

## **What is the Missional Leadership Cohort (MLC)?**

The MLC is an educational and practical development experience designed to introduce members of Pillar Church to the key ideas needed for providing organizational leadership in our mission together. It is a community-based discovery and development process that we believe can fuel growth in the lives of participants who show aspiration and potential for a deeper future ministry regardless of their vocation.

During the cohort participants will study content related to the mission of the church, leadership in the church, personal spiritual development, and Biblical theology. During our cohort meetings participants will lead guided discussions on the content while being assisted by current leaders. In addition to the learning and discussion, each participant will receive coaching around a current practical leadership effort they are engaged in at Pillar.

## **Why participate in the MLC?**

First and foremost we want you to consider participating in the MLC out of a desire to glorify God by stewarding the gifts he has given you to serve others. We also want to create a strong learning community for leaders that can extend well beyond our time together. For many of you, the next step in your spiritual growth is assuming increased leadership in the mission and we do not want you to have to take that journey alone. Leadership can be lonely and it is often difficult to see the way forward at critical moments in our lives without some other people joining the conversation. The MLC is our effort at providing this sort of environment for growing leaders at Pillar.

## **What is Pillar's goal for the MLC?**

Our goal is to develop as many godly leaders who are equipped for spiritual leadership that we can. In the future, we imagine that our Church Planting Teams, Deacon team, Elder Team, Overseas teams, and staff would be populated with leaders who took steps toward growth by participating in the MLC. It is a way of unifying the leaders that move the mission forward around common ideas, language, and experience.

## **What is the content that we will work through?**

**Pathway Church Planting Course.** The pathway church planting course focuses on the core mission of the local church and how it can be developed and worked out effectively. It is less about the nuts and bolts of church planting and more about what a church is, how the ministry should be developed, and the sort of Biblical core values needed for church health.

**Gospel Eldership, Robert Thune.** The book is both an instructive and interactive guide to the work of serving as an Elder in a local church. The strength of the book is that it does

not just focus on the functions of the role or the theological explanation of the role. It has a unique focus on helping develop the heart and character necessary to sustain spiritual leadership.

***Grasping God's Word***, Duvall and Hays. The book is an invaluable resource for learning Biblical interpretation. It will be used as a part of our Preaching Lab portion of the Cohort.

***Tim Keller Preaching Lectures***. The 4 part series of lectures focuses on the effective principles necessary for proclaiming God's Word in a way that connects with your context and points effectively to the work of Christ as the power of preaching and teaching.

***When Sinners Say I Do*** video series. Dave Harvey presents the major concepts from his book of the same title in a four part video series that will help you strengthen your own marriage and coach others as well.

***Brothers, We Are Not Professionals***, John Piper. The book is a compilation of 31 reflections from John Piper on the nature of true ministry in an age of over-professionalization. The chapters are memorable and will give powerful guidance to for anyone who desires to be used by God to lead the mission of the church.

***Gospel Basics***, Jeff Vanderstelt/Saturate video series. Much more than a basic introduction to the gospel. Gospel Basics is designed to help you really understand what it means to live a gospel-centered life and lead others to do so as well.

***Biblical Preaching***, Haddon Robinson. There are few books that will help you think through the practical nature of teaching and preaching like this classic. Haddon Robinson provides a great guide for beginners and experienced preachers.

### **How often will we meet?**

The MLC will meet on a monthly basis from November-May. A schedule will be provided at the introductory info session. There will be opportunities to join via Zoom Call when work or travel necessitates it.

### **What is the Practical Ministry Leadership Project?**

The practical leadership project will help you develop in one of our four ministry competency areas. Many of you are engaged in some aspect of ministry that our time together will have immediate application toward. In order to get the most out of our experience it is important that you putting into practice the things that you are learning. You will identify one of the

ministry competency areas to focus on and receive coaching each month to accomplish a specific set of goals.

**Multiply a Life Group.** In the group that you are currently leading or participating in, help grow the group to a point where it needs to multiply. Develop a plan for preparing the new leaders and start an additional group.

**Build a Ministry Team.** Work with an MLC coach to develop or lead a team in a ministry area of need in the church. Develop and plan to make that area thrive. Recruit volunteers and train a leader who can take over the ministry.

**Lead Someone to Christ.** Make and execute a plan to connect more regularly and deeply with unbelieving neighbors, co-workers, and friends. Share the gospel consistently until you have had the opportunity to see someone come to faith in Christ.

**Disciple Two New Believers.** Identify two believers who are in need of deep investment for discipleship. Meet with them and help them experience significant growth over the next year.

**What are the expectations for participating in the Missional Leadership Cohort?** The MLC requires a level of commitment that other environments in the life of the church do not. You may discover by the end of this evening that you are unable to fulfill the requirements. If you commit to participating here is what it means for us as a Cohort.

**We are committing to prioritize and plan for attendance.** There are a limited number of opportunities for us to get together and process the material we are going through. The group times are critical to really benefitting from the content. The baseline assumption is that you will be present and participating. If there is some reason you are unable to be present communicate in a timely manner (a week ahead).

**We are committing to prepare for optimal engagement.** The work in between each cohort meeting will take about 2 hours per week. In order to participate you will have to have processed the information and not just skim it. Whether you are reading or listening to the videos it is important to remember we are going for a high level of processing not just a low bar of completion. If you are assigned to lead the discussion of a certain topic prepare to do so with excellence.

**We are committing to engage proactively in a ministry project.** The practical ministry leadership project that you choose is not an optional add on. It is the hands on experience of everything we are talking about.

**We are committing to an environment of genuine discussion.** Genuine discussion means you are open and coachable. It also means you humbly offer disagreement when

it is necessary. The cohort will be bland if you do not challenge one another. It will be worse if you do not outdo one another in showing honor. If you are generally sensitive about being challenged, it is important that you prepare to receive input with humility.

**How do I lead a cohort discussion?** Each time we meet there will be four content discussions that last 30 minutes each. When it is your turn to lead the discussion here is what you need to do. Communicate and emphasize 1-2 central and key concepts from the content that you believe are needed to shape how we think about ministry. You will talk through and deepen the ideas in 10 minutes. Then you will open up the discussion for 10 minutes to the others in the group to interact with what they heard. You should provide one to two questions for them to interact with that pushes us to personalize the content discussion. The final ten minutes will be for the MLC coach to highlight important lessons and insights from their perspective.

**What is the schedule for the content discussions and assignments?**

- November 20
  - Pathway: Vision // WSSID 1 // Piper 1-9 // GE 1-2
- December 18
  - Pathway: Calling // Piper 10-18 // Gospel Basics 1-6 // GE 3-4
- January 15
  - Preaching Lab 1 // Grasping God's Word Part 1-2 // Keller 1-2 // Robinson 1-5
- February 12
  - Preaching Lab 2 // Grasping God's Word Part 3-4 // Keller 3-4 // Robinson 6-10
- March 11
  - Pathway: Community // WSSID 2 // Piper 19-27 // GE 5-6
- April 15
  - Pathway: Philosophy // WSSID 3-4 // Piper 28-36 // GE 7-8
- May 12
  - Pathway: Purpose/Values // Gospel Basics 7-10 // GE 9-10