Church Application | Thriving Communities 2024–25

Thank you for your interest in Thriving Communities. This form should be completed by the person at your church who is best positioned to recruit a Thriving Communities team and serve as the primary contact with Westmont College before and during the cohort year. Please complete and return by email to thriving@westmont.edu.

2024–25 Retreat Dates
(all held at Westmont College):
September 14, 2024
January 18, 2025
April 26, 2025

I. Church Information

Church Name

Church Street Address

City | State | Zip Code

Office Phone | Office Email

Denomination / Tradition

II. Primary Contact Information

Please name your church's main contact for the Thriving Communities program. In most cases, this will be a member of the pastoral staff and the person completing this form.

First Name | Last Name

Preferred Email | Preferred Phone Number | Cell/Home/Office?

Role at church

III. Church Profile

Answers to these questions help us get to know your church and assemble a diverse and productive learning community. Please answer thoughtfully from your own perspective, and try to limit answers to no more than two paragraphs per question. You may attach a separate document, if necessary.

Why does your church want to participate in Thriving Congregations? What do you hope to explore, discover, or gain?

What are one or two aspects of your church's work that are succeeding, and could be resources for continued thriving and renewal?

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What are one or two challenges that your church currently faces? If possible, try to identify both an immediate and a longer-term challenge.

How would you characterize your church's relationship with your local community or neighborhood? In what ways is your church engaged with, knowledgeble about, or otherwise related to the place where God has planted you?

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IV. Team Recruitment

We ask participating churches to recruit a Thriving Communities team of six people who will attend plenary retreats, plan local events, and help your congregation distill and process what you're learning. Obviously, no such group can represent every perspective or priority in a church, but we encourage applicants to be especially thoughtful about the people on their team, the viewpoints and interests they represent, and their potential for leadership during and after the cohort year. You need not have identified team members at this point, but it's helpful for us to know how you'll go about doing so. You may attach a separate document, if necessary.

Please tell us briefly:

How will you include pastoral leadership? At least one member of the team should be part of your church's pastoral staff.

How will you include lay leadership? At least one member of the team should be part of your church's governing body (session, board, etc.).

How will you recruit for diversity of perspective? If possible, team members should represent diversity across factors including but not limited to age, ethnicity, gender, profession, and time with your congregation.

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How will you recruit for diversity of leadership experience? If possible, teams should include people who have faithfully served your congregation for decades, people who have more recently taken up leadership roles, and people who show potential for future leadership.

How will you recruit people who are open to sharing and listening? All team members should come to Thriving Communities ready to share honestly from their own perspective and to honor the perspectives of others—within their own team and across denominational, theological, political, cultural, and other divisional lines.

Thank you again. Please return your completed form by email to thriving@westmont.edu.