



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 Ph.D. from 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 \$165 per course or retreat, including meals. For the entire program, the cost is approximately \$1320. Housing on the seminary campus is based on availability. \$49 per night, single occupancy; \$32 per night, double occupancy. (Rates current 7/2009)

### *How do I register?*

Online: [www.ctsnet.edu](http://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](mailto:roperp@ctsnet.edu)

### *More information*

Neema Cyrus-Franklin: 404-898-0711, ext. 37  
[ncyrusfranklin@presbyteryofgreateratl.org](mailto:ncyrusfranklin@presbyteryofgreateratl.org)

Sarah Erickson: 404-687-4526

[ericksons@ctsnet.edu](mailto:ericksons@ctsnet.edu)



# Program

## Schedule 2009 – 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 and for housing.

- **By phone** 404-687-4587
- **Online** [www.ctsnet.edu](http://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*

- 1) **Know Where to Turn When the Youth Turn to You**  
August 21 –22, 2009
- 2) **Capstone Retreat and Presentation of Certificates**  
Sept. 10-11, 2009
- 3) **Opening Retreat:  
Discerning Your Call to Youth Ministry**  
October 9-11, 2009
- 4) **The Big Three:  
Worship, Mission, and Fellowship**  
December 4-5, 2009
- 5) **Programming with a Plan:  
Intentional Youth Ministry**  
March 5-6, 2010
- 6) **Soul Tending:  
Finding Spirituality in Your Ministry**  
April 30-May 1, 2010
- 7) **Because the Bible Tells Me So:  
Putting the Bible in Bible Study**  
Aug. 27-28, 2010
- 8) **How Presbyterians Talk About God: Theology and Polity**  
Dec. 3-4, 2010

### *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  
Fairmount Presbyterian, Cleveland Heights, OH

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 \$50 deposit (applied to your \$165 program fee) must accompany your registration form.**

**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](mailto:ncyrusfranklin@presbyteryofgreateratl.org) or Sarah Erickson, CTS Center for Lifelong Learning (404-687-4526) or [ericksons@ctsnet.edu](mailto: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