

### Jonathan Lever Joins the Fetzer Institute as Chief Operating Officer and Executive Vice President



**Kalamazoo, Michigan, January 25, 2019**—Jonathan Lever has been appointed the Fetzer Institute’s first-ever chief operating officer and executive vice president. He will work closely with the Institute’s board and its president, Bob Boisture, to drive program strategy and expansion; lead management of the Institute; and represent the organization externally. Lever begins his work with the Institute on February 4.

Before joining Fetzer, Lever served as executive vice president of YMCA of the USA, where he oversaw national strategic planning and led a 100+ person team in scaling programs in the areas of healthy living, youth development, character development, and membership to thousands of communities with YMCAs. For more than a decade before that, he was the chief innovator and architect of the YMCA’s entry into chronic disease prevention programming and health care. Under Lever’s leadership, the YMCA pioneered the first-ever group-based diabetes-prevention program eligible for reimbursement from commercial health insurers, Medicare, and Medicaid. His work received an innovation award from the US Secretary of Health and Human Services and has been featured by the *The New York Times*, *The Wall Street Journal*, *Health Affairs*, *Politico*, *Stanford Social Innovation Review*, CNN and NPR.

“Jonathan’s passionate commitment to the work, his skill in building and leading collaborative teams, his intellectual capacity, and his human touch will be a great benefit to the Institute and its mission to help build the spiritual foundation for a loving world,” noted Bob Boisure, Fetzer Institute president and CEO. “Our values of love, trust, authenticity, and inclusion are Jonathan’s default. He is powerfully shaped by his family’s religious tradition and its commitment to *tikkun olam*—the Jewish teaching of improving or repairing the world—which has informed his career-long commitment to work for positive social change.”

Of his new assignment, Lever commented, “At a time in my life when our world feels increasingly polarized, fragile, and dark, I am drawn to an organization whose founder, John Fetzer, believed, ‘Love is the core energy that rules everything . . . love is the one ingredient that holds us all together.’”

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Before serving with YMCA of the USA, Lever was CEO of the Nonprofit Center of Northeast Florida; an attorney specializing in nonprofits and foundations; a research associate at Indiana University's Lilly Family School of Philanthropy and Harvard University's Hauser Center for Nonprofit Organizations; and a program associate at the Jessie Ball duPont Fund. Lever also served as a Jane Addams Fellow, under the late Robert L. Payton, at the Lilly Family School of Philanthropy.

Lever holds a juris doctor from the Northeastern University School of Law, a master's degree in education from the Harvard Graduate School of Education, and a bachelor's degree in religion from the College of William and Mary.

### **About the Fetzer Institute**

With a mission to help build the spiritual foundation for a loving world, the Fetzer Institute works to inspire and serve a global movement through partnerships that encourage personal spiritual exploration and new ways of knowing our sacred world. Our partnerships support work in a variety of disciplines and issue areas, such as the health of our democracy and the landscape of spirituality in daily life, as we work toward transformed communities and societies in which all people can flourish. The Institute believes we must go beyond political, social, and economic strategies to address the psychological and spiritual roots of the world's most critical issues. Find resources and learn about our work at [fetzer.org](https://fetzer.org).

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