



Heartland GMC Leadership Collab Syllabus

JESUS-CENTERED MINISTRY

Monthly Online: Second Monday of each month, dates listed below

COHORT SYNOPSIS

Every pastor and leader sometimes feel like they are keeping a machine running rather than feeling like a leader in the upper room with Jesus. This cohort explores through coaching, discussion, and shared learning on how to keep Jesus at the center of ministry. Participants will explore challenges and establish goals to gain or regain confidence as spiritual leaders called and sent by Jesus.

GROUP FORMAT

- The group will meet nine times at 6 PM: September 8, October 13, November 10, December 8, January 12, February 9, March 9, April 13, and May 11
- The group will meet via ZOOM. Sessions will last approximately 1.5 hours.
- Each participant will bring a challenge or goal, one per session.
- The coach will engage in a laser-focused coaching session with one participant for 30 minutes, with the rest of the group observing for discussion after the session.
- Each laser coaching session ends with homework for the participant.
- After the coaching session, the rest of the participants are invited to recap what they learned from the session and commit to homework for themselves for collaborative learning.
- A homework update from every participant will be shared at the beginning of the next session.
- The session will conclude with a discussion on the assigned reading related to the cohort theme.



REQUIRED READING FOR DISCUSSION

*Participants are required to purchase or borrow the books for the group.

Jesus Driven Ministry by Ajith Fernando

Ministry In the Image of God by Stephen Seamands

*Be sure to read the assigned reading BEFORE the session.

- Session One: Jesus-Driven Ministry – Chapters 1-3
- Session Two: Jesus-Driven Ministry – Chapters 4-6
- Session Three: Jesus-Driven Ministry – Chapters 7-9
- Session Four: Jesus-Driven Ministry – Chapters 10-12
- Session Five: Jesus-Driven Ministry – Chapters 13-14
- Session Six: Ministry In the Image of God – Chapters 1-2
- Session Seven: Ministry In the Image of God – Chapters 3-4
- Session Eight: Ministry In the Image of God – Chapters 5-6
- Session Nine: Ministry In the Image of God – Chapters 7-8

COACHING VERSUS MENTORING, CONSULTING, AND COUNSELING

You may be wondering: What is coaching? As described by Chris Holmes in *The Art of Coaching Clergy*, coaching is:

- less **top-down** and more **come alongside**.
- **listens more** and **tells (advises) less**.
- asks **great questions** rather than giving **okay answers**.
- **honors resourcefulness** while daring to **expect accountability**.
- recognizes **church leaders** as the **experts** in their settings.
- **co-creates** a vision for the future.
- mines a **leader's experience** and **knowledge** in creating **action plans**.

Coaching relies on powerful and strategic questions rather than giving answers or pushing cookie-cutter solutions. Where mentoring tells a person what to do, the job of a coach is to



help you grow, take the next steps in your calling, or discover the answers that God may have already given you. Compared to consulting, a consultant is a specialist who takes responsibility for disseminating knowledge or guiding a specific project. A coach focuses on your unique journey of discovery, goal setting and achieving, and processing a challenge; and you are responsible for your own results. The goal is to help you be faithful to your call and walk with you as you take the next step in being a faithful leader.

*If the coach feels like he/she can offer an insight or recommendation, he/she will ask permission at the end of your session to share.

*If you feel that you need assistance during your session and need a suggestion, you may ask the coach. He/she may share in the moment or wait until after the session.

CHOOSING YOUR TOPIC TO BE COACHED ON

Everyone will have a turn to bring a topic when it is their turn to be coached – one person and their topic per session. When it is your turn to be coached, bring a topic, goal, or challenge that you are currently wrestling with in trying to be a Jesus-centered pastor and/or leader. This is a collaborative group where you can receive encouragement, share ideas, and learn new insights in keeping Jesus at the center of your life and ministry.

FACILITATOR INFORMATION

Rev. Dr. Joshua S. Johnson

Email: jjohnson@heartlandgmc.org

Rev. Dr. Joshua S. Johnson has been a pastor for thirteen years and currently serves Flint Hills GMC, a church plant in Wamego, KS. He serves in the Heartland Annual Conference as the presiding elder for the North Central District, conference coordinator for disaster response, and as a member and coach for the church planting team. He has previously served as a chaplain for two sheriff's departments in Kansas.

Josh graduated with his M. Div. from Nazarene Theological Seminary. He earned his D. Min. from Asbury Theological Seminary. He has a coaching certificate from the CAPP Institute and is a trained conflict mediator through the Lombard Mennonite Peace Center.

His mission is to help churches and clergy find confidence to discover and grow in their God-given purpose. Josh has a passion to help leaders and churches maneuver transitional challenges, grow through change, and help take steps to fulfill their calling.