

# Youth and Children's Ministry

## THE CYMT – MLI CERTIFICATION AND COHORT PROGRAM

You're new to ministry with young people, or you've decided to "dig in" and learn more. You look at conferences and other options. What's the most comprehensive? What will "stick" with you? What will really make a difference?

Consider the two-year youth and children's ministry MLI Certification from the Center for Youth Ministry Training and Ministry Leadership Initiative! The program includes 300 hours of theological education with practical ministry training and coaching.

### Cohort-Based Learning

Instruction includes unique classes curated specifically for youth and children's ministry, taught in a monthly retreat setting with a trusted cohort of peers in ministry. Biblical studies, counseling foundations, adolescent development, missions, spiritual disciplines, volunteer training, and more are taught by a field of experts.



"I know I needed this cohort. The education I received in theology, child psychology, curriculum assembly, time management, Scriptural studies, and a host of other topics has proven to be invaluable to me as a leader in family ministry. The program provided this education and fellowship when I needed it." – Ryan, class of '19

### Coaching Support

Enroll in MLI Certification and be matched with an experienced coach who will meet with you monthly to create programming, share encouragement, and help develop confidence to approach the challenges in your ministry role.

"The most impactful part was my coach. He encourages me, supports me, and helps me talk through the hard parts of ministry. He challenges me to see things from a different viewpoint." – Megan, class of '19

### Case Studies and Conferences

The program utilizes StrengthsFinder talent assessments to facilitate monthly case study conversations, helping develop personal growth. And, all participants travel to annual ministry conferences, which includes event registration, lodging, and meals, to learn from notable leaders and speakers.

### MLI Certification Leads to Success

Ministry leaders commissioned in the program have higher satisfaction in their jobs, so they stay longer. Ministry becomes more meaningful to young people and attendance often doubles. Succeed in your own cohort!



"I know that I would not be able to succeed in my role without the MLI program. I am more confident and energized about ministry to young people than I have ever been! The classes, coaching, and the relationships I've made through MLI have given me vision, confidence, and practical tools to be a more effective minister to our church's families." – Jake Wiese, class of '21



Learn more: [ministryleading.org/cohorts](http://ministryleading.org/cohorts) • [cymt.org](http://cymt.org)

Offered by the Center for Youth Ministry Training and Ministry Leadership Initiative  
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## 2023–24 MLI CERTIFICATION SCHEDULE WITH CYMT

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### All Youth and Children's Ministry Leaders are Welcome!

The Center for Youth Ministry Training (CYMT) and Ministry Leadership Initiative (MLI) are pleased to welcome those who serve in leadership for youth and children's ministry. Join us, and try out our MLI Certification program!

### September 15–16, 2023 in Fairway, KS (Grow & Gather at the Well: A Training Event in Kansas City)

This event is open to any volunteer or church staff – all denominations are welcome! Register at [mlievents.org](https://mlievents.org).

- **Try Out the Program:** The September two-day training event serves as a stand-alone training event and an optional gateway to our two-year youth and children's ministry certification program. This first retreat will be in Fairway (in the Kansas City area) beginning after lunch on Friday and ending on Saturday afternoon.
- **Convenient and Relevant:** Instructional sessions are offered on a variety of topics, including an expert-led forum about young people's mental health. Two meals are provided with registration. Lodging in Kansas City is provided for those who enroll in the two-year MLI program (contact us for more information).
- **Excellent Learning Tracks:** The event has a two-track format. The "Grow" track includes some of the fundamental practices of ministry. A second "Gather" track focuses on discipleship and depth. Those who enroll in the two-year certification program will build on these topics in additional learning opportunities.

### October 10–12, 2023 in Wichita, KS (A Conference Hosted by the Kansas Leadership Center)

"Your Leadership Edge," a KLC leadership conference. Registration, lodging in Wichita, and meals are provided.

### November 9–11, 2023 in Prairie Village, KS (Instructional Retreat in Kansas City)

Three-day Instructional Retreat in Prairie Village, KS; Starting with lunch on 12pm Thursday through Saturday afternoon. Two nights of lodging in Kansas City and meals are provided with MLI enrollment.

### December 2023 (Online Class)

Evening session offered online; topic and schedule announced in Fall 2023.

### January 18–20, 2024 in Nashville, TN (Reimagine Family Ministry Event with CYMT)

Three-day gathering with MLI cohort participants and CYMT residents; registration, lodging in Nashville, and on-site meals provided. Special travel accommodations provided for those farther than 350 miles from Nashville.

### February 2024 (Online Class)

Evening session offered online; topic and schedule announced in Fall 2023.

### February 22–24, 2024 in Prairie Village, KS (Instructional Retreat in Kansas City)

Three-day Instructional Retreat in Prairie Village, KS; 12pm Thursday through Saturday afternoon. Two nights of lodging in Kansas City and meals provided. A hybrid format, with an online option, may be available for this event.

### April 2024 (Online Class)

Evening session offered online; topic and schedule announced in Spring 2024.

### May 2–4, 2024 in Prairie Village, KS (Retreat for All & Commissioning for Second-Years)

Three-day Instructional Retreat in Prairie Village, KS; 12pm Thursday through Saturday afternoon. Commissioning event scheduled for second-year cohort participants on Friday, May 3 at 7:30 PM. Two nights of lodging in Kansas City and meals are provided with MLI enrollment.

