

Fall 2023

Course 1: OVERCOMING LEADERSHIP CHALLENGES IN UNCERTAIN TIMES

Dates: Mondays, Oct. 2 – Nov. 13

Time: 7pm – 9pm

Instructor: Dr. Garon Harden

In times of uncertainty, the church needs leadership representative of Christ, not superficial, or indifferent. Most people can manage when things go well, but some leaders are stuck in a “set mindset” and suffering from a lack of awareness of the challenges that plague the church. The leadership challenges today include a lack of community or public worship, disorder, and division among the people of God. Most committed churchgoers are not attending church regularly, especially men. These leadership hindrances have included a contentious election season, global virus pandemic, devastating wildfires, police brutality, civil unrest, mass shootings, tremendous social misbehaving, and economic upheaval (higher prices on everything).

How can leaders remain faithful in ministry and character? In this seven-week training course, we will equip leaders with practical strategies necessary for reaching people at home, and around the world.

1. The leader’s role, challenges, and responsibilities in ministry
2. What do leaders do? How God develops godly leaders.
3. Leadership and vision: Where do leaders get it? How do they communicate it?
4. The characteristics of spiritual leaders: A life that moves others to follow.
5. The leader’s goal: Moving people into God’s agenda.
6. The leader’s influence: Presenter Dr. Maurice Johnson
7. Women Daring to lead in the church: Guest Presenter Dr. Elizabeth “Lisa” Cooper

Christian life has been disrupted significantly in the past few years, but godly leaders must continue ministering, serving, and being faithful to discipleship and the Word of God.

Fall 2023

Course 2: Diversity and Inclusive Counseling—Training for Church Ministry Leaders

Dates: Tuesdays, Oct. 3 – Nov. 14

Time: 7pm – 9pm

Instructor: Dr. Mildred Oates

This introductory counseling course examines the Christian worldview and the biblical pathway to diversity and inclusion (belonging) in the twenty-first century church. The course is designed to prepare students whose ministry will bring them into contact with diverse attitudes and segments of society. Topics to be covered include teens and young people our future, women in church leadership roles, aging church members, people with disabilities, gender identities, and alternative lifestyles (Lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer). The course will also explore counseling methods and application for dealing with relationships in and out of the church. These critical areas will be discussed, explored, and debated in class.

The assigned course readings are not designed to make a student feel uncomfortable or be unable to discuss respectfully and maturely a diverse range of topics but rather to gain a certain awareness and understanding to help church brethren. Our academic study is so that ministry leaders may better understand the wide range of practices in our society to engage and empower the twenty-first century church. As followers of Jesus Christ, we seek to reaffirm God's revealed truth regarding diversity, belonging and inclusion as well as traditional Christian beliefs and values. Every human being is precious to God and entitled to respect. The twenty-first century church should be engaged in an ongoing endeavor to devise practical solutions for increasing diversity and inclusion (belonging) among its congregants. When implemented would help ensure that spiritual, emotional, social, and physical needs are successfully being met by church ministries, and other individuals charged with helping.