



THE MINISTRY  
COLLABORATIVE

*You*



*The Ministry Collaborative creates an environment every pastor longs for. The richness of monthly fellowship with other pastors facing similar challenges, combined with excellent opportunities for learning from the best teachers around – all worked together to rejuvenate my ministry. Everyone should have a The Ministry Collaborative experience!*

– Cohort Member

## FAQs

### **What are the criteria for pastors who are invited into a cohort?**

There is not strict criteria for who is invited to participate in a cohort. Healthy cohorts are representative of the diversity of their community and often include ministry leaders from various denominational, theological, and racial/ethnic backgrounds, as well as from a range of pastoral experiences, roles, and ministry callings.

### **How much does it cost to participate in a cohort?**

The three-year program costs The Ministry Collaborative between \$100,000 and \$150,000 per cohort. Thanks to the extraordinary generosity of donors, the entire program is provided to pastors at 1% of their annual salary, per year. This “skin in the game” contribution strengthens the commitment levels of everyone in your cohort. Scholarships are available, and no pastor will be denied participation due to financial hardship.

### **How is The Ministry Collaborative funded?**

Approximately 1/3 of The Ministry Collaborative’s funding comes from our founding organization, The Cousins Family Foundation, 1/3 from private donors across the country, and 1/3 from other foundations and endowments, including the Lilly Endowment and The Duke Endowment. We are grateful to our faithful partners who are investing in pastors and congregations. Their generous support gives us a firm foundation on which to expand our ministry across the United States and Scotland.

### **What about the time commitment? It sounds demanding.**

The Ministry Collaborative cohort is not another “to do” on the calendar, but a life-giving discipline of community, encouragement, and accountability. The Ministry Collaborative insists on a high level of commitment from pastors because when this commitment is shared with a group of people over the course of three years, it affords transformative, even life-changing experience. The Ministry Collaborative cohorts meet for between 2.5 and 4 hours once per month. As one pastor in a The Ministry Collaborative cohort recently explained, “I thought it was going to result in a time deficit, but actually, it’s been a time-multiplier because of how the group has helped me to be more disciplined in my life and ministry while also providing resources along the way.”

### **When will my cohort start? What’s the timeline?**

Most cohorts take at least 6 months to assemble. Please make the upcoming orientation gatherings a priority!

## What To Expect From *The Cohort Experience*

### *At The Ministry*

*Collaborative, our focus isn't on "skilling up" participants. Yes, skills like fundraising, conflict management, and preaching better sermons are important, but we recognize that if pastors are to effectively deploy these skills long-term, they require growth at a deeper level where things like sustainability, adaptivity, and intuition are developed. What does this look like in The Ministry Collaborative cohorts?*

### **Capacity Building**

The cohort as a whole and all individuals in it will build capacity for long-term support and guidance for navigating life and ministry.

### **Developing Adaptivity**

We want to help pastors shift from being under the tyranny of the urgent and "putting out fires" into a mode of long-arc leadership that is effective in moving congregations forward into the way God is calling them.

### **Nurturing Healthy Leadership**

As one The Ministry Collaborative pastor put it, "Simply put, my congregation is healthier because I'm getting healthier. And this is equipping us to contribute to the health of our community." Let's dig deeper into your calling as a minister, as a leader, as a child of God, and let's nurture some deep bonds of friendship along the way.

### **Broadening Perspectives and Resources**

Not only is the cohort itself a sustaining resource of support and development, but the broader The Ministry Collaborative network continues to grow as a diverse community of voices, experiences, ideas, resources, and opportunities to develop healthy, courageous, and creative leaders.

### **Digging a Deeper Well**

There are all sorts of ways for simplifying and going deeper in your ministry context. Let's get at these and put them into practice.

### **Stewarding Change**

There is no "leading through change," as if there is something on the other side of change. There is only change, and it is absolutely constant. So, the question is, how will we joyfully "steward" the gift of change?

### **Creating Cultures**

Espoused values, actual behaviors, emotional systems, dominant narratives, fears and aspirations. Congregations can be complex organisms! Let's develop practices for navigating this complexity, recasting narratives, and nurturing healthy, faithful cultures in our congregations.

### **Creativity, Risk-Taking, and Innovation**

Failing forward, calculating risks and costs, disappointing people at a rate they can absorb, disrupting in faithful ways. The cohort is a space not only for exploring these topics, but for providing support and accountability as you risk and innovate.

# Past Cohort Speakers

Since our founding in 2008, a variety of gifted leaders have led workshops and seminars for our cohorts across the United States and in Scotland.

- DR. TOD BOLSINGER**  
Vice President and Chief of Leadership Formation Platform at Fuller Seminary
- DR. WILLIE JAMES JENNINGS**  
Associate Professor of Systemic Theology and African Studies at Yale Divinity School
- REV. JENNIFER WATLEY MAXELL**  
Pastor and Co-Founder, The Breakthrough Fellowship
- REV. DR. LAURIE FERGUSON**  
Senior Research Fellow for Coaching and Director of the Residential Coaching Program at Auburn Seminary
- JOANNA ADAMS**  
Pastor, Emerita, Morningside Presbyterian Church
- PAT BACON**  
Pastor, Calvary Presbyterian Church

