



Youth ministry is a calling. Those who answer the call to serve the church as youth leaders — as volunteers, as staff members, as clergy — find their calls strengthened and their

ministry supported through participation in lifelong learning events. Acknowledging the need for dynamic, relevant programs that support excellence in youth ministry, the Presbytery of Greater Atlanta and Columbia Theological Seminary designed a non-degree program, the **Youth Ministry Leadership Initiative (YMLI)**, for pastors and lay leaders who are committed to developing strong church youth programs.

Why enroll in YMLI?

Participants in YMLI courses will gain a deeper understanding of their personal call to youth ministry and how that call can faithfully serve the life of the church. Courses provide the opportunity to network with others who are passionate about working with young people. Persons making the commitment to YMLI, as they learn from one another and the program, will gain practical knowledge of how to work within the church to create theologically sound, enjoyable, innovative ministries for youth.

How does YMLI work?

The YMLI curriculum includes two weekend retreats and six weekend courses, all held at Columbia Theological Seminary, in Decatur, GA. Leadership will include seminary faculty and staff, members of the Presbytery of Greater Atlanta staff, and other experienced youth leaders and professionals. You may enroll in as many courses as you want. If you complete all eight courses you will be awarded a certificate of Training and Development in Youth Ministry.

YMLI Roundtable Courses

- Soul Tending
- Know Where to Turn When Youth Turn to You (Youth Development and Pastoral Care)
- Because the Bible Tells Me So: Biblical Interpretation
- Programming with a Plan: Intentional Youth Ministry
- How Presbyterians Talk About God: Theology & Polity
- The Big Three: Worship, Mission and Fellowship

YMLI Certification Format

Beginning Retreat/Discernment Weekend

led by Rodger Nishioka *and* Neema Cyrus-Franklin

Roundtable Courses

6 weekend courses

Capstone Retreat Weekend

led by Rodger Nishioka *and* Neema Cyrus-Franklin

About the Retreat Leaders

Rodger Nishioka is associate professor of Christian education at CTS. Nishioka received his M.A.T.S. from McCormick Seminary and is a Ph.D. candidate at Georgia State University. He is a nationally recognized keynote speaker, preacher and expert in youth and young adult ministry.

Neema Cyrus-Franklin is director of youth ministries for the Presbytery of Greater Atlanta. Cyrus-Franklin received M.Div. and M.C.E. degrees from Johnson C. Smith Seminary of the Interdenominational Theological Center. She has extensive experience in camp and conference ministries; she serves as a member of the General Assembly task force to develop a strategy for African American evangelism and church growth and the Caribbean and North American Area Council for the PC (USA).

What does YMLI cost?

The cost is \$150 per course or retreat, including meals. For the entire program, the cost is approximately \$1200. Housing on the seminary campus is based on availability. \$45 per night, single occupancy; \$29 per night, double occupancy. (Rates current 9/2006)

How do I register?

Online: www.ctsnet.edu.

Go to Lifelong Learning. Click on Courses and Events, then the date of the event. A non-refundable deposit is required at registration.

Phone: 404-687-4587

E-mail: roperp@ctsnet.edu

More information

Neema Cyrus-Franklin: 404-898-0711, ext. 37
ncyrusfranklin@presbyteryofgreateratl.org

Sarah Erickson: 404-687-4526
ericksons@ctsnet.edu



Program Schedule 2007 – 2010

Participants must register before each event.
See registration information below.

Opening Retreat: October 10-12, 2008

Discerning Your Call to Youth Ministry

The opening retreat and discernment weekend is designed to allow you to take time out to ask the important questions about your individual ministry and youth ministry as a whole. You will interact with others who understand the importance of youth ministry, as you work toward bringing to light specific challenges, opportunities, and issues surrounding youth ministry in today's church.

Leaders for this retreat are Rodger Nishioka, associate professor of Christian education at Columbia Theological Seminary, and Neema Cyrus-Franklin, director of youth ministries for the Presbytery of Greater Atlanta.

During the weekend, you will discuss these topics:

- Why you feel called to youth ministry
- What it means to be called to work with young people
- What is unique about your call to youth ministry
- What specific gifts and limitations you have in dealing with youth

Registration

You must register for each event.

