



NEXT FRONTIERS

GEORGIA, 2021-22 . CALIFORNIA 2022-23

Be Renewed for Your Next
Faithful Step in Ministry.

RELATE . RENEW . REIMAGINE



Introduction

Next Frontiers is a 12-month program designed to help mid-career pastors thrive in congregational leadership during times of transition in ministry. The key features of the program include opportunities for reimagining our pastoral identity, fostering spiritual renewal and engaging in meaningful relationship with veteran ministers. The overarching purpose of this program is to provide resources that will sustain ministers in the “long obedience” of their profession.

Specific Focus

Transitions are moments of disruption. And while disruption by definition is stressful and unsettling, change also provides opportunity to embrace another and more sustaining kind of life.

We live at the mercy of our experiential Theology. To navigate change in a way that promotes thriving presupposes a personal theology that is healthy and life giving and a view of God who is present, active, communicating, and deeply loving. Our image of God affects profoundly how we live through our transitional moments in pastoral ministry.

To harvest the potential of transition will require time for intentional formation including: retreat, spiritual direction, mentoring, and the development and living out of a rule of life built around abiding in Trinitarian presence. This program will offer a curriculum of learning to lean into God instead of self-effort.

Defining Transition

The intent of the program is not designed to offer educational experiences, which are tailored to a particular transition, but instead to offer a way of living life with God that generalizes to a variety of seasons of disruption and change. Specific transitions may include: Church planting, women clergy stepping into senior leadership, pastors serving multilingual or multiethnic churches, pastors moving from urban to rural ministry or vice versa, assignment of increasing ministry responsibilities, etc. Our focus is less on the type of transition and more on abiding in God during the transition.

Program Features and Resources

The following are key components of Westmont College's Next Frontiers Program.

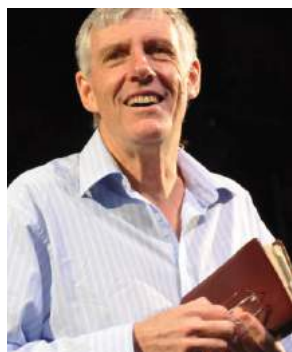
- **Assessment:** Next Frontiers will provide opportunities for assessment to assist ministers in discerning their unique skill sets and "expert specialties," and provide coaching for how to carry the necessary generalist responsibilities of the pastorate in a way that is informed by individual personality and temperament differences.
- **Retreat:** Two 3-day retreats will bookend this 40-week program. These retreats will include talks by faculty, conversation with each other, experiential learning opportunities, corporate worship and times for personal reflection and prayer.
- **Relationship with Experienced Clergy and Peers:** Seasoned ministers will offer spiritual direction and mentoring to each participant. In addition, pastoral peer groups will be formed and meet together during the entire program for discussion and praxis.
- **On-line tools for spiritual formation activities:** *Conversatio.org* will be used to provide on-going input through the "classroom" and "exercise room" features.
- **Personal Agency:** Each participant will design a personal plan or "rule of life" for personal and spiritual formation that is rooted in the gospel rhythms of Jesus' life, as well as the particular season of ministry transition that they find themselves.
- **On-Going Learning:** Participants will read and study across a variety of topics that will include wrestling with questions such as: Where is my identity found and how? Where is God during this season? How do I harvest the potential of this phase of life? How do I apply "the Cycle of Grace" to learning to live a different kind of life?

Summary of Goals:

By way of summary, we offer a statement of program goals. New Frontiers strives to:

- Help pastors clarify their self-understanding, purpose and direction;
- Create space for retreat, to detach from current roles and contexts in order to participate in activities that facilitate joy;
- Provide experienced mentors for pastors facing mid-career transition;
- Build networks of ministry peers to overcome isolation and create a sense of belonging;
- Encourage pastors to discover (or rediscover) historic spiritual disciplines and practices;
- Provide teaching about life-giving virtues and principles of leadership and service;
- Prompt new ideas and strategies for how ministers and their churches can engage their communities and help address the world's problems.

