

Ministry Leadership Certificate

...a training partnership of Next Gen Churches
and Western Seminary



Program Syllabus

2016 - 2017



From Western Seminary

For the church, there are few responsibilities more important than the development and nurturing of its leaders. The health of our congregations, and the propagation of the gospel of Christ depend on godly leaders who are committed to and competent for the care of the saints.



Unfortunately, the path to ministry leadership often takes unexpected twists and turns. The challenges of life in this new millennium are making it increasingly difficult - if not impossible - for many individuals to access the focused leadership training that seminaries and Bible colleges have long provided.

Western Seminary is pleased to partner with Next Generation Churches in the task of equipping men and women, regardless of prior academic accomplishment, to serve our Lord more effectively in ministry and in their personal walk with Christ. The Ministry Leadership Certificate reflects the seminary's continuing commitment to bringing soundly biblical, gospel-centered ministry training and resources to the global church community.

We trust you will enjoy your leadership studies and that you will be enriched in your service to Christ as a minister of His glorious Gospel.

Randal Roberts

Randal Roberts
President, Western Seminary

From Next Gen Churches

We are living in a period of time where it seems that change is affecting every area of our lives at an increasing rate. Our world is not the same as it was 10 years ago—even 5 years ago. These changes have also affected the way we do ministry.



Next Generation Churches is an association of churches in Northern California and Nevada, who have banded together to empower churches and their leaders to discover and achieve their God-given mission.

This mission has led us to partner with Western Seminary, who along with us, realizes that that not everyone who serves in ministry has the opportunity to go to a Bible college or seminary to prepare. While these traditional systems are very valid and important—they aren't a possibility for everyone.

In our changing world, we need to adjust our strategies, while maintaining our Lord's mission—making sure our moorings are fixed in the Scriptures. This partnership is an opportunity to come alongside of our ministry leaders who haven't had the opportunity of formal training, but still need foundational skills that will help them in navigating in today's changing ministry environments. We are excited to be able to bring this leadership tool to you!

David Whitaker

David Whitaker
Executive Director, Next Generation Churches



Dear Partners for the Gospel,

While traveling around the state meeting with pastors, I hear the same stories: of businessmen and women leaving careers to become pastors and church staff, church members growing into leaders, and young men called to plant new churches. The opportunity for ministry in our region is immediate and urgent. My name is Josh Lane, and as the Director of Leadership Education, I am excited to see us partner with Western Seminary to offer the Ministry Leadership Certificate program that will help prepare you for the ministry to which you are called.

The purpose of Next Generation Churches is to be a network of missional churches transforming lives with the grace and truth of Jesus. Our desire is to see healthy churches impact Northern California and Nevada for God. Healthy churches begin with healthy, missionally developed leaders. It is a joy to see new leaders emerge and be equipped to change the world around them through the power of Christ.

The Ministry Leadership Certificate design is to train both church staff and lay leaders to lead healthy churches that transform our region. The program provides excellent instruction from educators affiliated with Western Seminary and BiblicalTraining.org and mentoring and experiential expertise from Next Gen pastors. Producing new leaders in the church is vital to the continuance of healthy ministries for

the next generation of our region. We are passionate about empowering leaders to fulfill their God-given purpose.

Next Generation Churches is committed to serving its pastors well and dedicated to nurturing future leaders. The Ministry Leadership Certificate program is one of many ministry tools NextGen offers to help pastors flourish and become difference-makers in the Kingdom of God. We want to ensure that you do not take that journey alone, but are connected to a network of churches committed to your calling in ministry.



Thank you for the opportunity to partner with you in serving the Kingdom well. I am certain this program will grow you as a church leader and as a follower of Jesus.

With Hope,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Josh Lane". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large loop at the end of the last name.

Josh Lane
Director of Leadership Education
Next Generation Churches

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Program Overview

PURPOSE

The Ministry Leadership Certificate is specifically designed for those ministry leaders who want to enhance their ministry knowledge and skills while staying actively involved in their calling. The courses are designed to fit ministries' demanding schedules, focus on its foundational practices and feature instructors that have been schooled both academically and practically. The participant will find the bar of his or her ministry permanently raised as a result.

CONTENT

Your Ministry Leadership Certificate has been purposefully crafted through consultation with local Next Gen leaders to be both challenging and doable, academic and practical, high quality and affordable. The courses fit neatly into two semesters, and come packaged in manageable online formats enhanced by local mentors and occasional online forums. Added benefits include access to many of the resources available to all Western Seminary students including online library access. Upon completion of the program, students also receive the opportunity to utilize the courses for development of their own congregants and to serve as their mentor/coaches.

OUTCOME

The envisioned outcome is singular – through your locally developed and managed MLC program, Next Gen pastors, elders and/or other select ministry leaders will experience a direct connection between their development and an increased impact in their respective ministries.

