



## Quick Facts

### Vision

Multiplying healthy, reproducing leaders for the Kingdom

### Mission Statement

Partnering to develop healthy, growing missional leaders to expand the Kingdom of God in the present age

### Core Values

Leadership Focus exists to provide easy access to valuable missional resources, training, and coaching that will prepare and credential a new generation of bold, Christ-centered leaders through an emphasis on the following four core values:

#### **1. Spiritual Formation:** *Understanding the source of strength for ministry*

A sacred environment that encourages each candidate to define their journey with God as a growing and vibrant relationship out of which ministry flows every day in every place you find yourself.

#### **2. Competencies:** *Honing the skills necessary to succeed*

Understanding one's own leadership style; skillfully developing and leading teams; and accurately identifying and diagnosing the health of a congregation or ministry.

#### **3. Missional:** *Outreach and Commissioned Leadership*

The primary focus of all that we present in Leadership Focus is to clarify that our lives and ministries in Christ are only truly biblical and authentic when they are orchestrated in light of the Great Commission through sacrificial Great Commandment living.

#### **4. Community:** *Commitment to accountability, growth, and excellence*

The coach and members of each cluster understand their community to be the present body of Christ where they have been placed by divine appointment for divine purposes.

Leadership Focus is the credentialing tool used within the Church of God. It is a 6-module curriculum to support the credentialing requirements in the Credentials Manual of the Church of God and is designed to prepare leaders for ordination. Candidates are assigned to a cluster group that they will “journey” with throughout a nearly 3-year process; each cluster is comprised of 3 to 5 individuals from a variety of locations across the country. An experienced coach is assigned to the cluster for each module; cluster coaches change for each module. Candidates will review and complete assignments, access general module resources, and track progress using the Leadership Focus Portal (<https://www.choglf.org>); each module is 6 months in duration with the exception of the first module, *Commencement*, which is primarily an orientation module and is partly self-paced. At the end of the process, a candidate will have spent a little more than 2.5 years with their cluster group members, guided by 5 different coaches.

## A Walk Through the Six Modules

### Module 1: Commencement

#### ἐπίσταμαι – epistamai

Knowing God's will for me (Calling) – LF is a pursuit of knowing in the fullest sense – using all of our senses.

The Commencement module is the orientation module; the primary purpose is to (1) orient candidates to the LF Program and help them get started on the right foot, (2) begin building community among cluster members, and (3) exploring the call of God.

#### Three Online Cluster Meetings:

1. Orientation – large meeting prior to cluster assignment
2. Community: The heart of Leadership Focus
3. The Call to Ministry

#### Primary Assignments in this Module:

- Complete all processing paperwork as listed in the portal
- Write Call to Ministry paper
- Write Theological Statement #7
- Bible and Theology Assessment

**NOTE:** In most scenarios, candidates will meet with their credentials committee following this first module.

### Module 2: Character

#### γὰρ – yada

Knowing the personal me and aligning with the Holy Spirit for missional purpose

The focus of the Character module is on internal values and desires that drive us in aligning with the Holy Spirit for missional purposes.

#### 5 Online Cluster Meetings:

1. Spiritual formation as a habitual practice for a leader
2. Maintaining proper boundaries
3. Holiness and ethics and how they inform character formation
4. Biblical stewardship from a theological perspective
5. Applying and leading others in practical stewardship

#### Primary Assignments in this Module:

- Write Personal Code of Ethics
- Observe a Retreat of Solitude
- Theological Statements #4, #6, #8, #11, and #14

## Module 3: Competencies

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### γινώσκω – ginosko

Knowing the public me and interacting with others to unlock their potential for missional kingdom impact

The Competencies module assists candidates in understanding how external actions align with Godly missional actions for missional impact.

#### 5 Online Cluster Meetings:

1. Biblical leadership perspectives that empower, equip, and release others
2. Biblical ministry through a better understanding of motivators, internal drives, and core values
3. Assessing and evaluating appropriate responses to the lifecycles of a church
4. Identifying and implementing a biblical team building process
5. Understanding the layers of conflict management and the leader's role

#### Primary Assignments in this Module:

- Theological Statements #9, #10, #12, and #13
- Complete the Team Building Workbook exercise.
- Prepare a teaching lesson (for children or adults), sermon outline, or a devotional reading about how values influence our actions using a biblical character.
- Select and read one of the following books:
  - *Lead Like Jesus: Lessons from the Greatest Leadership Role Model of All Time* by Ken Blanchard & Phil Hodges
  - *Spiritual Leadership: Moving People on to God's Agenda* by Henry and Richard Blackaby
  - *Preparing for Change Reaction: How to Introduce Change in Your Church* by Bob Whitesel
  - *Tribal Leadership: Leveraging Natural Groups to Build a Thriving Organization* by Dave Logan, John King, Hallee Fischer-Wright
  - *Developing the Leader Within You 2.0* by John Maxwell
  - *Next Steps in Ministry* by David Markel

## Module 4: Confessions

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### οἶδα – eido

Knowing the professional me and developing skills to communicate missional truths that transform lives

In Confessions, candidates focus on perceiving and discerning how aligning with the truths of God bring missional transformation.