Meet Our Mentors



Trevor Hudson has served as a Minister of The Methodist Church of Southern Africa for 40 years. Having stepped away from active Pastoral Ministry in the local congregation he now lectures and teaches both nationally and internationally in the areas of spiritual direction, spiritual formation and pastoral therapy. Since the mid 1990's he has worked closely with the Jesuit Institute of SA in the training both of spiritual directors and givers of the Spiritual Exercises of St Ignatius. Presently he serves as a Senior Fellow of the Dallas Willard Center at Westmont University, teaches for the Renovaré Institute and for the DMIN program in spiritual direction at Fuller Theological Seminary in the USA and lectures at Stellenbosch University in SA on their Masters Program in Missional Spirituality. He has written 17 books including *Discovering Your Spiritual Identity* (IVP), *Holy Spirit Here and Now* and *Beyond Loneliness* (Upper Room Books). He has been married to Debbie for almost 40 years and they are the parents of two married children Joni and Mark.



Miriam (Mimi) Dixon began her ministry in 1979 serving as an associate pastor at Northminster Presbyterian Church in Seattle, Washington. From April of 1985 to June of 2019 she served as senior pastor of First Presbyterian Church of Golden, Colorado. She earned both her M.Div. and DMin degrees from Fuller Theological Seminary. Mimi is on the Renovaré Board of Directors and teaches for the Renovaré Institute. She actively promotes Christian Spiritual Formation, crediting Richard Foster and Dallas Willard for their influence in her life and ministry.

DIRECTOR AND HOST



Gary W. Moon, M.Div. Ph.D. serves as Distinguished Professor of Psychology and Spiritual Formation at Richmond Graduate University and as the director of the DMIN program in spiritual direction at Fuller Theological Seminary. He served as the founding Executive Director of the Martin Institute for Christianity and Culture and the Dallas Willard Center for Christian Spiritual Formation at Westmont College and continues to direct resource development initiatives through serving as the director of *Conversatio Divina: A Center for Spiritual Formation*. He also served as the founding director of the Renovaré International Institute for Christian Spiritual Formation and as a founding Editor of the *Conversations Journal*. Moon writes in areas such as the theoretical and practical integration of psychology, theology & spiritual formation and has published and presented over 300 professional and popular papers. He recently completed a biography of Dallas Willard, which Moon won the Christian Book Award® in BIOGRAPHY & MEMOIR. Gary and his wife Regina reside in Atlanta. They have two grown children.



Regina Moon currently lives in Atlanta, Georgia. Her career has primarily been spent at Emmanuel College in Franklin Springs, Georgia as Director of Counseling, Director of Service Learning and Vice President for Student Life. She also served as adjunct faculty in Old Testament and Spiritual Formation and spent a large portion of her time journeying with students, faculty and staff as they walked with God. During the past 8 years she has assisted her husband, Gary, with the operation and ministries of the Dallas Willard Center for Spiritual Formation. Her work with the Willard Center has included leading spiritual formation small groups, recruitment, training and support of group leaders, assisting with retreats, serving as spiritual director for students, and as a staff Spiritual Director with the Fuller DMIN in Spiritual Direction and the Renovaré Institute for Spiritual Formation. Regina holds a M.Ed. in Counseling and an M.S. in Practical Theology. Their two daughters, Jesse and Jenna, and their son-in-law Tom currently live in Athens, Georgia. Regina considers it a gift and a joy to walk with others as they walk with God.

ADDITIONAL MENTORS

Southern California Cohort



Andrew Ranucci is a pastor, teacher and mentor to Christian leaders seeking personal spiritual transformation. He is the founding director of SoulLife Ministries, a ministry offering retreats, spiritual formation and soul care teaching, spiritual direction and mentoring. Andrew also serves Australian College of Ministry as adjunct faculty in its Formation Centre and is on the teaching team of Northside Church in Sydney, Australia. Andrew is a sought after voice for those seeking to explore life giving spiritual practices, leading to a vibrant, interactive life with God. Before devoting his time to SoulLife Ministries Andrew pioneered Coast Community Church and served for 24 years as its Senior Pastor, from 1994-2018. Andrew has a love of the water and can be found most weekends paddling his sea kayak. Andrew is married to Kerrell and they have three daughters, Ruby, Olivia and Lucy.