TASKS

Because the MLC is designed for those with already demanding schedules, the courses are concise and the related tasks are ministry enhancing. Program-related projects will include four (4) selected readings over the two semesters, viewing all of the classes, journaling related to the classes and two cumulative papers (about 1000 words each) that synthesize key aspects of the students' growth during the semester. Students will also maintain a schedule of contact with their mentors and participate in scheduled forums. Most of the tasks, courses, forums and mentor meetings can be accomplished with no travel. Some travel will be required for events specified by Next Gen leadership.

STUDENT SUPPORT

A critical element in the program is the process of connecting to multiple layers of colleagues who are committed to "shepherding" you through the MLC. A partnership between the support of your local church, an assigned, experienced Next Gen colleague and the Next Gen MLC staff and key leaders will join togeth-

er to help the student reach their God-given ministry goals. The local church will commit to the student's spiritual care and support in determining how the MLC will enable them to best serve the Church. An experienced colleague will use tools acquired through years of ministry to apply lessons learned with the active learner. The focus of meetings with the experienced colleague will be ministry-based application of the information that is learned through the MLC coursework. Finally, Next Gen MLC staff and key leaders will meet with students on occasion to assure that the MLC instruction is meeting the educational needs of the learner to move towards established goals .

The expectations for ensuring that the student is supported falls on each individual student. The student has responsibility to arrange and meet with encouragers from their local church and with their experienced colleagues, at least three times, respectively.

FORUMS

A key component in the mentor/student process is the interaction among students and mentors through scheduled online forums. Students will receive instructions regarding these forums and using the forum tool at the initial meeting/class on August 29th. In addition to the regular forums, mentors may also arrange personal interaction with students and occasional live interaction with a course professor through the use of available internet tools.

ADVISOR

Western Seminary will assign an advisor for the Next Gen student group. The advisor's role is to serve as a liaison between Next Gen and Western Seminary for the purpose of enhancing the student's experience in and outcomes from the program.

ENROLLMENT

Students will enroll through Next Generation Churches per its instructions.

COURSE ACCESS

Next Gen leadership, mentors and students will have unlimited access to the courses through a link pro-

vided on the Next Gen website; that link will take the participants to a course menu through which they will be able to access the course content they desire; if technical difficulties arise, they can be resolved by contacting the WS help desk at 1-877-571-1800, ext. 1898.



COURSE FORMATS

Course formats include video media from Western Seminary, and live instruction that will be taught on site. In addition, forums and live interactions with instructors will be accomplished through a Western Seminary forum tool and / or the Go-To-Meeting online web conferencing service.

COURSE WORK / ASSIGNMENTS

MLC readings and assignments are designed to emphasize both student understandings of the course material and their ability to apply those understandings practically to their respective ministries. As such, there is no homework for just homework sake. Also, the amount of course-related tasks are scaled to accomplish the broad goals of the program and to fit the schedules of ministry-committed participants.

The course work/assignments are:

- Depending upon the course's format, complete viewing, listening or onsite participation in

each course in the curriculum including the keeping of an Application Journal for each segment viewed (journal reviewed by mentor or NG assigned leader);

- Complete reading of the two books assigned for each semester accompanied by application journaling from the reading experience;
- Fulfillment of mentor interaction per the mentor's instruction (mentor affirms satisfactory participation);
- Active participation in program forums per Next Gen instruction (affirmed by mentors and/or NG assigned personnel);
- The completion of two cumulative papers each semester that build on both the student's reading and course experience and that emphasize what the student has learned and how it might be effectively applied to his or her ministry. See Page 10-11 for specific details on each paper's development.
- The full completion of the above no later than the final day of each semester.

READING

Semester 1 readings are:

- Phillip Yancy, "The Bible Jesus Read"
- Richards & O'Brien "Misreading Scripture through Western Eyes"

Semester 2 readings are:

- Mark Driscoll and Gerry Breshears, "Doctrine: What Christians Should Believe"
- Timothy Keller, "Encounters with Jesus"
All books are available through Amazon; some are available in Kindle format

EVALUATION / COMPLETION

While there is no grading in the traditional academic sense, evaluation will be a constant aspect of the MLC process through the student's mentors, through Next Gen/Western Seminary evaluation of the student's work, through the student's participation record and through a final summary evaluation course in which students will interact with Next Gen leadership, the Western advisor and select professors for the purpose of exploring the overall results of the MLC process. Students who complete the MLC will be formally recognized at a scheduled Next Gen event. Full participation in the program is a requirement for receipt of the MLC; NG leaders will determine the participation status of each student.

