



Flourish Courses Developed by Gordon-Conwell.

## CL/MC707 Leadership in the Local Church

Course Developer and Instructor: Dr. James Singleton

Summer 2021 (May 25<sup>th</sup> – August 30<sup>th</sup>)

### Required Web Meetings:

Tuesday, June 11<sup>st</sup> (8-9 PM ET/6-7 PM CT/5-6 PM PT)

Tuesday, June 29<sup>th</sup> (8-9 PM ET/6-7 PM CT/5-6 PM PT)

Tuesday, July 20<sup>th</sup> (8-9 PM ET/6-7 PM CT/5-6 PM PT)

Tuesday, August 17<sup>th</sup> (8-9 PM ET/6-7 PM CT/5-6 PM PT)

*Leadership is energizing a community of people toward their own transformation in order to accomplish a shared mission in the face of a changing world. ~ Tod Bolsinger*

## Contacts

Course Instructor: Dr. James Singleton at [jsingleton@gordonconwell.edu](mailto:jsingleton@gordonconwell.edu)

ECO Flourish: [registrar@flourishmovement.org](mailto:registrar@flourishmovement.org)

## Course Description

There are many roles that ministers play – teacher, preacher, equipper, pastor, shepherd, etc. Today a congregation yearns for the role of skilled servant leader in a congregational context. As the North American church leaves the context of Christendom behind and heads into a more missionary encounter with the culture, ministers need to gain experience in leading change. Making changes in congregations is a very complicated venture, requiring many different facets of leadership. In this course, we will examine the elements of leadership in a Christian context from a biblical and historical basis. Particular focus will be upon self-understanding, and what parts of leadership will be natural and which ones will need to be acquired.

## Course Objectives

Upon successful completion of this course, students will be able to:

- Grow in self-awareness and social awareness

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- Grasp the Christian character and values needed for effective leadership
- Begin to reflect on personal leadership styles and strengths
- Examine biblical and historical examples of leadership
- Grow in understanding the leadership needs of a church and/or a Christian ministry
- Begin to learn how to practice leadership and visioning in the context of a congregation
- Understand the difference in tactical and adaptive change and identify where to use each

## Course Modality

This course is offered online at [flourishmovement.org](http://flourishmovement.org). This online course has a fixed start and end date with scheduled weekly Lessons and associated Assignments and Activities. Although this course is primarily asynchronous (meaning that students usually do not have to be online at certain times to complete course requirements), students will need to adhere to weekly due dates. In addition, students will have to be present for four (4) web meetings scheduled by the Instructor. Finally, students will be placed in small groups of 4-5 that will have several web meetings. More information will be available in the course site.

Those taking the course for personal enrichment are strongly encouraged to stay on track with the schedule for credit-seeking students. Access to course content is not guaranteed after the course end date.

## Course Schedule

The course is organized into fourteen weeks: eleven weeks of content (lessons), a holiday week mid-way, and two weeks at the end for study and final assignments. Course-weeks begin on a Tuesday and end on a Monday.

Week(s)	Dates	Lesson Title
Week 1	May 25-31	Lesson 1, Introduction to the Course/Leadership Definitions
Week 2	June 1-7	Lesson 2, The Spiritual Life of the Leader
Week 3	June 8-14	Lesson 3, The Shaping of a Leader's Character
Week 4	June 15-21	Lesson 4, Emotional Intelligence and Leadership
Week 5	June 22-28	Lesson 5, What are We Leading? Church Government
Week 6	June 29-July 5	<b>Week of July 4 – Break; No Coursework Due</b>
Week 7	July 6-12	Lesson 6, Family Systems in the Church
Week 8	July 13-19	Lesson 7, Church Life Cycles and Health

Week 9	July 20-26	Lesson 8, How Do We Lead? Mission and Vision
Week 10	July 27-Aug. 2	Lesson 9, Team-Based Ministry
Week 11	Aug. 3-9	Lesson 10, Leading Through Conflict
Week 12	Aug. 10-16	Lesson 11, Models for Leading
Week 13 Week 14	Aug 17-23 Aug 24-30	Final Course Assignments Completion Period

## Course Requirements

### I. Readings

Students are required to obtain and read several books for this course. Books can be obtained through any online retailer. Weekly reading assignments are posted in the course site.

Students are required to complete the readings to pass the course and will submit a course report at the end of the course attesting that they have completed this requirement (and others).

