

CECLSM

What is CECLSM? CECLSM is the Center for Excellence in Congregational Leadership -- a two year voyage, powered by the winds of the Holy Spirit, to help pastors increase joy in ministry and help churches reach communities for Christ through health and outward focus.



Class 6 begins in May 2009 and ends in May 2011.

To apply, contact Pat Zimmer: PatZimmer@glcc.org or (920) 294-7365

CECLSM Class 6 Syllabus

The CECLSM journey consists of five sessions held over a two year period.

SESSION 1: May 18-22, 2009

The first session focuses on prayer and personal and pastoral integrity: the foundations to sustaining pastoral excellence. This session for Class 6 will be led by Pastor Bill Lenz (www.christtherock.org) and Pastor Dee Duke (www.jeffersonbaptistchurch.org).



Pastor Bill Lenz

The peer teams, led by a coach, are formed during session one to provide the mentoring, coaching, accountability and encouragement to enable goals to be realized.

Between the sessions, the peer teams stay connected through phone, conference calls, e-mail, and through one-on-one calls with their coach.

SESSION 2: September 8-13, 2009

In the second session the pastors come to focus on visioning, strategic planning and leading change, led by Dr. Thomas Bandy (www.easumbandy.com).



Dr. Thomas Bandy



Dr. Tim Gardner

Spouses come in for the weekend and the emphasis turns to healthy marriage and spiritual life, led by Dr. Tim Gardner, a marriage and family therapist (www.marriageministries.net). A highlight is a date night, with a banquet and entertainment!

Free time is a key component of every session, allowing time for physical and spiritual rejuvenation through free golf on our 4½ star rated courses, boat rides, walking, or praying by the lakeshore.

SESSION 3: spring 2010



Dr. Paul Borden



Dr. Tim Brown

The third session focuses on creating and strategically implementing the vision to build outward-focused church health. Dr. Paul Borden (www.growinghealthychurches.org) and Dr. Tim Brown (www.fbcclovis.com) lead the first part of the week with the pastors, and then Dr. Dan Southerland (www.westsidfamilychurch.com) teaches "Transitioning" with the pastors and a group of their lay leaders who have come for the weekend.



Dr. Dan Southerland

SESSION 4: fall 2010

Session four begins by focusing on leadership: equipping pastors to discover and effectively use their leadership style. The lay leaders come back for the weekend to join the pastors and the focus turns to "Winning on Purpose: How to Organize Congregations to Succeed in Their Mission", led by Dr. John Kaiser (www.fellowship.ca/president.asp).



Dr. John Kaiser

SESSION 5: spring 2011



Dr. Lori Carrell

CECLSM concludes with session five and the focus is on finding your unique excellence in preaching, led by Dr. Lori Carrell (www.uwosh.edu/faculty_staff/carrell) and Dr. Paul Borden. This session also includes the final program evaluation and graduation celebration.

Two books (required reading for each session) are included as a part of the program!

Who is CECLSM designed for?

- Pastors with a desire for excellence – a hunger to realize God’s dreams for them, their family and their church.
- Churches with a hunger to realize the Great Commandment and Great Commission in powerful ways.
- CECLSM is multi-denominational, with American Baptist, Baptist General Conference, Southern Baptist, Evangelical Free, Conservative Baptists, Lutheran, Methodist, Vineyard, Brethren and independent pastors already participating.



Pastor Steve Wilkinson (top right) and the Mounds Baptist Church lay leader team at CECLSM.

What is the cost for CECLSM Class 6?

\$600 for the pastor to attend all five sessions and for the pastor’s spouse to attend part of session two.

Add \$100 per lay leader per session to attend part of session three and session four. Churches typically bring 3-4 lay leaders for each session.

The cost includes all program fees covering speakers and coaches for each peer team, double occupancy hotel lodging, meals and breaks for the pastor, their spouse and lay leaders during applicable weeks, and some free rounds of golf at our 4 ½ star golf course! The full cost is \$9,000 and the gap is covered by a grant from Lilly Endowment.



“I know that CECLSM has been a wonderful blessing to our ministry. I believe that this has saved our church from going down to a sad end. There is new life. We are seeing people come to the Lord. We have now had 11 baptisms in the last three months.”

“CECLSM is high on excellence. But I think CECLSM is even more about wholeness as a leader - wholeness of body, mind, spirit. As a young pastor said to me, “What my people most need is for their pastor to be well in soul.” Exactly! There are many fine programs on leadership strategies. But if you or your pastor are seeking wholeness, then you owe it to take a good look at CECLSM.”

Leighton Ford
President, Leighton Ford Ministries



Ken Giacometto and Leighton Ford

Research reveals how God is using CECLSM to deeply impact pastors' lives and church health

by Ben Mott, CECLSM Co-Director

Professional evaluator, Dr. Tom Watkins, discovered powerful ways CECLSM is impacting graduates from the first three classes of the program.

Pastors are rediscovering joy in ministry and report their potential for burnout has been greatly reduced. Sixty-five percent of CECLSM pastors expressed moderate to high risk of burnout prior to CECLSM, while only 30% expressed this level of risk after CECLSM.

