



offers you an opportunity to participate in



Practical Church Leadership

GRADUATE CERTIFICATE PROGRAM 2024-25

The Challenge Pastors Face Today

The responsibilities and roles of pastors today are far broader and more complex than they were only a generation ago. In addition to preaching and discipleship, pastors are often asked to lead resource development, personnel management, strategic planning, church communications and other administrative responsibilities.

The Answer

The Practical Church Leadership Program is designed to equip pastors to meet the demand of these expanding administrative expectations.

Program Objectives

- Increase the pastor's capacity and confidence to be an effective church leader and administrator.
- Develop and improve the pastor's and/or the ministry leader's skill in financial stewardship, human resource management, governance, communications, project management and strategic leadership.
- Provide immediate and impactful benefit to local churches through the application of practical course content.

- Create and foster an effective community of practice that advances church leadership through peer networking, applied learning and coaching connections.

The Program offers

- **Flexibility**
The one-year program is comprised of online courses, individualized coaching and three two-day, face-to-face meetings, all of which are sensitive to the traditional church calendar and allow time for pastors to meet responsibilities at church and in class.
- **Personal Coaching**
Participants are guided by a trained and qualified coach who is matched with them for the duration of the program, supporting them in the execution of applied projects.
- **Value**
Applied Projects are selected by the pastor, related to course content, and provide direct and demonstrable benefits to the churches they serve while improving personal, administrative and leadership skills.



JOIN THE
LOUISIANA, MISSOURI AND OKLAHOMA
COHORT FOR THIS PROGRAM
SPONSORED BY THE UNITED METHODIST FOUNDATIONS

Time Commitment

- Participants can expect to average 4-6 hours a week in reading, writing and coursework.
- Pastors will take advantage of time in between classes and during breaks to work on their Applied Projects and presentations.
- Coaching meetings occur every other week and average 45 minutes per session.

Scholarship Application Process

There is **limited space** in the July 2024 Cohort. Applications for the United Methodist Foundation of Louisiana scholarship opportunity should complete the [online application](#) by June 1, 2024. Questions may be directed to Britney Winn Lee, (britneywl@umf.org).



Members of the 2023-24 Louisiana cohort pose for a quick photo at a Louisiana-hosted gathering with Foundation President Chris Spencer (far left).

Responsibilities and Requirements

- Serve currently as a Pastor or an Associate Pastor.
- Complete Dakota Wesleyan University admission application by June 28, 2024. Transcripts will be required. [Visit the website.](#)
- Attend three (3) face-to-face gatherings, in July 2024, January 2025 and July 2025.
- Complete all online courses within the specified time frame.
- Complete applied projects.
- Participate in coaching sessions at mutually agreed-upon times.

Most coursework is online, but participants must travel to the face-to-face meetings, locations to be determined.

The Foundation's financial commitment to each selected clergy is estimated at \$10,000. This includes full tuition and approved travel expenses, such as transportation, hotel and meals for the three gatherings.

Program Details

The Dakota Wesleyan University curriculum offers 21 graduate credits designed to strengthen pastors' knowledge and abilities in the areas of **finance, personnel management and stewardship.**

Courses

This program includes 21 graduate credits. All courses are offered online except for the Gatherings.

[Click here for course descriptions.](#)

NPA600: The Path of Stewardship 1

NPA610: Financial Resource Management

NPA615: Financial Resource Management

NPA620: Governance, Personnel & Volunteer Mgmt.

NPA630: Applied Project

NPA640: The Path of Stewardship 2

NPA650: Vision, Strategy and Evaluation

NPA661: Communications and Community Outreach

NPA680: The Path of Stewardship 3

Eighteen of the 21 credits earned can be applied toward DWU's MBA for church leaders who wish to continue post-certificate.



"The Practical Church Leadership program came at just the right time in my ministry. This was an incredible journey into learning more about the business aspects and administrative roles that we have as pastors while also helping the church develop a strategic plan and vision for the future. As a bonus, it led me to earning my MBA!"

*Rev. Lane Cotton Winn
St. John's United Methodist Church
Baton Rouge*