



# inspire

**Kirby St. John, District Youth Director**

1315 Portland Ave S  
Minneapolis, MN 55404  
P: (612) 332-2400  
E: [kstjohn@mnaog.org](mailto:kstjohn@mnaog.org)

Dear Lead Pastor,

I am writing to make you aware of a growth opportunity that has been uniquely designed for youth pastors. We understand that lead pastors invest significantly in their youth pastors, but often feel the constraints of time limitations as they fulfill their many duties as pastor to the congregation and staff.

Over the past few years Minnesota Student Ministries, in conjunction with the Center for Youth and Leadership at North Central University, has implemented a mentoring project called **Inspire**. This project matches a highly qualified facilitator with a cohort of four to six youth pastors from churches with similar demographics. Each cohort will meet 5-6 times from February-June to work through the following items:

- Skill Sharpening
- Personal, Spiritual, & Ministry Development
- Targeted training in Conflict Management, Integrating Ministry Philosophy Within the Whole Church Paradigm, and Personal & Ministry Budget Building

The support of the Lead Pastor is crucial to the success of Inspire. Though we will be responsible for executing the program and providing the training, your support would be needed in the following:

- Releasing your youth pastor to attend mandatory Inspire cohort meetings 5-6 times  
*-Meetings will be held in a centrally located site, especially accessible for the facilitator, with the location of Youth Pastors taken into consideration*
- Praying for growth in your Youth Pastor throughout the length of Inspire
- Providing financial support for the cost of Inspire from your church budget  
*\*\$199 Tuition – Includes books, limited meals, & leaders' expenses*

**Application and Tuition due:** January 15, 2018

**Launch Date:** January 26, 2018

We are also offering a **2nd Year Inspire Program** for youth pastors who benefitted from the first year and wish to continue growing with a cohort. As you know, the issues pastors encounter and the training we need changes as we get further down the road in ministry. The second year of Inspire is designed to meet these new challenges by providing deeper and more focused training in various areas: Building and mentoring a team, Reaching your city and your school, Discipling students, Leadership and programming shifts as the group grows/rebuilding after graduating a large class, Balancing family and ministry, etc. We will incorporate guest speakers and in-depth discussion to help bring leaders to the next level, while still encouraging the relational and networking aspects that make the first year of Inspire so impactful.

We believe that Inspire will greatly benefit your church, youth pastor, and students. Please prayerfully consider allowing your Youth Pastor to participate in the on-going training that it will provide. For more information, contact Marissa Thomas at [marissa@mnaog.org](mailto:marissa@mnaog.org) or by phone at (612) 332-2400.

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Minnesota Student Ministries