Participation in peer team learning communities provides the support necessary to dispel isolation and discouragement in ministry, with deep friendships forming which will last for

decades. Prayer, personal coaching and teaching on topics like the Sabbath are critical in helping pastors develop healthy habits and patterns. Green Lake's beautiful setting and free golf at Lawsonia also rejuvenates pastors.

Powerful lay leadership teams emerge from their two training retreats at Green Lake during CECLSM, ready to support the pastor and help discern the vision and lead change.

When CECLSM pastors rate the statement "the congregational team is doing their part to cooperate with me to bring about change," average scores go from 4.7 before CECLSM to 7.4 at the end (on a scale of 0-10) – an

improvement of 57%! For Dennis Zirkle, pastor of Meadowbrook Baptist Church in Anderson, IN, one of the most important things from CECLSM is "a church leadership team that is 100% for Godly growth in our church, 'whatever it takes.' This team came together at CECLSM and they are a great blessing to me."

The Natural Church development attributes "need oriented evangelism," "holistic small groups," "goal oriented ministry" and "functional structures" all increased significantly for CECLSM churches from before to the end of CECLSM.

This shows the deep impact which CECLSM is

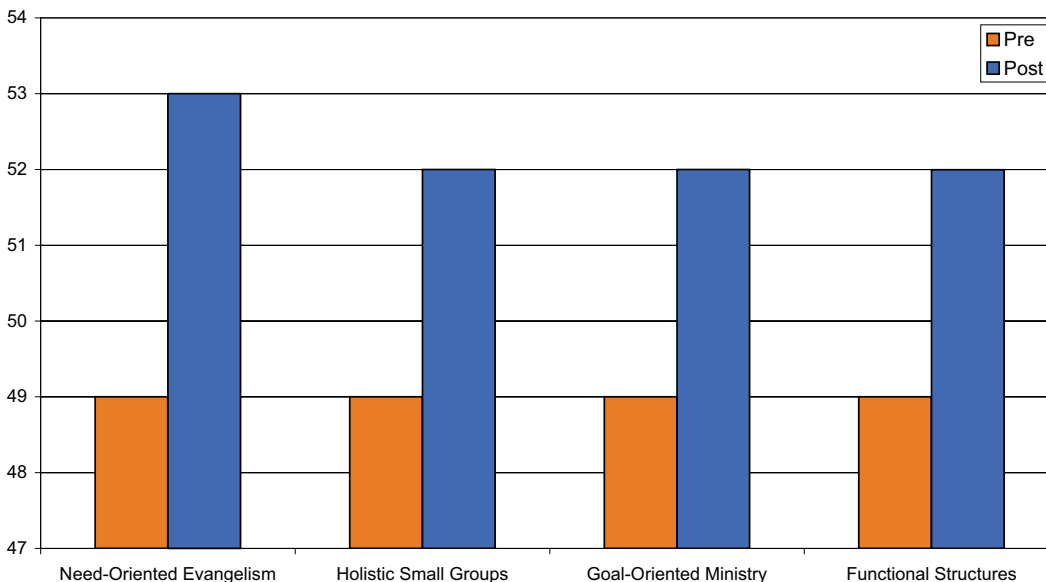
having on church health. For example: William Barton, pastor of North Bridge Baptist Church, Normal, IL said, "We are now ministering to the Hindu community through tutoring Indian students in English and other outreach. The church is inviting the community to church."

CECLSM churches received a 7.9% average annual increase in offerings during CECLSM and most churches experienced an increase in attendance as well.

Adjusting for inflation, which averaged 3.2% over this period, we can use a conservative inflation adjusted average annual increase level of 4.7% in offerings during the program for the 107 churches in CECLSM classes 1-3 with complete data. This amounted to a \$2.4 million increase above inflation in offerings just during the two years in which the churches were in the program. This is \$900,000 (or 60%) more than the \$1.5 million in Lilly Endowment funds allocated to the 150 churches in the first three classes – what a kingdom investment! This reflects deep changes as people move closer to being fully devoted followers of Jesus Christ in these churches.

Natural Church Development CECLSM Class 1-3 Pre-Post Results

Increases for these four attributes are statistically significant at the 95% confidence level



From Frustrated to Fired Up!

Two years ago Tom Jackson came to Green Lake for a personal retreat at a crossroads in his ministry, wondering what God had in store for him next. He was feeling worn out, but remained passionate about being used by God in ministry.

"Great leaders are always 10 in purpose and passion."

--Glenn Wagner at CECLSM

A few months later, he was called to Tuxedo Park Baptist Church in a high crime, run down area on the East Side of downtown Indianapolis. The church was struggling and running between 45 and 50 in attendance in a large, grand old red brick building. Shortly after he became pastor he told the church about Green Lake's Center for Excellence in Congregational Leadership (CECLSM) program. Through his passionate participation in CECLSM, God has fulfilled Ephesians 3:20 in Tom and his wife Janet's lives, and in Tuxedo Park Baptist Church.

