in and out of seeking Him, and now I am committed to seeking Him every day."
— Jackson, YBL Participant

"I have learned that while I love being creative, I can partner with God to use these gifts, given by god himself to do impactful creative things for His Kingdom."

— Mercy, YBL Participant



The Impact of Church Partnerships

By partnering with YBL, your church helps raise up young leaders who are ready to serve.

Students return to their church with:

- A deeper understanding of their calling
- Hands-on leadership experience
- A ministry project designed to bless their church community
- Training in engaging Scripture and applying it to daily life

Partner Churches Receive:

- Equipped student leaders returning each summer with a ministry project
- A one-day EquipU workshop hosted at your church for youth ministry staff, volunteers, or student leaders
- Networking opportunities with Asbury University interns and graduates
- A full scholarship for one student from your church

Partner Churches Commit To:

- Praying for YBL students, leaders, and the program
- Providing $2,000 of financial support for one year
  - $1,000 supports a student from your church
  - $1,000 provides a scholarship for another deserving applicant
- Serving as ambassadors by sharing YBL with your congregation and community

> Don't let anyone look down on you because you are young, but set an example for the believers in speech, in conduct, in love, in faith and in purity.
>
> 1 TIMOTHY 4:12

Why Investing in Youth Matters: Key Statistics

Teen Mental Health Decline

Increased teen depression, anxiety, and loneliness across the Western world. Girls are more affected by social comparison, online harassment, and emotional sharing leading to higher rates of depression. Boys struggle with declining male role models, gaming addiction, and lack of purpose.

The Impact of a Phone-Based Childhood

In 2015, 1 in 4 teens reported being online "almost constantly." By 2022, that number rose to 46%. Teens spend an average of 7 hours per day on screens for leisure—not including schoolwork.

The shift to a digital-first adolescence has led to:

- Social deprivation (fewer in-person friendships)
- Sleep deprivation (late-night screen use)
- Attention fragmentation (shorter focus spans)
- Addiction (apps designed to hold attention as long as possible)

Decline in Play-Based Childhood

Healthy development requires face-to-face, outdoor, physical play with mixed-age groups and minimal adult intervention. Play builds social and emotional resilience, helping combat anxiety.

How YBL offers Faith & Leadership as a Solution

Spiritual practices reduce loneliness and increase trust when done in the community:

- Shared worship & sacred experiences
- Eating meals together
- Practicing stillness, forgiveness, and awe

Leadership development programs like YBL equip students with confidence, purpose, and community—helping reverse the negative effects of a digital-first world.

How Church Partnerships Help

- Equip students to lead with faith and resilience in a complex world.
- Provide a phone-free space for face-to-face relationships and meaningful experiences.
- Encourage spiritual discipline, service, and leadership, counteracting modern distractions.

This strengthens the why behind the Church Partnership Program—showing that investing in young leaders is essential for their well-being, faith, and future leadership in the Church.