



## Overview

Reflective thought and deep theological inquiry are important for family ministry practitioners who don't want to perpetuate the way things have been done in the past. However, thinking and reflection are only a part of what will help family ministry practitioners faithfully live out their calling. Emotional, relational, and spiritual health are essential to long-term impact. The Family Ministry Cohort is custom made to provide both an opportunity for communal reflection and discussion of family ministry issues, but also to provide a safe place to experience growth that involves the whole person. This unique opportunity seeks to develop both Christ-like character and Christ-like competency.

In many ways this cohort will go beyond the type of training that can be offered by seminars, conferences, or conventions. It can even dive deeper than some formal educational experiences all because of the intentional, holistic structure. The cohort includes a small group of committed practitioners joined with accountability, safe space, and active participation in the shaping of content. The central role of dialogue, application, personalized development plans, and top-quality one-on-one coaching make this an opportunity for significant life change!

## Expected Outcomes

After completing Family Ministry Cohort, participants will have had the following experiences and opportunities:

Participants will grow in understanding their strengths and weaknesses, how these impact their leadership, ministry, and personal life, and how to lead in their strengths and manage their weaknesses in healthy ways.

They will experience new spiritual growth and insight as they safely process their own journey and the integration of their personal lives with their professional lives.

Cohort members will receive training on a wide variety of ministry issues, with an opportunity for dialogue and contextual application.

Cohort members will work toward a more integrated Evangelical Anabaptist philosophy of ministry.

Cohorts are customizable based on participants' input and unique needs.



Participants will develop life-long ministry peer relationships of trust and accountability.

They will read books in preparation for every gathering, discuss them, and determine action steps for their lives and ministries.

Each member will have opportunities to share ministry questions and needs to the group in areas of their own choosing, with feedback and recommendations from the group.

They will work through a series of self-selected homework assignments, with input from the group, and report back on their progress.

Each member will complete a personalized list of Vocational Values that will aid them and their ministry in living into their unique calling.

Participants will have one personal coaching session per month with their cohort coach (some in person and some via phone).

Some cohorts may provide spiritual direction sessions with a trained spiritual director.

Each participant will receive a Certificate of Completion upon finishing the program. Program graduates will join the growing community of intentionally developed family ministry practitioners and will have access to ongoing relationships, training, and opportunities.

## **Application Process and Costs**

You can review and complete the cohort application [HERE](#)

Tentative cost per individual:

- Food and Lodging \$1000
- Materials and Resources \$300
- Assessments/Inventories \$100
- Administrative \$600
- TOTAL to not exceed \$2000 per individual

## **Structure of the Cohorts**



Accepted participants will have an opportunity to speak into the actual meeting dates, but once set, the dates will not be flexible.

Each face-to-face meeting will be two days. DAY 1: begins at 8am and continues through dinner. DAY 2: begins at 8am and ends by 3:30pm.

In addition to the group meetings, participants will be provided a private social networking site for updates, prayer, questions, and dialogue. This will also be a place for active participation in helping each other with practical issues in family ministry, and your coach will be involved regularly in giving input and feedback.

Each participant will be scheduled for a 30-minute coaching session with their coach at each of the group meetings, and will schedule a phone coaching session in between the group meetings.

A sample of a standard two-day on-site meeting would look like this:

### **Day 1**

8:00 – 9:15 am Highs & Lows, Report on Homework

9:30 – 11:00 am Teaching and interaction on a ministry subject

11:15 am – 12:00 pm Personal Sharing

12:00 – 2:30 pm Lunch break (on your own)

Personal coaching sessions with coach Spiritual direction appointments

2:30 – 3:15 pm Focused Input: cohort participant

3:30 – 4:15 pm Focused Input: cohort participant

4:25 – 5:00 pm Quick Input Blocks

5:30 – 6:00 pm Break

6:00 – 7:30 pm Dinner Together

### **Day 2**

8:00 – 9:00 am Reflection and Prayer



9:15 – 11:00 am Teaching and interaction on a leadership subject

11:30 am – 12:00 pm Book Discussion

12:00 – 2:30 pm Lunch break (on your own) Personal coaching sessions with coach  
Spiritual direction appointments

2:30 – 3:15 pm Focused Input: cohort participant

3:30 – 3:45 pm Homework Assignments

On the months when the cohort meets virtually via Zoom mtg., meetings would begin at 9 AM and conclude at 1 PM. The meeting content will be largely focused on hearing updates from participants, focused input sessions, and goal setting for the next meeting.

The cohort would begin in September and conclude in May, with cohort leaders following up with participants once or twice over June-August.