

2023

# LEADERSHIP FOCUS

Program Overview  
Updated Fall 2023

**Vision:** Multiplying healthy, reproducing leaders for the Kingdom.

**Mission:** Partnering to develop healthy, growing missional leaders to expand the Kingdom of God in the present age.



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# Overview

Leadership Focus is the credentialing tool used within the Church of God Movement. It is a 6-course curriculum that supports the requirements outlined in the Credentials Manual of the Church of God, and is designed to prepare leaders for ordination. Candidates are assigned to a cluster group that they will journey with throughout a nearly 3-year process; each cluster is comprised of 3-6 individuals from a variety of locations across the country. An experienced coach is assigned to the cluster for each course. Over the course of the Leadership Focus journey, candidates will glean from the experience of 6 different coaches. Candidates will review and complete assignments, access resources, and track progress using Canvas, an online educational platform.

## Scope

Leadership Focus provides opportunities for credentialing candidates to:

- Explore and clarify their call to ministry
- Cultivate Biblically-based leadership skills
- Develop self-awareness and personal ethical guidelines
- Enrich knowledge and application of Church of God theology and practices
- Develop holistic commitment and accountability within community
- Identify and develop skills and tools for lifelong learning, resulting in effective missional ministry

## Fees

- Enrollment (application fee): \$25
- Course 1- Commencement: \$275
- Course 2- Character: \$150
- Course 3- Competencies: \$150
- Course 4- Confessions: \$150
- Course 5- Connectivity: \$150
- Course 6- Celebrations: \$150
- **TOTAL INVESTMENT: \$1,050 + books**

## Questions?

This is intended to be a general overview of the Leadership Focus program. If you would like more detailed information, contact the Leadership Focus Executive Director, Lori Fast ([lfast@chog.org](mailto:lfast@chog.org)).

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# Core Values

Leadership Focus exists to provide easy access to valuable missional resources, training, and coaching that will prepare and credential a new generation of bold, Christ-centered leaders through an emphasis on the following four core values:

## 1 Spiritual Formation

*Understanding the source of strength for ministry.*

A sacred environment that encourages each candidate to define their journey with God as a growing and vibrant relationship out of which ministry flows every day in every place you find yourself.

## 2 Competencies

*Honing the skills necessary to succeed.*

Understanding one's own leadership style; skillfully developing and leading teams; accurately identifying and diagnosing the health of a congregation or ministry.

## 3 Missional

*Outreach and commissioned leadership.*

The primary focus of all that we present in Leadership Focus is to clarify that our lives and ministries in Christ are only truly biblical and authentic when they are orchestrated in light of the Great Commission through sacrificial Great Commandment living.

## 4 Community

*Commitment to accountability, growth, and excellence.*

The coach and members of each cluster understand their community to be the present body of Christ where they have been placed by divine appointment for divine purposes.

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## Course 1: Commencement

Focus: ἐπίσταμαι - epistimai

*Knowing God's will for me (calling). LF is a pursuit of knowing in the fullest sense- using all of our senses.*

The Commencement course is essentially an orientation intended to (1) orient candidates to the LF program and help them get started on the right foot, (2) begin building community among cluster members, and (3) explore the call of God. In addition, most candidates will also meet with their assembly credentials committee after completing this first course.

### 3 Online Cluster Meetings:

1. Community- the heart of Leadership Focus
2. The Call to Ministry
3. The Importance of Theology

### 2 Online Webinars:

1. Assessments- how we use assessments in Leadership Focus and how to get the most out of them
2. BTA/Theology- discussion about the Bible and Theology Assessment (BTA) and how to write theological statements

### Primary Assignments in Course 1:

- Write Call to Ministry paper
- Write theological commitment #1 outline
- Bible and Theology Assessment
- DISC assessment
- Read *A Work of Heart* by Reggie McNeal

## Course 2: Character

Focus: ἔχω - yada

*Knowing the personal me and aligning with the Holy Spirit for missional purpose.*

The focus of the Character course is on internal values and desires that drive us in aligning with the Holy Spirit for missional purposes.

### 5 Online Cluster Meetings:

1. Spiritual formation as a habitual practice for a leader
2. Maintaining proper boundaries
3. Holiness and ethics and how they inform character formation
4. Biblical stewardship from a theological perspective
5. Applying and leading others in practical stewardship

### Primary Assignments in Course 2:

- Write personal code of ethics
- Observe a retreat of solitude
- Theological Commitments:
  - Trinitarian Theology
  - Sin & Salvation

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## Course 3: Competencies

Focus: γινώσκω - ginosko

*Knowing the public me and interacting with others to unlock their potential for missional Kingdom impact.*

The Competencies course assists candidates in understanding how external actions align with Godly missional actions for missional impact.