#### Required Books

Students should purchase the following books:

- Barton, Ruth Haley. *Strengthening the Soul of Your Leadership: Seeking God in the Crucible of Ministry*. (Downers Grove, Ill: IVP, 2008) (ISBN-13: 978-0-8308-3513-3) (228 pages)
- Bolsinger, Tod. *Canoeing the Mountains: Christian Leadership in Uncharted Territory*. (Downers Grove, Ill: IVP, 2015) (ISBN-13: 978-0-8308-4126-4) (247 pages)
- Creech, R. Robert. *Family Systems and Congregational Life: A Map for Ministry*. (Grand Rapids, MI: Baker, 2019) (ISBN-13: 978-1-5409-6157-0) (226 pages)
- Hartwig, Ryan T. and Warren Bird. *Teams That Thrive: Five Disciplines of Collaborative Church Leadership*. (Downers Grove, Ill: IVP, 2015) (ISBN-13: 97800-8308-4119-6) (268 pages)
- Mancini, Will and Warren Bird. *God Dreams: 12 Vision Templates for Finding and Focusing Your Church's Future* (Nashville, TN: B&H, 2016) (ISBN-13: 978-1-4336-8845-4) (261 pages)

- Osterhaus, James, Joseph M. Jurkowski, and Todd A Hahn. *Thriving Through Ministry Conflict*. (Grand Rapids, MI.: Zondervan, 2005) (ISBN-13: 13:978-0-310-86438-7) (155 pages)
- Overstreet, Jane. *Unleader: The Surprising Qualities of a Valuable Leader* (Colorado Springs: Biblica, 2011) (ISBN-13: 978-1-60657-039-5) (112 pages)
- Robinson, Bill. *Incarnate Leadership: 5 Leadership Lessons from the Life of Jesus*. (Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 2009 (ISBN-13: 978-0-310-29113-8) (122 pages)
- West, John Lee, Roy M. Oswald, and Nadyne Guzman. *Emotional Intelligence for Religious Leaders*. (Lanham, MD: Rowman & Littlefield, 2018) (ISBN-13: 978-1538-0914-4) (115 pages)

### Recommended Books

These books are recommended by the Course Developer, but are not required for purchase:

- Bradberry, Travis and Jean Greaves. *Emotional Intelligence 2.0* (San Diego, CA: TalentSmart, 2009) (ISBN-13: 978-0-9743206-2-5) (255 pages) **(EI Test Included)**
- Winseman, Albert L, Donald O. Clifton, and Curt Liesveld, *Living Your Strengths: Discover Your God-Given Talents and Inspire Your Community*. (New York: Gallup Press, 2003) (ISBN-13: 1-59562-002-8) (230 pages) **(Free Strengths Finder test with the book)**
- Zissner, William, *On Writing Well: The Classic Guide to Writing Non-Fiction*. ISBN-13: 978-0060891541

## II. [Lectures](#)

Students are required to watch weekly lecture videos. These videos are posted in the course site. Students are required to watch all of the lecture videos to pass the course and will submit a course report at the end of the course attesting that they have completed this requirement (and others).

## III. [Web-Meetings with Course Instructor](#)

Students will meet four times with the Course Instructor as a class to discuss course content and student insights. Dates and times are specified at the top of this syllabus. Information on how to connect will be available in the course site.

#### IV. [Activities and Assignments](#)

Students will complete various activities and assignments associated with the content of the Lessons. Instructions and due dates for all the activities and assignments are in the course site.

#### V. [Small Groups](#)

Students taking the course for credit (whether taking for CLP credit alone or those taking it for both CLP and Gordon-Conwell credit) will be placed in groups of 4-6 students. In this course, groups will be required to find a mutually agreeable time to meet in select lessons (four times) via Zoom to discuss course content. Each student will submit a summary of each group session. Instructions and discussion prompts are in the course site.

#### VI. [Discussion Forums](#)

Students will engage in written discussion forums in select lessons (three times). Full descriptions of the discussion forums are in the course site.

#### VII. [Papers](#)

Students will prepare 1 large paper and 4 small papers:

- Leadership Reflection
- Congregational Analysis – Family Systems
- Congregational Analysis – Life Cycle
- ProScan Reflection
- Leadership Experience (Best and Worst)

Full descriptions of these papers are in the course site.

#### VIII. [Course Reports](#)

At the end of the course, students will complete a Course Report verifying completion of all non-graded activities including reading, lecture viewing, small group attendance, and class video session attendance.

## [Assignment Formatting and Submission](#)

Writing assignments should be submitted as either a Microsoft Word document or PDF file in the course site (email submissions are not accepted).