"I was changed by Transitioning," said Tom. The pivotal tool in CECLSM was bringing his lay leaders to hear Dan Southerland teach through Transitioning, and then having 35 people read his book, *Transitioning*.

This was followed by a retreat at the church called their family gathering. It began with supper and fellowship on a Friday evening. On Saturday they spent 12 hours discussing the issues which *Transitioning* raised about the church, and what they would do to overcome them and move closer to becoming the church God wants them to be. Tom said, "this enabled us to understand and name our opportunities, and turn our focus to how we can serve and

reach our community rather than only focusing on ourselves."

Tom continued, "Our leadership attitude has changed. It is no longer about us, but about what God is doing. We are so pumped up and excited, so excited about what God has done through CECLSM here. We feel like we can do anything. We have a vision. Our vision is to reach 1% of the population of the four zip codes in a four mile radius, following our traffic pattern. This is 1,287 new people. When I say, 'who are we going to reach?' the congregation responds: 1,287 people. They own the vision. We have tasted success and God moving. We are building on our strengths, not whining about our weaknesses."

The impact has been remarkable. The sanctuary had movie seats from 1923 which were uncomfortable and created a poor impression for visitors. They removed them and now have new padded chairs.

Next, they decorated the small basement classrooms with fresh themes. They visited a mega church to see how they had decorated their children's classrooms and realized they can do things like a big church.

Then they redesigned the large basement room, including an 8' Wii projection system, surround sound and great new decorations. "We had to have it completed by Thanksgiving because we invited our community to a free Thanksgiving meal," said Tom. "The room is also used by our growing youth group, and community AA and Tough Love (parenting training) groups. All of this has been paid for by special offerings, and the regular offering is up too as money follows God's vision for Tuxedo Park to have a transformative impact in our community."



Pastor Tom Jackson

Sunday morning worship attendance jumped from just under 50 to 110 on average each weekend. A growth ceiling has emerged because the parking lot is completely full. Tom is talking to local businesses to seek their permission to use their parking lots on Sunday mornings. They have also created a Web site to help potential visitors learn about the church.

The community is facing tough times with 500 crimes occurring each month. The church started some events to serve and impact their community. In summer 2008 they held a berries and cream party and hundreds of people came. They shut down the block, set up tents and round tables, and served people free strawberries, blueberries and ice cream. Tom said, "I wanted round tables so that people would sit and face each other and get to know each other in our community. We had music and clowns, and people were dancing in the streets. We had a bouncy castle for the kids. We invited the police who provided and brought "peace in the streets – stop the violence" signs.

The church's health care team came and gave free screenings and the Boy Scouts (who meet in their basement) came and invited boys from the

God brings revival to Tuxedo Park Baptist Church using Tom Jackson and the CECLSM program

By Ben Mott, CECLSM Co-Director



Berries & cream block party sponsored by Tuxedo Park Baptist Church

community to join them. Tom invited the Nazarene church across the street to join them in this event – another first. Mel, one of the deacons, went around with a conviction from God that he had to speak to each one of the hundreds of people who came, to say hello and invite them to church. He said to Tom, “I don’t know what came over me as I have never done anything like this before.” Tom said, “We are having a ball, we are having a grand time. We are doing everything we can to help

people grow in their faith. CECLSM is helping us stay focused – learning month by month. We have built a trust with each other and a dependency on the Holy Spirit. We can trust God to get us where we need to go. “

“Thank you so much for CECLSM – it is doing tremendous things for Jesus Christ. What has been accomplished in a small old church in a crime-ridden run down location cannot be rationally explained. It is not logical, but it is of God.”

--Tom Jackson

It is a powerful thing when you realize you are in the midst of something God is moving through. CECLSM began with some prayerfully developed convictions among a dream team six years ago. This centered on the belief that God can use all pastors who are passionate about chasing His dreams for their life and ministry, not just the 10-15% who are gifted leaders.

However, we were convinced that just hearing great content in a large auditorium was not enough to really help most pastors. Research has shown that only 10-15% of attendees at mega conferences make real changes as a result of these events. This conviction has drawn us to focus on classes of about 40-45 pastors who can hear from the best speakers in their fields, with an emphasis on current practitioners. This allows pastors to be able to ask questions and share meals with the speakers so that they can contextualize and internalize the teaching.

The critical underpinning of the whole program is peer teams led by a coach. In peer team time after hearing speakers, pastors can process the learning and help each other draw up action strategies and tactics to implement in their own lives, their marriages and families, and in their churches.

Accountability follows as, one month later, the coach will call to ask how implementing the objective set at

the CECLSM week is going, and to help the pastor see how to overcome impediments in the implementation. Bringing spouses in for one session and bringing lay leaders for two sessions also have an immense impact in terms of enabling personal, marital and church health strategies be successfully implemented and seen through to completion.

The results are profound as ordinary pastors with an extraordinary commitment to following Jesus are able to experience God moving through their lives and ministries, recapturing personal joy, rejuvenating the family and seeing new church health.



Class 4 pastors Tory Wilson, Santiago Valentin and Alice O'Neal