RECORDS

Both Next Generation Churches and Western Seminary will retain a record of student participation in the program; Next Gen will provide confirmation of participation and completion for any student needing affirmation for a job or ministry-related purpose. All students will be encouraged to retain a portfolio of work accomplished in the program as further evidence of participation and competence in the program's areas of study. Each student who successfully completes the program will receive letters of completion from both Next Gen and Western Seminary. It is important to note that the MLC is not a graduate credit program and as such does not provide transferable credit for upper level graduate programs and courses.

PROGRAM SCHEDULE

The Next Gen MLC program is scheduled for two semesters:

- **Semester 1:** August 29 - November 21
- **Semester 2:** January 9 – May 1

IMPORTANT DATES / EVENTS

- **August 29:** MLC Fall Semester Begins
Western Seminary - Sacramento Campus
290 Technology Way Suite 200
Rocklin, CA 95765

- **October 4:** MLC/Next Gen on Islam and Pluralism - Location: TBD

- **November 21:** End of First Semester

Second (Spring) Semester - 2017

- **January 9:** MLC Second Semester Begins

- **March 21:** MLC/Next Gen Preaching Seminar w/ Art Azurdia - Location : TBD

- **May 1:** End of Second Semester

- **May 1-3:** Annual Leaders' Retreat & Graduation

Courses and Descriptions

Semester 1 Courses and Description (47 Class Hours)

Core Course	Instructor	Hours	Format	Description
NextGen: MLC Orientation	Next Gen Staff	5	Live	Student introduction to the MLC program and its component parts; meeting with mentors
Whole Bible Overview	Bert Downs	5	Video	Whole Bible summary with emphasis on system for studying, managing and teaching Bible content
Old Testament Survey	Carl Laney	10	Video	Moderately detailed summary study of the content and themes of the 39 OT books
New Testament Survey	Carl Laney	10	Video	Moderately detailed summary study of the 27 NT books with ministry application of content
Big Story of the Bible	Nancy Guthrie	3	Video	Nancy Guthrie traces major biblical-theological themes across the redemptive-historical landscape, showing how every theme found its ultimate meaning in the person and work of Christ.
NextGen: Islam and Pluralism Seminar	Laurie Schlapher	5	Live	
Staff Track				
Training Future Leaders	John Johnson	9	Video	Leadership is both a science and an art. In creating and managing teams, it's important to take into account social and cultural contexts.
Women's Track				
Women in Leadership	Beverly Hislop	7	Video	Explore four essential aspects of being a Christian woman in leadership: call, character, craft and competencies.
Shepherding Women in Pain	Beverly Hislop	2	Video	Emotional wounds are more likely to heal in the care of shepherds who understand the critical aspects of the "injury" and the appropriate insights that foster healing.
Lay Leader Track				
Theology of Work	Gerry Breshears	4	Video	Gerry Breshears explores key questions such as who God is, what he has created people to be, how being the image of God affects the way we approach work, and what is the role of spiritual gifts in our job.
Implementing a Theology of Work	Kent Humphries	5	Video	How is a pastor to understand and equip strong business leaders to be part of the "flock" and then to go out into their workplace to minister and influence it for God?

Semester 2 Courses and Description (43 Class Hours)

Course Title	Instructor	Hours	Format	Description
NextGen Seminar: The Purpose and Mission of the Church	Next Gen Staff	5	Live	Orientation to MLC Semester 2; Introduction to the nature and implications of the Gospel
What is the Gospel?	Marc Cortez	5	Video	What is the Gospel? How is the Gospel related to the eternal plan of God? What does the Gospel mean to each believer today? Dr. Marc Cortez, answers these and other critical questions.
Spiritual Formation and Devotional Intimacy	Gary Thomas	5	Video	An introduction to Christian spirituality, spiritual disciplines plus personal and corporate holiness
NextGen Preaching Seminar	Art Azurdia	5	Live	Art Azurdia will lead students through multiple facets, techniques and applications of the preaching task
Systematic Theology	Gerry Breshears	15	Video	A condensation of the masters-level course connecting theological topics with ministry application
Staff Track				
Ministering for Maturity	Bert Downs	5	Video	We establish the primary importance of maturity in the lives of believers and congregations, and in our responsibility as “shepherds” to join God in His process.
Developing a Leadership Culture	Mark Olmos	1.5	Video	Introduction to the development of the early church with emphasis on transferring biblical purpose and themes to today’s ministry
12 Marks of a Healthy Board	Panel	1.5	Video	Bert Downs, John Johnson, and David Jones discuss characteristics that are essential in choosing board members and structuring how they interact together.
Women’s Track				
Shepherding a Woman’s Heart	Beverly Hislop	3.5	Video	What are the aspects of a woman’s life that affect good pastoral care? Gain understanding of seasons and transitions in life cycles against the background of societal role change for women.
Shepherding Women Seminar	Beverly Hislop	1.5	Video	This course covers the basics when it comes to shepherding women including helpful lists of Do’s and Don’ts.
Transitions: Lessons from Naomi	Beverly Hislop	3	Video	We follow the biblical “female Job”—Naomi—through incredible life trials. We will gain a better understanding of transitions, the key questions to process, including, where is God in the midst of chaos?
Lay Leader Track				
Job Shadowing Daniel	Larry Peabody	6	Video	Daniel, in the midst of challenging circumstances, successfully carried out God’s agenda. This course will enlighten and instruct the serious student to do the same no matter their work situation.
Marketplace Mentoring	Panel	2	Video	People learn, relate and responds to input differently. In this course you will learn that different is not only okay, but valuable as we each find our unique way to live out the heart of God in the marketplace of life.

