

LEADERSHIP FOCUS

Program Overview
2026

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.



Overview

Leadership Focus is the credentialing tool used within the Church of God Movement. It is a six-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 placed in an online cluster of 4–6 peers journeying together over nearly three years.
- Each course is facilitated by a different experienced coach, giving candidates the benefit of six coaching perspectives over the program.
- Candidates complete assignments, readings, and theological commitment papers in Canvas, our online educational platform.
- A Leadership Focus Journey Notebook (LFJN) is required, serving as both a record of assignments and a personal reflection tool that culminates in the final Life and Ministry Plan.

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

Time Commitment

During each course session, candidates can expect to spend 3–4 hours weekly on assignments, reading, and engaging in online discussions, alongside participation in cluster meetings and webinars.

Fees

English Track

Course 1: \$500

Courses 2-6: \$375/course

Spanish Track

Course 1: \$250

Courses 2-6: \$187/course

Advanced Track

\$600 total

(2 invoices of \$300 each)

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).

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

Growing deeper in Christ.

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

Sharpening leadership skills.

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

3 Missional

Serving God's Kingdom.

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

Journeying together.

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.

Course 1: Commencement

Focus: EXPLORING

Exploring the call to ministry.

Orientation to Leadership Focus, building community, and exploring the call of God on one's life.

- 4 online cluster meetings + 1 live webinar
- Daily Bible reading and reflections
- Introduction to the Bible & Theology Assessment (BTA)
- Call to Ministry paper, draft of Theological Commitment on Sin & Salvation
- Begin Leadership Focus Journey Notebook

Course 2: Character

Focus: FORMING

Forming holiness for faithful leadership.

Exploring internal values, emotional intelligence, holiness, and boundaries.

- 5 cluster meetings
- Personal Code of Ethics and Retreat of Solitude
- Theological Commitments: Sin & Salvation and Holiness
- Assignments on stewardship, ethics, and spiritual formation

Course 3: Competencies

Focus: DEVELOPING

Developing skills for missional impact.

Understanding outward leadership expression and team dynamics.

- 5 cluster meetings
- Theological Commitment: Trinity
- DiSC and conflict management assessments
- Exercises in church lifecycles, team building, and leadership practices
- Reading from a curated leadership book list

Course 4: Confessions

Focus: PROCLAIMING

Proclaiming truth with theological clarity.

Developing skills to articulate and model theology for transformation.

- 5 cluster meetings
- Theological Commitments: Authority of the Bible and Imago Dei
- Imago Dei paper includes Church of God distinctives on Women in Ministry and Gender & Sexual Identity
- Assignments on hymnody, theology interviews, and contextual theology
- Reading from curated theology book list

Course 5: Connectivity

Focus: BUILDING

Building Kingdom connections for mission.

Exploring biblical, congregational, and global connectivity for missional expansion.

- 5 cluster meetings
- Service Project in the candidate's community
- Theological Commitment: Kingdom of God with distinctives on Amillennialism and Gifts of the Spirit
- CliftonStrengths assessment and debrief
- Reading from curated list (Church of God heritage, eschatology, Kingdom studies, global ministry)

Course 6: Celebrations

Focus: INTEGRATING

Integrating faith, life, and mission.

Final integration of the LF journey into a holistic Life and Ministry Plan (LAMP).

- 5 cluster meetings
- Theological Commitment: Unity
- Final Life and Ministry Plan (LAMP) with S.M.A.R.T. goals across four arenas of life
- Retreat of Solitude and CliftonStrengths reflection
- Book: Never Go Back by Dr. Henry Cloud

A Transformative Journey

Taken together, the six courses of Leadership Focus form a comprehensive journey that unfolds over three years. This process is not a quick or easy path; it requires prayerful commitment, consistent time each week, and the willingness to engage deeply with God, your cluster community, and the material presented.

Expect to be stretched in your faith, challenged in your habits, and refined in your character as you learn to discern God's voice and live out your calling. The weekly rhythm of assignments, readings, discussions, and cluster meetings will demand focus and perseverance, but the investment is well worth it.

Those who give themselves fully to this process emerge with a clearer sense of identity and calling, greater confidence in Scripture and theology, and a stronger ability to lead others missionally and relationally. Leadership Focus is designed not simply to prepare you for ordination, but to shape you for a lifetime of faithful ministry.

