

Research reveals that CECLSM impacts pastors' lives and church health

by Ben Mott, CECLSM Co-Director

CECLSM professional evaluator, Dr. Tom Watkins, discovered powerful CECLSM impacts among graduates from the first two classes of the program.

Pastors are rediscovering joy in ministry and report their potential for burnout has been reduced by 37% from before to 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. Teaching, such as on the Sabbath by Pete Scazzero, and personal coaching are critical in helping pastors develop healthy habits and patterns. Green Lake's beautiful setting and free golf at Lawsonia also rejuvenates pastors.

For example, David Howie, pastor at Lakeland Community Church in Lake Geneva, WI says "I started CECLSM right after a church split (of the church plant he had started 7 years before). The timing was perfect as it helped me process, heal and grow through this experience. The church is now united, healthy and growing. We have raised the money to construct a building in a great location." David also says "CECLSM launched me on a journey to becoming a professional LifeCoach, in addition to being a Senior Pastor." This includes serving as a highly effective coach for CECLSM Class 3.

Jessy Padilla, pastor of Iglesia Evangelical Bautista Emanuel in Waukegan, IL says "Thank you for this great opportunity that has changed my life. It has helped

me to be a better husband, father and leader. I will be grateful for CECLSM for the rest of my life."

The second key finding is that 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 4.6 before CECLSM to 7.4 at the end (on a scale of 0-10) – an improvement of 38%! 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 third major finding is that 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."

Pastor Philip James of Mt. Zion Baptist Church in Indianapolis said: "Through CECLSM, we have opened a wellness services center, providing screening for cholesterol, diabetes, dental and preventive health care, and education. We have also launched a monthly hot meals ministry for those in need in our community."

Tim Erickson, pastor of Bethel Baptist Church in Janesville, WI learned how to work with his leadership team to bring about change. CECLSM opened him to new approaches to ministry. They broke the 400 attendance barrier (starting CECLSM with weekly worship attendance under 300). They are now planning to add a third service and to start a new church to reach the Asian population.

Natural Church Development CECL Class One and Two Pre-Post Results

Increases for these Four Attributes are Statistically Significant at the 95% Confidence Level