First Semester Schedule

In order to participate in discussions online and with your mentor, the following timeframe for course completions have been established.

August 29:	Begin coursework
November 21:	Complete all first semester coursework

Assignments

October 23:	First assignment due (see assignments listed below)
November 21:	Second assignment due (see assignments listed below)

Participation Requirements

1. Watch each lesson in sequential order, taking the quiz at the end of each lesson
2. Meet with mentors four times per semester.
3. Use the study guide for each course with the direction of your mentor and Program Director
4. Respond to weekly forum questions. Question will be added to the online forum each Tuesday

First Semester Assignments

First Assignment: 1000 to 1500 word essay. Choose, define and describe a key New Testament concept, using Old Testament references to demonstrate the consistent character of God found within the New Testament concept described.

Second Assignment: 1000 to 1500 word Case Study. Utilizing the information presented in Sticky Teams and in the leadership applications courses, do a case study describing the leadership structures of your church. What works well in your church? What areas do you see could be improved? What is the first step that you could take to begin to improve the leadership structure of your church?

Second Semester Schedule

In order to participate in discussions online and with your mentor, the following timeframe for course completions has been established.

January 9: Begin coursework
May 1: Complete all second semester coursework

Assignments

April 3: First assignment due (see assignments listed below)
May 1: Second assignment due (see assignments listed below)

Second Semester Assignments

First Assignment: 1000 word essay and four-week teaching series outline. Make a four week teaching/preaching series outline using your chosen topic, notes from Encounters with Jesus and lessons from the coursework and Preaching workshop. Then write a short essay describing the series you've chosen, the process you went through in developing your series outline and how you would present the material, including illustrations you would use in your teaching.

Second Assignment: 1000 to 1500 word essay. Utilizing the information presented in Doctrine: What Christians Should Believe and in the Systematic theology course, write an essay describing one theological theme, its impact in your personal life and how that theme has impacted your ministry and teaching.



Technology Help

Logging In to the MLC Certificate

Certificate courses are delivered through Western Seminary's new online Center For Leadership Development site. To access your courses, simply:

1. Visit <http://www.westernseminary.edu/lead>.
2. Click on the “**Login**” link at the top of the home page.
3. Enter your username and password (provided separately) and click the **Login** button.
4. You will return to the site home page. Scroll down and you will find your courses listed at the bottom of the page.
5. Click on the “Home” course to begin your studies.

Course Media

Course media for each course are streamed through the <http://westernseminary.edu/lead> website and are viewed best in either the Google Chrome or Internet Explorer web browsers.

When you click on the lesson media links within each course, the media player will open in a new page. You must click on the “Play” icon to start the media. You may then “scrub” forward or backward in the media using the timeline feature if you would like to locate specific media content. To view video in full screen mode, click on the arrow at the bottom right of the video window. Pressing the ESC key will exit the full screen mode.

Discussion Forums

Discussion forums allow students and mentors to reflect together on what they are learning, and the ministry applications of that instruction, without the need to be online at the same time.

Students or mentors are able to post new comments or ask questions, and everyone can then reply to any of those original posts. Forums allow every student to reflect on the course material and to have an equal voice in the conversation.

Lesson One Discussion

Display replies in nested form

Move this discussion to ...

Reflection Question 1
by James Stewart - Monday, 13 January 2014, 5:14 PM
We often speak of the pastor as shepherd of his congregation. Do you find that this model of leadership is true in most American churches? In your church? Why or why not?

[Edit](#) | [Delete](#) | [Reply](#)

System Requirements

To participate effectively in your online courses, you must have access to a high-speed Internet connection and a web browser. Our media play best when students use an HTML5-compliant browser. We recommend Google Chrome or Internet Explorer to view media, especially if you wish to view them in full-screen mode.

All of our courses include links to technology help and we encourage you to view the help videos and to follow the step-by-step instructions if you have any difficulty. If problems continue, please contact our team onlinecampus@westernseminary.edu.



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