



NEXT FRONTIERS

COURSE OFFERED 2022-23 & 2023-24

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.

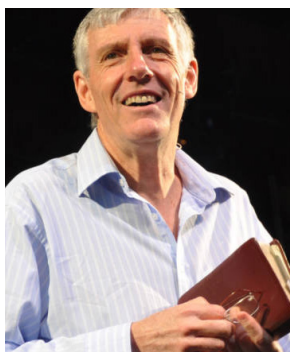
- **Assessment:** Next Frontiers will provide opportunities for assessment to assist ministers in discerning their unique skill sets and "expert specialties," and provide coaching for how to carry the necessary generalist responsibilities of the pastorate in a way that is informed by individual personality 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 been part of the Methodist movement in Southern Africa for almost fifty years. Since stepping away from active pastoral ministry within the local congregation, he now gives his time to lecturing, writing, retreat-giving, and offering spiritual companionship. He lectures at Fuller Seminary in Pasadena, in their Doctor of Ministry (Spiritual Direction) program and continues to find great joy in working closely with the Renovaré Institute for Christian Spiritual Formation, the Dallas Willard Center and Martin Center for Christian Spiritual Formation, the Next Frontier program for pastors, the Institute for Creative Conversation and the Jesuit Institute in South Africa. Author of over twenty books, his most recent, *SEEKING GOD: Finding Another Kind of Life with St Ignatius* and Dallas Willard will be published by NavPress in 2022.

Trevor is married to Debbie, and they are the parents of two adult children, Joni and Mark and the grandparents of their twin granddaughters, Scarlett, and Isabella. For fun, he loves to run, watch soccer, and watch Netflix with Debbie!

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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.



Gary W. Moon, M.Div. Ph.D. 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 their resource development initiatives through serving as the director of *Conversatio Divina: A Center for Spiritual Formation*.

He also serves as a consultant and spiritual director for the Wings Center at Eagle Ranch, and as Distinguished Professor of Psychology and Spiritual Formation at Richmond Graduate University. He served as the founding director of the Renovaré International Institute for Christian Spiritual Formation and as a founding Editor of the *Conversations Journal*, and as the founding director of a DMIN program in spiritual direction at Fuller Theological Seminary.

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 and is a columnist for *Christian Counseling Today*. He recently completed a biography of Dallas Willard, which Moon won the Christian Book Award® in BIOGRAPHY & MEMOIR. Some of his other books include: *Eternal Living: Reflections on Dallas Willard's Teaching on Faith & Formation* (IVP, 2015) and *Apprenticeship with Jesus* (Baker Books, 2009). *Falling for God* (Shaw/Random House, 2004), *Spiritual Direction and the Care of Souls* (IVP, 2004). *Homesick for Eden* (Servant, 1997) and a four-volume family devotion series, *The Bible Ride* (Servant and LifeSprings).



Regina Moon currently lives in Royston, 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.

ADDITIONAL MENTORS



Andrew Ranucci has led and served the local church for thirty years. In February 2018, Andrew transitioned from the role of Senior Pastor of Coast Community Church (Central Coast of NSW), which he pioneered since 1992. Andrew now serves Christian leaders and churches through teaching, consulting, coaching, spiritual direction and retreat leading.

Andrew lives and breathes to see Churches being led by healthy pastors who are stewarding their soul well and serving from a deep sense of call on their life. To this end, Andrew invests himself into the lives of Pastors and Leaders for their spiritual formation and soul care.

Andrew has a Bachelor of Theology and an M.A (Christian Leadership) through Australian College of Ministries and a Doctor of Ministry degree from Fuller Theological Seminary.

Andrew and Kerrell now live on the northern beaches of Sydney, and attend C3 Church—Avalon, where Andrew is on the preaching team. They are blessed with three daughters (17,21,24) and a dog called Murphy. Andrew has a love of the water and can be found most weekends paddling his sea kayak. More recently, Andrew has also taken up road cycling and has joined the lycra clad MAMIL club.



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.

Her graduate work includes degrees from Emory University Candler School of Theology; Master of Divinity, and Duke University School of Divinity; Doctor of Ministry.

Carol and her husband John live in the suburbs of Honolulu, Hawaii, where they cultivate joy by launching each day with a moment of centering silence, hitting the beach as often as possible, and chasing after their rambunctious cat, Geoffrey.



James Henderson is a spiritual director and co-founder of Ashrei Center for Spiritual Formation in Mexico City. He has lived in Mexico City for 20 years with his family, where they deeply enjoy cross-cultural life and relationships among their wonderful Mexican friends. James has a MA in Global Leadership and a Doctor of Ministry in Spiritual Direction from Fuller Theological Seminary. He is an alumnus of the Renovaré International Institute for Christian Spiritual Formation.

James and his wife, Erin, have two children—Kate (a college sophomore) and Caleb (a high school senior). James loves learning and listening, running, rest days and travel with family, eating delicious Mexican food, and watching his son play baseball.



Art Matheny is a pastor, spiritual director, supervisor, mentor, and retreat leader. He is the lead pastor at Tru Community Church and has had the gift of pastoring in the local church for the last 27 years, within a variety of denominational, geographical, and ministry settings throughout the United States and Canada. He is the founder of Akouō life ministries, an accompanying ministry devoted to cultivating an integrated listening posture with God. Art serves as an adjunct professor at Manhattan Christian College where he teaches in the area of Pastoral Formation and Applied Theology.

Art's studies include a Bachelor of Biblical Studies (Ozark Christian College: Joplin MO), Master of Divinity—Spiritual Theology (Regent College: Vancouver, Canada), and a Doctorate of Ministry - Spiritual Direction (Fuller Theological Seminary: Pasadena, CA). Art has been married to Jennifer Matheny for 26 years, and they have two adult children; Emma and Sam. In his free time, Art enjoys watching, participating, and coaching sports.



Brad Wong Brad Wong is the Lead Pastor of The River Church Community in San Jose, California, where he has served for 21 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.

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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 second and third cohort groups will be in California 2022-23 and 2023-24.

The application deadline for the **class of 2023 is June 1, 2022** and for the **class of 2024 is June 1, 2023**.

CALIFORNIA CLASS OF 2023

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

Session Two: March 6-9, 2023, Malibu

CALIFORNIA CLASS OF 2024

Session One: September 11-14, 2023, Menlo Park

Session Two: March 11-14, 2024, 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