Andrew's studies include: Doctor of Ministry (Spiritual Direction) from Fuller Theological Seminary; Master of Arts (Christian Leadership), Bachelor of Theology and Diploma of Ministry from Australian College of Ministry; A graduate of Renovaré International Institute for Spiritual Formation.

Atlanta Cohort



Rev. Courtney Wright is the Pastor of Apostolic Ministries at Word of Faith Family Worship Cathedral, where Bishop Dale C. Bronner is the founding Pastor. She is also the Chief Operating Officer for Christian Alliance of Pastors, Inc., a church planting, and pastoral support organization, as well as, the Dean of the Dale C. Bronner Institute of Ministry and Leadership Development.

She is an ordained Minister of the Gospel who speaks healing into the lives of people, through the Word of God. Courtney was called into ministry at the age of 16. Her life's journey and experiences give her the unique ability to relate to hurting people.

Courtney spent almost 30 years in corporate America, 26 of those years working for a Fortune 100 Corporation. She has held numerous executive level positions, including that of President and Vice President. Courtney is married to husband Curtis, who is the owner of the Wright Financial Group, LLC, a financial services firm. Courtney is the proud mother of adult children Nadia and Brandon.

ADDITIONAL MENTORS



Southern California Cohort

Brad Wong is the Lead Pastor of The River Church Community in San Jose, California, where he has served for 19 years. He delights in friendship, authentic conversation, teamwork, theological exploration, and cross-cultural adventures. He has an MA in Global Leadership from Fuller Theological Seminary and his DMin project is on the topic of discernment. In recent years, he has enjoyed the privilege of serving as a spiritual director for Christian leaders in a variety of contexts that include university student ministry, global justice advocacy, and dialogue about human sexuality.



Atlanta Cohort

Carol Francis is an ordained minister and servant leader at Word of Faith Family Worship Cathedral, Atlanta, Georgia. She has worked for more than fifteen years as a trainer and consultant serving primarily in the areas of Christian education and leadership development. She is a member of the leadership team of the Dale C. Bronner Institute of Ministry and Leadership Development in Atlanta, Georgia, where she facilitates courses designed to equip church leaders with new strategies for building and strengthening ministry leadership teams. Rev. Francis serves as Associate Faculty for the Antioch School of Church Planting and Leadership Development, Ames Iowa, and as a Senior Consultant for the Christian Alliance of Pastors (CAP Inc.), Atlanta, Georgia.

She holds a B. A. degree from the University of North Carolina in Greensboro, and a Master of Divinity degree from Emory University Candler School of Theology. She is currently completing her doctoral degree at Duke University School of Divinity. Carol and her husband John live in Cleveland, Ohio, where they find great joy in hiking, walking the lakeshore and chasing after their rambunctious cat, Geoffrey.

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PROGRAM FEATURES

- Assessment
- Retreats
- Relationship with Experienced Clergy and Peers
- On-Line Tools for Spiritual Formation Activities
- On-Going Learning

Admission Information

Our first two cohort groups will begin in Georgia, 2021-22 and California, 2022-23. The application deadline for Georgia is **June 1, 2021** and for California, **June 1, 2022**.

GEORGIA

Session One: September 13-16, 2021, Atlanta

Session Two: March 7-10, 2022, Atlanta

CALIFORNIA

Session One: October 10-13, 2022, Menlo Park

Session Two: March 6-9, 2023, Malibu

Future locations will be announced.



Want to talk with someone about the program?

Call or email Pam Stewart at pamstewart1000@gmail.com or call: 919.412.3479

