

DLF Ministries and the Background Visions

The L.E.A.D. Conference (a conference and series of webinars that seeks to develop the leadership skills of local church board members, treasurers, Sunday School teachers, deacons, pastors, etc.) works to help pursue Christ's call to discipleship by developing the leadership skills of local church leaders. The "D" in L.E.A.D. stands for discipleship. As an attempt to seek God's racial justice, half of the planning team are People of Color, as are many of the presenters and preachers. Sessions are offered in Spanish and Haitian Creole, in addition to English and translation for all sessions are available.

The Health Care Education Scholarship (a scholarship available to CoB members accepted into medical degree programs) works at reclaiming New Testament models of giving by sharing the gifts people have given with students pursuing medical degrees. Embodying the Biblical command to love or neighbors is why many Christians feel a call to the healing careers. Enabling those who feel that call to get the education they need is surely helping them pursue Christ's call to discipleship.

For My Neighbor's Good (a relational evangelism training curriculum) aims to help Brethren pursue Christ's call to discipleship by equipping them to follow Jesus' Great Commission in their own neighborhoods. It also asks participants to examine their physical church buildings and the language they use in their worship services through eyes of first-time guests.

The partnership between the Ministry Office and the Brethren Academy for Ministerial Leadership supports students in various programs who are pursuing theological education to deepen their discipleship through rigorous study and careful reflection on the practice of ministry toward the goal of pursuing Christ's call to discipleship.

The Part-time Pastor; Full-time Church cohorts offered for ministers center on peer relationships, spiritual practices, and purposefulness in ministry as core qualities necessary to enable multi-vocational pastors to pursue Christ's call to discipleship.

The February 2025 denomination-wide clergywomen's retreat led by Rev. Meghan Larissa Good focused intentionally on the theme of "Love the world like Jesus, with Courage, Care, and Healing", a theme that fostered on embodying the biblical call to love our neighbors, thus fostering growth in Christian discipleship that is expressed in love of God, love of neighbor, and even love of enemy.

The Part-time Pastor; Full-time Church program has from its inception maintained an intentionally diverse staff of circuit riders to ensure that resources are available to Spanish-speaking and Creole-speaking multi-vocational pastors thereby working toward seeking God's racial justice.

The Pastoral Compensation and Benefits Advisory Committee, supported by the Ministry Office staff, offers readily available compensation tools that aim to strengthen the stewardship practices of congregations thereby enhancing the pastor/parish partnership and reclaiming New Testament models of giving.

Rural and Small-Town Initiative: Working with congregations in rural and small towns to address issues of leadership development. We will do this by partnering with congregations and assessing the gifts, skills, and talents that exist within their structure to disciple Christ-centered leaders and place them in positions where their gifts can be utilized appropriately.

Rural and Small-Town Initiative: As an extension of the work inside the congregation, a goal of the program is to enable congregations to discern how they might best serve their community. Several tools will be used to help congregations find their sense of calling in the community. A thriving congregation that is addressing a specific community need through its ministry is heeding the Biblical command to love our neighbors while also offering ways to engage in the models of giving present in the New Testament.

Intercultural Ministries: equips congregations to grow in Christ-centered belonging across cultures — practicing shared leadership, deep listening, and reconciling community.

Congregational Support

- Workshops and consultations
- Conflict navigation across cultures
- Multilingual worship guidance
- Community relationship building

Leadership Formation

- Coaching for pastors and lay leaders
- Intercultural competency training
- Mentoring and peer cohorts

Gatherings & Connections

- Story-sharing spaces
- Cross-congregational partnerships
- District and denominational events

Faithful Witness

- Resources for welcoming immigrants and refugees
- Tools for responding to community tensions
- Biblical frameworks for reconciliation

Cross-Cultural Conference & Consultation: These gatherings are designed to help congregations and leaders practice life together across differences — not just learn ideas. They create safe, honest, Spirit-led spaces where relationships grow, assumptions soften, and the church discovers new ways of being one body.