### 5 Online Cluster Meetings:

1. Biblical leadership perspectives that empower, equip, and release others
2. Biblical ministry through a better understanding of motivators, internal drives, and core values
3. Assessing and evaluating appropriate responses to the life cycles of a church
4. Identifying and implementing a Biblical team building process
5. Understanding the layers of conflict management and the leader's role

### Primary Assignments in Course 3:

- Theological Commitment: Holiness
- Complete a Team Building Workbook exercise
- Prepare a teaching lesson (for children or adults), sermon outline, or a devotional reading about how values influence our actions using a Biblical character
- Select and read one of the following books:
  - *Lead Like Jesus: Lessons from the Greatest Leadership Role Model of all Time* by Ken Blanchard & Phil Hodges
  - *Spiritual Leadership: Moving People on to God's Agenda* by Henry and Richard Blackaby
  - *Preparing for Change Reaction: How to Introduce Change in Your Church* by Bob Whitesel
  - *Tribal Leadership: Leveraging Natural Groups to Build a Thriving Organization* by Dave Logan, John King, Halee Fischer-Wright
  - *Developing the Leader Within You 2.0* by John Maxwell
  - *Next Steps in Ministry* by David Markel

## Course 4: Confessions

Focus: ἰδεῖν - eido

*Knowing the professional me and developing skills to communicate missional truths that transform lives.*

In Confessions, candidates focus on perceiving and discerning how aligning with the truths of God brings missional transformation.

### 5 Online Cluster Meetings:

1. The importance of theology and the importance of the pastor as key theologian
2. Understanding various theological perspectives
3. Church of God theological perspectives and roots
4. Missional theological perspectives- the invitation of a saving message
5. Excellence in modeling and communicating theological perspectives

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## Course 4: Confessions (continued)

### Primary Assignments in Course 4:

- Interview a ministry leader
- Write Theological Commitments: Authority of the Bible & Imago Dei
- Complete the workbook "Hymnody and Theology: Gleaning from our Songbook"
- Complete a practical application exercise to gain experience in modeling and communicating theological perspectives
- Watch and critique a video selected from a list of Church of God speakers
- Select and read one of the following books:
  - *I Will Build My Church* by John W.V. Smith
  - *Following our Lord: Understanding the Beliefs and Practices of the Church of God Movement* by Barry Callen
  - *Theology for Disciples* by Gil Stafford
  - *The Optimism of Grace* by Cliff Sanders
  - *A Closer Look at God's Church* by Mark Jackson
  - *I Saw the Church* by Merle Strege

## Course 5: Connectivity

Focus: נִכְרָךְ - nakar

*Knowing the partnering me and intentionally developing healthy Kingdom relationships that produce missional expansion.*

Structured around Acts 1:8, the Connectivity course is about understanding how the calling of an individual intertwines with the calling of others for Kingdom purposes.

### 5 Online Cluster Meetings:

1. Exploring the answer to "What is Biblical connectivity?"
2. Connecting with our roots: family, local congregation, and the Church of God
3. Our role in global connectivity (ends of the Earth)
4. Our role in state/national connectivity (Judea/Samaria)
5. Our role in local connectivity (Jerusalem)

### Primary Assignments in Course 5:

- Conduct 5 "connectivity conversations"
- Write Theological Commitment: Kingdom of God
- Watch a number of videos on Church of God heritage and convention speakers that demonstrate varying aspects of connectivity.
- Experience practical connectivity by performing 8 hours of service in their community
- Complete the Clifton Strengths Finder assessment and debrief to prepare for Course 6
- Select and read one of the following books:
  - *Views from the Mountain* by James Earl Massey
  - *Tortured for Christ* by Richard Wurmbrand
  - *Ministry at the Margins: The Prophetic Mission of Women, Youth, and the Poor* by Cheryl Sanders
  - *Coming Together in the 21st Century* by Curtiss Paul DeYoung
  - *Invitation to Cross-Cultural Theology* by William A. Dryness
  - *Coming Together in Christ* by Barry Callen and James North
  - *Walk with the People: Latino Ministry in the U.S.* by Juan Martinez

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## Course 6: Celebrations

Focus: γνωρίζω - gnorizo

Knowing the integrated me and articulating God's will (calling) for me in a missional focused LAMP (Life And Ministry Plan).

The final course, Celebrations, is the capstone of the Leadership Focus process. All developmental objectives completed thus far are now funneled into an integrated Life and Ministry Plan (LAMP). Each candidate will articulate living out their missional role for the next 1-3 years in their LAMP.

### 5 Online Cluster Meetings:

1. Celebrating the LF journey and its impact on a candidate's life and calling
2. Celebrating the integrated life and understanding how the four core values of LF are significant to ministry
3. Celebrating and setting milestones and understanding the four arenas of life
4. Celebrating and challenging each other on milestones: candidates will critique, challenge, and celebrate each other's LAMP
5. Celebrating commencements: final draft of LAMP is presented to cluster

### Primary Assignments in Course 6:

- Write Theological Commitment: Unity
- Observe a retreat of solitude
- Read the book *Never Go Back: 10 Things You Will Never Do Again* by Dr. Henry Cloud
- Writing 4 S.M.A.R.T. goals (public, personal, professional, and partnering)
- Writing a Life and Ministry Plan (LAMP)

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## Books Utilized in Leadership Focus

- *A Work of Heart* by Reggie McNeal
- *Lead Like Jesus: Lessons from the Greatest Leadership Role Model of all Time* by Ken Blanchard & Phil Hodges
- *Spiritual Leadership: Moving People on to God's Agenda* by Henry and Richard Blackaby
- *Preparing for Change Reaction: How to Introduce Change in Your Church* by Bob Whitesel
- *Tribal Leadership: Leveraging Natural Groups to Build a Thriving Organization* by Dave Logan, John King, Halee Fischer-Wright
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