- **By phone** 404-687-4587
- **Online** www.ctsnet.edu.
Go to Lifelong Learning, then Events and Courses. Click on the date of the YMLI event you plan to attend.

YMLI Retreats and Roundtable Courses

- **Programming with a Plan:
Intentional Youth Ministry**
August 22 – 23, 2008
- **The Big Three:
Worship, Mission, and Fellowship**
March 7 – 8, 2008 and December 4-5, 2009
- **Capstone Retreat and
Presentation of Certificates**
May 9 – 10, 2008 and March 5 – 6, 2010
- **Opening Retreat:
Discerning Your Call to Youth Ministry**
October 10 – 12, 2008
- **Soul Tending:
Finding Spirituality in Your Ministry**
December 5 – 6, 2008
- **How Presbyterians Talk About God: Theology
and Polity**
May 1 – 2, 2009
- **Because the Bible Tells Me So:
Putting the Bible in Bible Study**
February 27 – 28, 2009
- **Know Where to Turn When the Youth Turn to You**
August 21 – 22, 2009

YMLI Course Leaders

Ann H. K. Apple, Parish Associate & Jim Apple, Deacon
Idlewild Presbyterian Church, Memphis, TN

Troy Bronsink, Pastor, community organizer, artist, songwriter
Church of St. Andrews, Atlanta, GA

William P. Brown, Professor of Old Testament
Columbia Theological Seminary

Eric Dillenbeck, Associate Pastor
North Decatur Presbyterian Church, Decatur, GA

Sarah Erickson, Associate Director, The Center for Lifelong
Learning
Columbia Theological Seminary

Neema Cyrus-Franklin, Director of Youth Ministries
Presbytery of Greater Atlanta

E. Elizabeth Johnson, J. Davison Philips Professor of New
Testament
Columbia Theological Seminary

Martha Moore-Keish, Assistant Professor of Theology
Columbia Theological Seminary

Rodger Nishioka, Associate Professor of Christian Education
Columbia Theological Seminary

Skip Johnson, Adjunct Professor of Pastoral Theology and Care
Columbia Theological Seminary



COLUMBIA THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY
Lifelong Learning Registration Form
Youth Ministry Leadership Initiative

A Partnership between the Presbytery of Greater Atlanta and Columbia Theological Seminary

Preferred Title: Ms. ___ Rev. ___ Dr. ___ Mr. ___ Gender: Male ___ Female ___

CTS Faculty ___ CTS Staff ___ CTS Student ___ Spouse of CTS faculty, staff, or student ___

Name _____ Job Title _____

Preferred Name (nametag) _____

Address _____ Home ___ Office ___

City _____ State _____ ZIP _____

Phone (day) _____ (evening) _____

E-mail _____ Church Membership _____

NO, do not include my contact information on the roster to be given to course participants _____

Event Title _____ Dates _____

Tuition \$ _____ Location _____

A non-refundable deposit (applied to your program fee) must accompany your registration form. Events priced \$125 or less require a \$25 non-refundable deposit. Events priced more than \$125 require a \$50 non-refundable deposit.

Seminary Housing \$29 per person, per night double occupancy. Single room, \$45 per night.

____ Person(s) Arrival date _____ Departure date _____

____ Double room ____ Single room (if available)

Roommate preference _____

Special Needs _____

Housing Reservation Cancellation Policy: If you must cancel your housing reservation, please notify Miguel Chavez (404-687-4510) at least 48 hours before your scheduled arrival to avoid a one-night penalty charge.

Credit Card Payment: Visa ___ MasterCard ___ Discover ___

Name (as it appears on card) _____

Full billing address _____

Credit card number _____ Expiration date _____

Amount \$ _____

Meals. Friday dinner and Saturday lunch are provided in the registration fee. Other refectory meals are charged per item.

More Information

Neema Cyrus Franklin, Presbytery of Greater Atlanta (404-898-0711, x37) or ncyrusfranklin@presbyteryofgreateratl.org or Sarah Erickson, CTS Center for Lifelong Learning (404-687-4526) or ericksons@ctsnet.edu.

Return registration to: Registrar, Center for Lifelong Learning
 Columbia Theological Seminary
 P.O. Box 520, Decatur, GA 30031
 Fax: 404-687-4591