



C O U R A G E O U S
C O N G R E G A T I O N S
C O L L A B O R A T I V E

WHAT IS C3?

TMF's Leadership Ministry team has had countless conversations with pastors, bishops, conference leaders, spiritual entrepreneurs and practitioners from various fields about the adaptive challenges the church is facing in the pandemic and the anticipated challenges in the post-pandemic world.

Through these conversations, the team identified **"Five Muscles" congregations** need to strengthen and flex in order to thrive now and in the foreseeable future. TMF was awarded a grant from the Lilly Endowment to continue to develop this work and share it with teams from congregations through a six-month cohort experience called "Courageous Congregations Collaborative" or "C3."



THE C3 EXPERIENCE

Two cohorts, each consisting of teams from three congregations, will meet virtually twice a month from September - November 2022 and January - March 2023. During this time, facilitators will engage teams in conversation and experiences related to each of the five adaptive muscles congregations need to strengthen in order to be fit, agile, and ready for God's now. By the end of C3, teams will have clarity about the next faithful steps God is calling them to take in and with their congregations to exercise the five muscles now and in the future. Teams can apply for a micro-grant to help fund their next faithful steps. Facilitators will meet in person with teams in Spring 2023 to offer continued support.

C3 OFFERS CONGREGATIONAL LEADERS AN OPPORTUNITY TO

Deal with the myth of 'getting back to normal'

Think more comprehensively about the church's ministry

Engage in a process that is spiritually centered, not just management centered

Wrestle with what it means to focus the congregation's ministry and be clear about outcomes

Gain clarity about what is their faithful next step as leaders

Engage as a disciple in a conversation, not a church member in a committee meeting

C3 OFFERS PASTORS AN OPPORTUNITY TO

Participate in an intensive experience of leadership development without having to be in charge

Do something alongside congregational leaders rather than for them

Experience a process that is not driven by the need to make decisions

Feel and understand the difference between discernment and planning

Receive supportive, non-judgmental encouragement

Discover with others God's call for the congregation in this next season

THE 5 ADAPTIVE MUSCLES

The primary component of C3 is the Five Muscles. Each muscle is listed below with some of the key discernment questions we will explore together.

GRIEVING WELL

What is our shared narrative of Grief?

Why are we so reluctant to name why we miss what we miss?

How is grief impacting us and our decision-making today?

DISCERNING PURPOSE

Are we living out of our self-appointed preferences, or God's purpose for us?

What is the difference God is calling us to make now?

WALKING ALONGSIDE

What is needed to move from "We welcome you" to "We stand with you" to "We need you"?

Who are our neighbors now?

What are the gifts of our neighborhood?

DISTRIBUTING POWER

Where is the power in your congregation? In your community?

How is the power dynamic impacting decision-making?

What happens if someone in your church says, "I have a dream for a ministry?"

EXPANDING IMAGINATION

Who can teach us what we don't know?

Who can open up a new part of the world to us?

What does this disruption make possible?

HOW CONGREGATIONS WILL BE CHOSEN

Congregations and clergy who describe 1) a high level of trust between clergy and laity, 2) are grounded in purpose but not stuck in the past, 3) have the capacity for deep conversations and deep change, and 4) are ready to expand their imagination and discern God's dreams for this next season, will be priority for C3. However, excellent applicants may not be chosen for this cohort because of limited space. We are intentional about the congregations we group together for a cohort, doing our best to ensure the other teams you are working with can relate to your congregation's context. If your congregation is not chosen for this cohort, you may be invited to participate in a future cohort.

TIME COMMITMENT AND COST

Two 90-minute virtual sessions each month from September – November 2022 & January – March 2023.

One 90-minute meeting with facilitator in Fall 2023.

Registration fee of \$500 per congregation to participate in the cohort. Scholarships are available.

NEXT STEPS

Discern with key leaders. Is this a next step God is calling us to take?

Complete the application here by **June 1, 2022**.

Contact Rev. Blair Thompson-White, Director of Leadership Ministry, at bthompson-white@tmf-fdn.org or (972) 900-9063 with questions.