#### 5 Online Cluster Meetings:

1. The importance of theology and the importance of the pastor as key theologian
2. Understanding various theological perspectives
3. Church of God theological perspectives and roots
4. Missional theological perspectives – the invitation of a saving message
5. Excellence in modeling and communicating theological perspectives

#### Primary Assignments in this Module:

- Interview a ministry leader
- Theological Statements #1, #2, #3, #5, #15, and #16
- Complete the workbook, *Hymnody and Theology: Gleaning from our Songbook*

- Complete a practical application exercise to gain experience in modeling and communicating theological perspectives.
- Watch and critique a video selected from a list of Church of God speakers.
- Select and read one of the following books:
  - *I Will Build My Church* by John W. V. Smith
  - *Following Our Lord; Understanding the Beliefs and Practices of the Church of God Movement (Anderson)* by Barry Callen
  - *Theology for Disciples* by Gil Stafford
  - *The Optimism of Grace* by Cliff Sanders
  - *A Closer Look at God's Church: A Biblical Evaluation of Key Beliefs of the Church of God* by Mark Jackson
  - *I Saw the Church: The Life of the Church of God Told Theologically* by Merle Strege

**NOTE:** Candidates turn in their 16 Theological Statements following the completion of Module 4 for their credentials committee to review and evaluate. Additionally, in most scenarios, candidates will meet with their credentials committee following this fourth module.

## Module 5: Connectivity

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### נָקַר – nakar

Knowing the partnering me and intentionally developing healthy kingdom relationships that produce missional expansion

Structured around Acts 1:8, the Connectivity module is about understanding how a calling of an individual intertwines with the calling of others for Kingdom purposes.

#### 5 Online Cluster Meetings:

1. Exploring the answer to "What is Biblical Connectivity?"
2. Connecting with our roots: family, local congregation, and the Church of God
3. Our role in global connectivity (ends of the earth)
4. Our role in state/national connectivity (Judea/Samaria)
5. Our role in local connectivity (Jerusalem)

#### Primary Assignments in this Module:

- Conduct 5 Connectivity Conversations: (1) Spouse or person of significance, (2) Individual with long roots in our movement, (3) Global leader, (4) State/National leader, and (5) Fellow laborer in their community.
- Complete the workbook, *Global Connectivity*.
- Watch a number of videos on Church of God heritage and convention speakers that demonstrate varying aspects of connectivity.
- Experience practical connectivity by performing 8 hours of service in their community.
- Complete the Clifton Strengths Finder Assessment and debrief to prepare for Module 6.
- Select and read one of the following books:
  - *Views from the Mountain* by James Earl Massey, Barry L. Callen and Curtiss Paul DeYoung (Editors)
  - *Tortured for Christ* by Richard Wurmbrand
  - *Ministry at the Margins: The Prophetic Mission of Women, Youth & the Poor* by Cheryl Sanders
  - *Coming Together in the 21st Century: The Bible's Message in an Age of Diversity* by Curtiss Paul DeYoung
  - *Invitation to Cross-Cultural Theology* by William A. Dryness
  - *Coming Together in Christ* by Barry Callen & James North
  - *Walk with the People: Latino Ministry in the United States* by Juan Francisco Martinez

## Module 6: Celebrations

### γνωρίζω – gnorizo

Knowing the integrated me and articulating God's will (calling) for me in a missional focused LAMP

The final module, Celebrations, is the capstone of the LF process. All developmental objectives completed thus far are now funneled into an integrated Life and Ministry Plan (LAMP). Each candidate will articulate living out their missional role for the next 1 to 3 years in their LAMP.

#### 5 Online Cluster Meetings:

1. Celebrating the LF journey and its impact on a candidate's life and calling
2. Celebrating the integrated life and understanding how the four core values of LF are significant to ministry
3. Celebrating and setting milestones and understanding the four arenas of life
4. Celebrating and challenging each other on milestones; candidates will critique, challenge, and celebrate each other's LAMPs
5. Celebrating commencements; final draft of LAMP is presented to cluster and coach performs a commencement to mark the moment.

#### Primary Assignments in this Module:

- Observe a Retreat of Solitude
- Completing the Celebrations Workbook
- Read the book, Never Go Back: 10 Things You Will Never Do Again, by Dr. Henry Cloud
- Writing 4 S.M.A.R.T. goals (Public, Personal, Professional, and Partnering)
- Write Life and Ministry Plan (LAMP)

**NOTE:** Candidates meet with their Credentials Committee following completion of the LF program. Successful completion of Leadership Focus is not a guarantee for ordination. Candidates must still be evaluated by their credentials committee who has the sole responsibility of granting ordination according to the prescribed guidance for their assembly.

### Scope

Leadership Focus provides opportunities for credentialing candidates to:

- Explore and clarify their call to ministry
- Cultivate biblically based leadership skills
- Develop self-awareness and personal ethical guidelines
- Enrich knowledge and application of CHOG theology and practices
- Develop holistic commitment and accountability within community
- Identify and develop skills and tools for lifelong learning resulting in effective missional ministry (i.e. Life and Ministry Plan)

### Have questions?

### Need additional information?

This is a general overview of the LF program. If you would like more detailed information, contact the Leadership Focus Program Coordinator, Paula Walford:

Email: [pwalford@chog.org](mailto:pwalford@chog.org)

Phone: (800) 848-2464, ext. 2111

