

# The Church Lab

## *Pastors' Cohorts*

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# Objective & Description

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The Church Lab pastors' cohorts are meant to create a safe space for fostering growth, discernment and action as faith leaders, as we faithfully seek next steps for our churches in the rapidly evolving 21st century landscape.

The cohort consists of pastors from varying ministry expressions, denominations and locations who may find themselves or their ministries at a pivotal moment. It can be hard to find support to keep ministry sustainable. We seek to make it not only sustainable but joyful by way of nurturing connection with one another.



# FAQ's:

**01**     **How many pastors per cohort?**  
8-12 pastors at a time.

**02**     **What is the duration?**  
3 years.

**03**     **What does it entail?**

- 9-10 four-hour meetings per year.
- individualized pastoral care
- 1 overnight retreat per year

**04**     **What is the cost?**  
The answer to this question is variable for each cohort based on a number of elements, but the maximum cost is \$3,000 per person per year - which includes everything (food, lodging, etc.).

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**How do I qualify?**

See the last page of this packet for details

06

**When can I join?**

We replace cohorts every 2-3 years. Please reach out to let us know you're interested, and get on the waiting list!



# Testimonies

*“This has been a time that I have been able to plug in creatively, to brainstorm with other creative people and to come up with ideas that I would have never thought of on my own. **The Church Lab has had a tremendous impact on me as a leader and as an individual.** The name ‘The Church Lab’ is the perfect name for such an organization because it really is a lab where you can tinker and experiment. – Rev. Amy “Amos” Meyer, First Presbyterian Church of Elgin, Texas*



*“[Carrie] pushed us beyond our prior understanding of what church could be. Every member of that cohort had their vocational imaginations drastically expanded. Following this experience, I asked Carrie to spend six months in consultative relationship with the rest of my leadership team at University Presbyterian Church, a historic and traditional congregation finding itself in a particularly rapidly changing neighborhood of the University of Texas. In this capacity, she spent week after week hearing our concerns about the future of our church, shouldering our anxieties, and redirecting our fears with such powerful outcomes. **As I write, our congregation is in a stage of reimagination that would have been quite impossible prior to Carrie’s involvement, and I do not think it an overstatement to predict that the relationship of our historic congregation to its neighborhood, and thus to the worship life of the University itself, will forever be impacted by her leadership.**” – Rev. Matt Gaventa, senior pastor of University Presbyterian Church of Austin, TX*



# NEXT STEPS



Please email Carrie at [carrie@thechurchlab.org](mailto:carrie@thechurchlab.org) with your answers to the questions on the following page.



[carrie@thechurchlab.org](mailto:carrie@thechurchlab.org)  
[www.thechurchlab.org](http://www.thechurchlab.org)  
[@thechurchlab](https://www.instagram.com/thechurchlab)

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*Help us get to know you!*

- Name
- Leadership role and associated church/non-profit/organizational ministry/aspirational ministry
- Relevant experience and education in terms of cohort's objectives
- Location of primary residence
- 1-3 paragraphs (or 1 page) describing:
  - *Why do you want to be part of this experience?*
  - *What do you need from this experience?*
  - *What do you believe you bring to the table for a cohort like this?*
  - *What would you hope to leave with when the cohort's term is over?*
  - *How would you hope to benefit your church family by being a part of this cohort?*
  - *How would you hope to benefit your wider community by being a part of this cohort?*
  - *Is there anything else we should know about you as we consider applicants?*