- CRAIG BARNES**  
President, Princeton Theological Seminary
- BILL BOLLING**  
Founder, Atlanta Community Food Bank
- WALTER BRUGGEMANN**  
William Marcellus McPheeters, Professor Emeritus of Old Testament, Columbia, Theological Seminary
- DIANA BUTLER BASS**  
Author, speaker, and scholar specializing in American religion and culture
- TONY CAMPOLO**  
Author, speaker, and Professor Emeritus of sociology, Eastern University
- JOHN CANTELOW**  
Pastor, Sixth Avenue Baptist Church

- J KAMERON CARTER**  
Professor of Religious Studies at Indiana University, Bloomington
- MARK DANZEY**  
Disciple Life Pastor, Mount Pisgah United Methodist Church
- STEVE EASON**  
Pastor, First Presbyterian Church
- BILL ENRIGHT**  
Pastor Emeritus, Second Presbyterian Church, Indianapolis, Indiana and professor of fundraising, The Lake Institute
- KRISTY FARBER**  
Pastor, Mercer Island Presbyterian Church
- BART GROOMS**  
LPC, LMFT, Samaritan Counseling Ctr
- JOHN AND JUDYE HARTMAN**  
Elders and lay leaders, Memorial Drive Presbyterian, Houston, Texas and trustees of Austin Presbyterian Seminary
- TOM LONG**  
Candler School of Theology, Emory University
- KEM MEYER**  
Communications Director, Granger Community Church

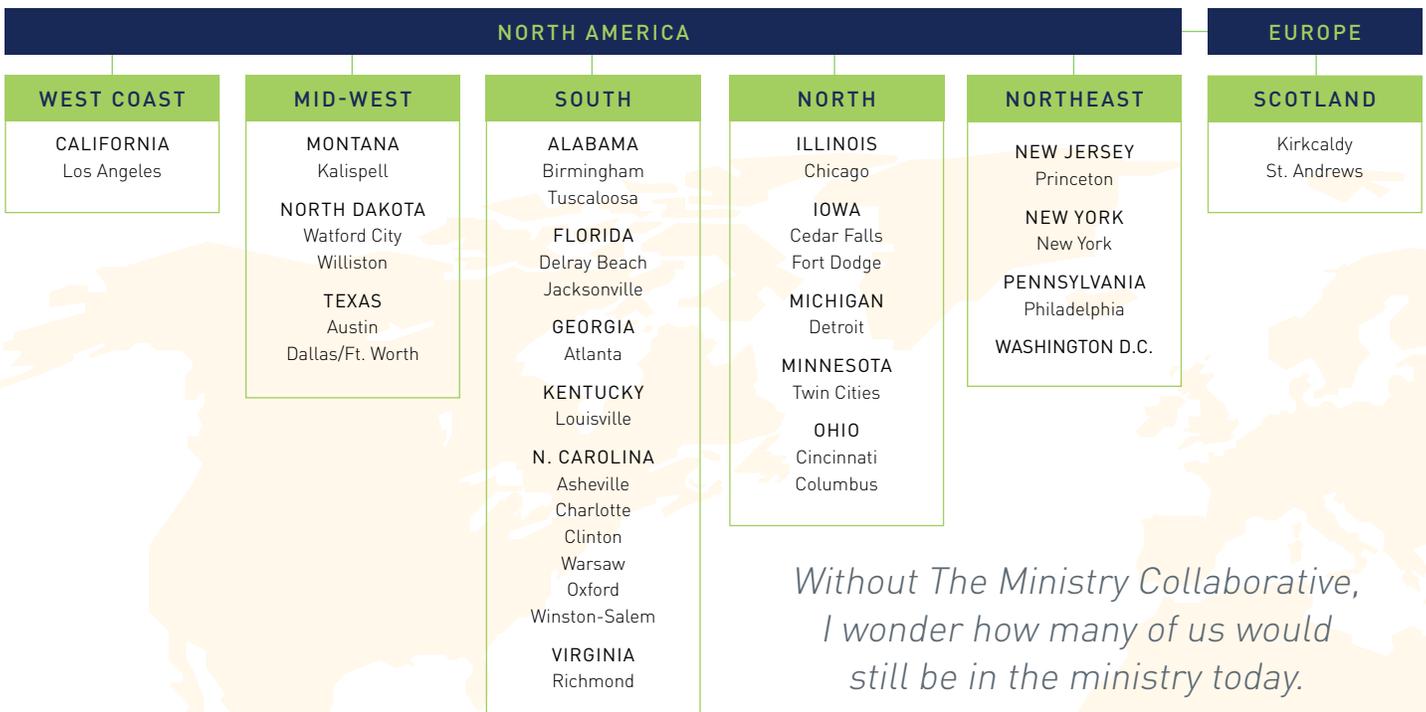
- LARRY MICHAEL**  
Pastor for Adult Ministries & Parish Associate, South Highland Presbyterian Church
- ADAM MIXON**  
Pastor, Zion Spring Baptist Church
- KERRY ROBINSON**  
Philanthropist, Founding Executive Director, Global Ambassador, Leadership Roundtable
- ANDY STANLEY**  
Senior Pastor, North Point Community Church
- BILL STURTEVANT**  
Specialist, Major + Deferred Gifts & Planning
- TOM TEWELL**  
Founder, The Ministry Collaborative
- KARL TRAVIS**  
Pastor, First Presbyterian Church
- WILLIAM H. WILLIMON**  
Professor of the Practice of Christian Ministry at the Divinity School, Duke University



**THE MINISTRY**  
COLLABORATIVE

A Project of The Macedonian Ministry Foundation

## Cohort Network



*Without The Ministry Collaborative,  
I wonder how many of us would  
still be in the ministry today.*

– Cohort Member