

Young people
need you.

you, we grew and became a sustainable non-profit. Over 10 years, our missional work at Ministry Leadership Initiative has impacted the lives of 4,150 young people in our local communities. You responded to their needs, every time.

Young people need you because they experienced higher rates of loneliness and mental health issues over the last three years than ever before. Youth and children’s ministry leaders were shown to be especially adept at meeting these needs, initially more than schools or other secular groups. Those whom we equip make a tremendous difference to the young people they serve. Your partnership makes this a reality.

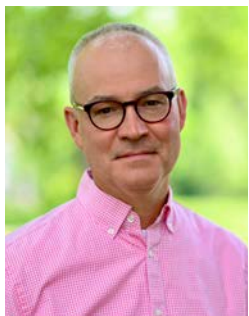
Young people need you because a recent university study found that youth involved in a local church feel a greater sense of purpose. Other studies showed that kids in a youth group did better in school, were less likely to engage in risky behavior, and grew to become happier adults. Our ministry partners provide mentoring, Christian nurture, safe spaces for fellowship, and leadership opportunities for these young people.

Young people need you. With your support, MLI has provided theological education and practical ministry training to 120 youth and children’s ministry leaders throughout the Midwest. Recent data indicate that most young people lack positive mentors. MLI helps foster these positive relationships, especially in rural and underserved communities.



Youth and children’s ministry leaders celebrate milestones with kids, from making a craft at summer VBS to making the varsity team in high school. They meet with families to help provide life-giving resources, from meals and basic needs to counseling connections and college recommendations. These are just some of the ways they provide leadership and faith formation to young people.

We understand this importance, which is why our board of directors is taking the initiative to grow. MLI is merging with The Center for Youth Ministry Training, enabling us to reach even more young people with extraordinary leadership.



You make an important difference in this mission, which is why we’re asking for your support in 2023 and in the years ahead. Would you consider sharing an end-of-year or monthly gift with MLI, and supporting our ministry within CYMT in the future? Your investment helps us develop highly proficient leadership for young people.

Thank you for supporting this work. Peace be with you!
– Matt Vaughan, MLI Executive Director



UNITING WITH CYMT IN ‘24

We are excited to join missions with the Center for Youth Ministry Training in 2024! This merger allows us to bring our MLI cohort program to the 15 states served by CYMT. The key objective is to expand the work we began 10 years ago. Our program will grow, and CYMT will provide key resources for a variety of Ministry Leadership Initiatives across the country. Learn more at cymt.org.

Our team at MLI is already benefiting from the resources shared by CYMT. I began work as a co-employee earlier this year. My leadership role is the same, here in Kansas City, serving under-resourced faith communities in the Midwest and beyond. We’ll utilize both CYMT and MLI brands, and most of my work will remain unchanged.

Your partnership is profoundly important as we care for young people in the most transformational phase of their lives. Please consider continuing your financial support, because all gifts designated for MLI will be used to accomplish our mission in the Midwest.



MLI BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Sara Aitken, Chris Andersen, Kris Kvam, Tony Liu, Jacob Martin, Thomas McIntyre, Matt Vaughan (director), Rick Walter, Mark Webb, Sally Wright.

“MLI develops authentic, intentional, and highly proficient leadership, sharing the love and grace of Jesus Christ with young people.”

LOOKING BACK IN TIME – MLI ANNUAL CLASS PHOTOS

MLI began operations in 2013, and we welcomed our first enrollment of certificate residents in Fall 2014. Since then, 58 youth and children’s ministry leaders enrolled. Left column: 2014–’18 certificate residents. Right column: 2019–’23 certificate residents. The MLI certificate program is two years; some residents are shown in multiple photos alongside other MLI faculty.



LOOKING FORWARD WITH CYMT

The Center for Youth Ministry Training and MLI offer complementary services in different areas of the country, which is why our upcoming merger is so beneficial for both organizations. MLI specializes in a two-year certificate program and leadership coaching; CYMT offers a three-year graduate program, curriculum, job placements, and a unique innovation lab program. As one organization, we’ll have the resources to support congregations of all sizes and needs, from volunteers to pastors.

MLI is transitioning operations to CYMT in 2024 while fully retaining our team, services, and client partners. We embrace our community of support and ask for your continued generosity as we end 2023 and look toward the future. Thank you! Scan this QR code or visit mligiving.org to learn more.



THANK YOU FROM THE VAUGHANS

Matt’s family appreciates your support and interest in this ministry and work: Jack, Sam, Amy, and Matt Vaughan.



CLIENT PARTNER APPRECIATION

Lutheran, Presbyterian, and United Methodist ministry partners in dozens of communities enrolled in MLI cohorts (multiples noted):

- | | |
|-------------------|----------------------------|
| Andover, KS (2) | Norfolk, NE |
| Archie, MO | Olathe, KS |
| Augusta, KS | Omaha, NE |
| Belleville, KS | Overland Park, KS (2) |
| Cameron, MO | Parkville, MO (10 interns) |
| Columbus, NE | Pittsburg, KS |
| Derby, KS | Prairie Village, KS (4) |
| Dodge City, KS | Pratt, KS |
| El Dorado, KS | Sioux Falls, SD |
| Fairway, KS | St. Louis, MO |
| Garden City, KS | Stilwell, KS |
| Hannibal, MO | Tonganoxie, KS |
| Hays, KS | Topeka, KS (2) |
| Junction City, KS | Valley Center, KS |
| Kearney, NE | Wamego, KS |
| Lawrence, KS (2) | Waverly, NE |
| Lincoln, NE | Wellington, KS |
| Manhattan, KS (3) | Wichita, KS (4) |
| Mexico, MO | |