

Welcome To The Ministry Collaborative

Your Ministry is Our Mission

During the night, Paul had a vision: there stood a man of Macedonia pleading with him and saying, "Come over to Macedonia and help us." - Acts 16:9

Our Mission

The mission of The Ministry Collaborative is to develop pastors and congregations for creative leadership in their community. We have three overarching goals:

- 1) To renew the personal and professional life of pastors, and to help them effectively expand their capacity for sustained ministry leadership.
- 2) To stimulate the vitality and spiritual growth and discipleship of the pastors' congregations.
- 3) To impact the broader community through community engagement by participating pastors and their congregations.

Here's Why It Works

Most pastors have participated in a variety of ministry associations, clergy groups, monthly gatherings, and other ways of connecting with local colleagues. These can all be helpful, of course. But, as The Ministry Collaborative pastors will tell you, the combination of support, bonds of friendship, and learning that can take place in a The Ministry Collaborative cohort is unparalleled. Why? Because of the high level of commitment made by the group for three years, which, as we've learned, evolves into a life-time network of support, resources, learning, and relationship.

One way to view The Ministry Collaborative is as an advanced Leadership Program or Executive MBA, but instead of requiring tests in pursuit of a degree, pastors are provided with a supportive learning community where deeper, more sustainable growth can take place. It is effective because the cohort provides a space where individual and group capacity are expanded for navigating long-term ministry challenges.

someone will **always be** *in your*
corner, rooting **for you**



THE MINISTRY
COLLABORATIVE

www.mministry.org | (404) 551-5158 | info@mministry.org

A Project of the Macedonian Ministry Foundation

How it Works

The Ministry Collaborative brings together a committed cohort *of approximately 10-15 clergy from the same community for a period of three years to develop strategies for leading dynamic and effective ministries. Under the leadership of a trained facilitator, cohort groups engage in a spiritual journey of enrichment and rejuvenation that will have a positive and lasting impact.*

Here are the Six Pillars of The Ministry Collaborative Cohort Experience:

Committed Cohorts

The cohort is a highly committed, supportive learning community of 10-15 ministry leaders from your community that meets approximately 10 months per year for three years.

Trained Facilitators

Facilitators lead cohort development, serving as a pastor to the pastors throughout their journey.

Contextualized Peer Learning

Facilitators and cohorts engage in a highly contextualized process-oriented curriculum.

Community Engaged Congregations

Engaging lay leaders is essential for healthy congregations and flourishing communities.

Access to Leading Voices

A variety of gifted leaders from across the country engage with cohorts to generate creative ideas, insights, and imagination.

Formative Immersion Experiences

Sustained learning takes place through hands-on, one to two week-long experiences in alternate contexts where bonds are deepened, and imaginations are stirred.



THE MINISTRY
COLLABORATIVE

www.mministry.org | (404) 551-5158 | info@mministry.org

A Project of the Macedonian Ministry Foundation

Why The Ministry Collaborative?

Because You are Worth the Investment. *Pastoral ministry is one of the most important and influential professions in society and also one of the most challenging. The expectations that members of a congregation and community place on their pastors is seemingly unbearable, and the skill sets required to flourish in pastoral ministry are often greater than any one person can possess. We'll stop there – You already know all of this.*

And yet, what an exciting time to be in ministry! Really, it is.

Why?

Because God's disruption of what we've long known ministry to be is simultaneously God's creation of new opportunities for imagination, creativity, innovation, and deep faithfulness. It is a gift from God, so let's receive it with joy and say "yes" to God's gracious and thrilling call that lies ahead. And so, we invite you to explore with us:

- In what ways is the Spirit calling you to move beyond the status quo, to take risks, grow in leadership,

adapt to a rapidly changing world, and joyfully follow God's mission into uncharted territory?

- What impact could a community of trusted colleagues have on your journey as they offer support, encouragement, insights, collaboration, and accountability?
- If time, money, and other resources were not an obstacle, what could your ministry leadership look like in your congregation and community in ten years?

We want to come alongside you and your colleagues to answer these questions and faithfully respond to God's call.



Let's Get Started



THE MINISTRY
COLLABORATIVE

www.mministry.org | (404) 551-5158 | info@mministry.org

A Project of the Macedonian Ministry Foundation

Who and What is a Cohort?

A The Ministry Collaborative Cohort is *a community of learning, support, commitment and collaboration.*

Pastors | The Ministry Collaborative assembles cohorts of 10-15 ministry leaders that represent the diversity of the cohort's surrounding community. Cohorts typically include both men and women, multiple racial-ethnic backgrounds, various denominational and theological perspectives, as well as pastors with different roles, positions, and responsibilities in ministry. All of these elements nurture a deeper, richer, more generative cohort experience.

The strongest cohorts include pastors who make the following commitments:

- to spiritual health, growth, and maturity as a disciple of Jesus Christ
- to ecumenism, unity, and the rich diversity of God's church
- to expanding capacity as a faithful, adaptive, and collaborative leader
- to developing new approaches and skills for leading a congregation with creativity and courage
- to participate in God's reconciling, restoring, and redeeming work in the community
- to having trusted peers to support, challenge, encourage, and hold each other accountable to all of the above

Facilitators | The Ministry Collaborative facilitators are carefully selected and trained to lead the cohort for their three-year journey. They not only plan and lead the cohort's development, but they essentially serve as a pastor to pastors, promoting an environment where pastor's spiritual health and leadership capacity can thrive. Facilitators set the tone for cohort interactions and strive to create a community of trust, vulnerability, openness, and joy, using a variety of teaching methods to navigate group dynamics and address the various learning styles of pastors in the cohort.



THE MINISTRY
COLLABORATIVE

www.mministry.org | (404) 551-5158 | info@mministry.org

A Project of the Macedonian Ministry Foundation

What Will I Have Access To?

Generative Conversations for your Congregational Leaders

As the chair of our Advisory Board, Dr. Darrell Guder, puts it, “We can’t be in the business of renewing pastors just to pour them back into Christendom churches.” As a member of a The Ministry Collaborative cohort, you have access to The Ministry Collaborative staff as well as a growing cadre of leaders throughout our network who want to help you and your staff, board, lay leaders, and other volunteers “move the needle,” adapt to increasingly rapid change, and be faithfully engaged in your community. We will work with you to tailor an approach that will be best for your context.

There are many possible avenues for congregational engagement: a leadership retreat for you and your board, a one or two day consult with you and a cross-section of staff and other leaders, content that will help you dig deeper with your lay leaders, one-on-one conversations with you about a specific challenge, and more. We believe this opportunity will not only be helpful to you and your congregation, but that it will reinforce and deepen your cohort experience.

“Taking a small group of leaders - elders and staff - to meet with The Ministry Collaborative helped us understand our particular challenges in the context of what many churches face today. Our time left us feeling less isolated and better equipped. We returned energized and empowered for the work ahead.”



THE MINISTRY
COLLABORATIVE

Leading Voices

The Ministry Collaborative cohorts are members of a growing and evolving learning community that provide engaging presentations, workshops, seminars, and web content. Guest facilitators and presenters will intermittently spend time with your cohort throughout your three-year journey in order to spark imagination, disrupt assumptions, share ideas, and generate new ways of approaching life and ministry.

A Rapidly Growing Network of Resources and Relationships

Over the last decade, The Ministry Collaborative has served over 550 pastors in 40+ cohorts across 30+ communities in the United States and Scotland, and the number of new cohorts increases annually. When you become a part of a The Ministry Collaborative cohort, you become part of this growing network, and community.