

# *The Center for Pastoral Leadership*

Pillar Church is a church for the city that is committed to reconciling divisions, raising up leaders, renewing the church, and redeeming the city. Our long history at the center of Holland, MI, uniquely positions us to steward many gifts of God's kingdom for the sake of the gospel. Since our re-establishment in 2012, we have grown in our capacity to imagine our mission beyond our own walls and community. The roots of Hope College and Western Seminary lie in the original 1847 vision and energy of Pillar Church. And we believe God has called and positioned us to be a training ground for pastoral ministry beyond our borders. The vision of this Center for Pastoral Leadership is that Pillar will train and nurture pastoral leaders who are ready to lead the church in the pastoral model of Eugene Peterson and the missional perspective of Leslie Newbigen.

The mission of the center is to raise up leaders for the church by serving as a training ground in a proactive pastoral residency program that involves the following components:

1. The participants will be college graduates that have discerned a calling into ministry in the church and accept the conditions of our program.
2. The participants will be enrolled in an M.Div. program in a Distance Learning mode so that they will complete the degree in 5 years while serving full-time on staff at Pillar with a clear ministry assignment to fit their calling.
3. Pillar will provide:
  1. full-tuition to an approved seminary (Western Seminary is preferred), provide housing,
  2. a stipend or compensation to cover living expenses while the participant is completing the program.
4. 1 or 2 students will enter the program each year.
5. A Pillar led cohort that meets throughout the five years to study and engage the work of Eugene Peterson and Leslie Newbigen.

# *Application for the Center for Pastoral Faithfulness*

1. Discernment Process
  - a. Written application
  - b. Conversation with Lead Pastor and Executive Pastor
  - c. Conversations with 3 pairs from the Pillar community
  - d. Enneagram consultation/reflection (Dr. Chuck DeGroat)
  - e. Pillar team discernment gathering
  - f. Final decision made

2. Written application:

- a. Name: \_\_\_\_\_

- b. 3 references:

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Contact information: \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Contact information: \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

contact information: \_\_\_\_\_

3. In a few paragraphs, please share with us your story of faith?
4. In a few paragraphs, please share your call to pastoral ministry?
5. In a few paragraphs, please share your view of the church and what it is to be in the world?
6. In a few paragraphs, please share how you approach the divisiveness that exists in the world and church? What would you identify as three of the most significant divisive pressures on the church?
7. What questions do you have for us, that you would appreciate our written response?

*Covenant*

Pillar Church covenants with our pastoral residents for this five year journey. Since this is a new endeavor for us, we set out this covenant with the expectation that we may have to adjust some of the details along the way. We commit ourselves to the following:

- to walk alongside our residents in prayer, conversation and ministry so that formation for pastoral leadership happens in the communal energy and support of Pillar Church
- to provide enough funding to cover the costs of tuition at Western (in collaboration with Western's admissions department) and housing for the duration of the residency
- to sufficiently compensate the resident for their work of ministry on the staff of Pillar Church
- to mentor the resident in the pastoral vision of Eugene Peterson and the missional perspective of Leslie Newbigin
- to assign and oversee the resident in specific areas of pastoral ministry that fit the gifts of the resident and the needs of ministry at Pillar

The CPL resident commits him/herself to the following:

- to enroll in an M.Div. program in the distance learning track which allows the resident to work full-time in ministry at Pillar.
- to serve full-time on Pillar's staff, with specific ministry assignments determined in the application process and orientation period.
- to live out the values and commitments of Pillar Church and the expectations it has for serving on staff
- to participate in the CPL learning process and its requirements (i.e., reading and discussion groups, mentor meetings, etc.)

## *Yearly Schedule*

Application Deadline

March 31

Acceptance

April 30

Residency Begins

August 15

## *5-Year Rhythm*

Themes

Year One August- December

Year One January - May

Year One June - July

Year Two August- December

Year Two January - May

Year Two June - July

Year Three August- December

Year Three January - May

Year Three June - July