Cross-Cultural Conferences: Large group learning and relationship-building events (regional or denominational)

Purpose

- Build relationships across cultures and districts
- Experience intercultural worship
- Learn skills for shared ministry
- Listen to testimonies and stories
- Discern the Spirit together

Congregational Consultations: On-site accompaniment with a specific congregation or district. Smaller, more personal, and tailored to real situations.

When Churches Request a Consultation

- cultural misunderstandings
- leadership tensions
- changing demographics
- integrating new members
- language barriers
- conflict or division
- desire to grow inter-culturally

Deportation Defense Response Program: A church preparedness and care ministry that equips congregations to respond wisely and compassionately when neighbors face detention or deportation.

National Youth Conference

1. Pursue Christ's Call to Discipleship
 - a. Faith formation is at the core of NYC.
 - i. Worship is the largest programmatic element of the week. There are 10 worship services, each centered around a scripture related to the theme scripture.
 - ii. Small Groups, following a curriculum specifically written by a trained Brethren theologian, meet daily. Groups are intentionally designed to be diverse and foster fellowship; our goal is to put youth in a small group where everyone is new to them. Small groups discuss worship themes and scripture in a more intimate setting, with life application as a major focus.
 - iii. Workshops provide another opportunity for faith formation and discipleship.
2. Embody the Biblical Command to Love Our Neighbors
 - a. Interacting with others from a place of respect and curiosity strengthens our ability to love our neighbors. There are many formal (worship, workshops, small groups, late evening activities) and informal (recreation, late evening activities, living with roommates, eating meals together) opportunities to practice loving our neighbors.
 - b. When we interact in a language that is not our native language, we are working on loving our neighbors.
 - c. When we hear someone preach/teach in a way that is unfamiliar to us, we are practicing loving our neighbors.
 - d. When we participate in a service project, we are practicing loving our neighbors.
3. Seek God's Racial Justice
 - a. NYC offers a 75% scholarship who need financial assistance and identify as Hispanic or Latino; Black or African American; Native Hawaiian or other Pacific Islander; Asian, American Indian or Alaska Native, or two or more races.
 - b. Careful attention to balance and representation is paid to selecting preachers and staff.

4. Reclaim New Testament Models of Giving
 - a. There will be opportunities for giving through service (Fleece and Thank You – fleece blankets for kids in the hospital), a physical offering (donations to the Estes Valley Investment in Childhood Success Family Resource Center), and financial offerings (to support the NYC scholarship fund and the Global Food Crisis Fund.)

Young Adult Conference

1. Pursue Christ's Call to Discipleship
 - a. Communal worship is the centerpiece. There are 4 worship services, each centered around a scripture related to the theme scripture.
 - b. Small groups, following a curriculum written by a member of the Young Adult Steering Committee, meet multiple times. Groups are intentionally designed to be diverse and foster fellowship. Small groups discuss worship themes and scripture in a more intimate setting, with life application as a major focus.
 - c. Workshops provide another opportunity for faith formation and discipleship.
2. Embody the Biblical Command to Love Our Neighbors
 - a. Interacting with others from a place of respect and curiosity strengthens our ability to love our neighbors. There are many formal (worship, workshops, small groups) and informal (recreation, late evening activities, living with roommates, eating meals together) opportunities to practice loving our neighbors.
 - b. When we interact in a language that is not our native language, we are working on loving our neighbors.
 - c. When we hear someone preach/teach in a way that is unfamiliar to us, we are practicing loving our neighbors.
 - d. When we participate in a service project, we are practicing loving our neighbors.
3. Seek God's Racial Justice
 - a. Careful attention to balance and representation is paid to selecting preachers and the Young Adult Steering Committee itself.

Christian Citizenship Seminar

1. Pursue Christ's Call to Discipleship, Embodying the Biblical Command to Love Our Neighbors, and Seeking God's Racial Justice
 - a. Leaning into the intersection of faith and civil life is the cornerstone of CCS. Participants work to figure out how to love neighbors (locally, nationally, internationally) through just governance. Often, "justice" calls us to examine multiple layers of identity and privilege, including race, class and gender.