



Kirby St. John, District Youth Director

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Dear Youth Pastor,

I am writing in regard to a growth opportunity that has been uniquely designed for youth pastors. Over the past several years we have worked as a leadership team to cultivate an environment of growth that provides mentoring and leadership development for our youth pastors: Inspire is a large part of this culture of growth. We encourage all youth pastors to take part in this mentoring journey.

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

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.

Brenna Zeimet will serve as the Inspire coordinator, and cohort facilitators will include a skilled team of veteran youth pastors with multiple years of ministry experience. Participation will require consideration of the following:

- You will need to commit to attend mandatory Inspire cohort meetings 5-6 times from February to June as scheduled by each individual cohort. Groups will also complete group check-ins once a week that will require your participation.
- Your church will be asked to provide financial support from your church budget

*\$199 Tuition – *Includes books, limited meals, & leaders' expenses*

Applications/Tuition due: January 15, 2018

Launch Date: January 26, 2018

We believe that Inspire will greatly benefit you, your church, and your student ministry. Please prayerfully consider participating in the on-going training that it will provide. For more information, contact Marissa Thomas at marissa@mnaog.org or (612) 332-2400.

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Minnesota Student Ministries