All assignment file names should follow this convention:

FirstinitialLastname\_AssignmentName\_MMDDYY

example: JSmith\_ResearchPaper\_123119

All written assignments should be double-spaced with one-inch margins and a 12-point standard font and **should follow the most recent edition of Turabian (Chicago Style for Students and Researchers) for paper formatting and citations.**

## Course Grading

All course grading will be completed by the Course Instructor. **All assignments and activities must be completed to pass the course.**

### Assignments and Weighting

Assignment	Weighting
Final Leadership Reflection	40%
2-Congregational Analysis (Family System/Life Cycle)	20%
2-Personal Reflections (Best/Worst and Proscan Reflection)	10%
Small Groups	5%
Discussion Forums	5%
8-Reading Reports	20%
Course Report (pass/fail) includes:	
Lecture Viewing	
Class Web Sessions	
<b>Total</b>	<b>100%</b>

### Grading Scale

A	93-100%	B+	87-89%	C+	77-79%	D+	67-69%		
		B	83-86%	C	73-76%	D	63-66%	F	Below 60
A-	90-92%	B-	80-82%	C-	70-72%	D-	60-62%		

## Academic Standards

All submitted materials should be of graduate level academic quality and edited to reflect the student's best effort. Students should ensure that their submitted work is free from spelling, grammatical, and formatting errors. Students who are not confident that their writing meets graduate level standards or who are looking to improve their writing abilities are encouraged to enroll in one or both of the following courses through Gordon-Conwell Theological Seminary:

- CT490 – Writing Skills Workshop. CT490 is a one-credit-hour online refresher course that introduces seminary students to essential grammar and composition skills necessary for pursuit of graduate-level writing.
- CT500 – Introduction to Theological Research and Writing. CT500 introduces students to graduate-level research and writing skills with specific attention to academic writing, theological research, integrating sources, understanding and avoiding plagiarism, and the proper citation of sources following the Turabian style manual.

To enroll in one of these courses, please contact [charlotteadmissions@gordonconwell.edu](mailto:charlotteadmissions@gordonconwell.edu).

Cheating and plagiarism are considered serious breaches of personal and academic integrity. Cheating involves, but is not necessarily limited to, the use of unauthorized sources of information during an examination or the submission of the same (or substantially same) work for credit in two or more courses without the knowledge and consent of the instructors. Plagiarism involves the use of another person's distinctive ideas or words, whether published or unpublished, and representing them as one's own instead of giving proper credit to the source. Plagiarism can also involve over-dependence on other source material for the scope and substance of one's writing. Such breaches in academic standards often result in a failing grade as well as other corrective measures.

## Accommodations, Dropping the Course, and Extensions

If you are a student in need of accommodation due to disability, please contact [registrar@flourishmovement.org](mailto:registrar@flourishmovement.org) for guidelines and next steps. It is the responsibility of the student to notify the Instructor of the documented accommodations at the beginning of the semester.

If you would like to drop the course, you are able to do so. The deadlines and amount you will be refunded or asked to pay depends on the type of student you are.

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If you are a CLP2 student, you have until the start of the 7<sup>th</sup> week to drop the course for no additional charge. If you drop after the start of the 7<sup>th</sup> week, you will be asked to pay a \$150 drop fee. For the spring semester, the date to drop by, with no extra fee, would be July 13<sup>th</sup>.

If you are a Flourish or CLP1 student, the deadlines and refund percentages are below:

- June 4<sup>th</sup> – Last day to drop Spring course(s) for 100% refund
- June 18<sup>th</sup> – Last day to drop Spring course(s) for 80% refund
- July 2<sup>nd</sup> – Last day to drop Spring course(s) for 50% refund
- August 20<sup>th</sup> – Last day to drop Spring course(s) with no refund

*Once August 20<sup>th</sup> passes, and you have not completed the coursework, you will be asked to take an “incomplete” for the course.*

When you request to drop a class, you will be asked to fill out a form for our records with the name of the course, the reason you are dropping the course, and confirmation that you have paid the additional fee (if applicable) and notified your professor.

Arrangements for submission of late work at a date on or before the end date for the semester are made between the student and Instructor. However, course work to be submitted after the publicized end date for the semester or term must be approved by Taylor Woods. ***An Extension Petition must be submitted to [registrar@flourishmovement.org](mailto:registrar@flourishmovement.org) no later than the Friday before the last day of the course.*** Extensions are only available for those with exigent and unforeseen circumstances and are generally not granted for work, ministry, or educational overload. There will be a fee for extensions of \$40 that will need to be paid when the student submits their Extension Petition. To request an Extension Petition, please email Taylor Woods at [registrar@flourishmovement.org](mailto:registrar@flourishmovement.org) with the name of the course and the deadline you and your instructor agreed upon.