



ECO Leadership Training Series

COMMISSIONED LAY PASTOR TRAINING



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CLP1: Commissioned Lay Pastor serving under authority of ECO Pastor & Session

This certification is a 10-month process undertaken with a communal, non-geographical cohort, a facilitator, homework assignments, and a mentor from your local church. CLP1s are lay leaders who are serving their church as lay pastors by leading micro-expressions of church (small groups, youth groups, missional communities, etc.) and who wish to have a deeper level of training in the 10 Leadership Competencies. CLP1s are commissioned by their session.

CLP2: Commissioned Lay Pastor serving solo under authority of Presbytery

This certification is a 1 to 2 year process which involves all of the training described for CLP1s plus 12 additional seminary-level classes. CLP2s are lay leaders who are serving as pastors in a church plant or small church. This CLP2 certification is meant to equip a leader who feels called to pastoral ministry with the basic skills needed to pastor a church and ability to administer the sacraments and preach. CLP2s are commissioned by their presbytery.

The course is designed to be affordable and flexible, allowing students to stay in their current context while receiving further practical and theological training for ministry. The course content is based on biblical, historical, theological, and practical resources and aligns with ECO Polity. This CLP course is unique in that it's both synchronous and asynchronous. This allows students greater flexibility in ministry and life—without sacrificing classroom engagement, dynamic learning, and instructional depth.

ECO deeply values lay leadership development as being foundational to becoming a movement that builds flourishing churches who make disciples of Jesus Christ. We seek to undo the clergy-centered ecclesiology that has plagued the church for too long & truly reclaim the biblical vision of the priesthood of all believers.

CLP1

- 20 virtual cohort meetings (2 meetings per month)
- Videos, readings, discussion questions, written assignments, and final project

CLP1 Cohorts are groups of 6 to 12 students who are placed into communal, non-geographical cohorts facilitated by an experienced ECO Pastor. The CLP1 course seeks to be both informational and transformational. To that end, it has a holistic design and offers various types of learning modalities.

- COMMUNAL LEARNING – Learning together in a group through instruction, discussion, discernment, and deciding next steps.
- PERSONAL LEARNING – Learning on your own by engaging in reading, reflection, writing, and application to real ministry situations.
- ALONGSIDE LEARNING – Learning from a local mentor who walks alongside the student and provides encouragement, accountability, deeper discussion, prayer, and sharing best practices.
- EXPERIENTIAL LEARNING – Our most profound learning comes when we step out in faith to partner with Jesus in working towards His Kingdom goals.

CLP2

- 12 seminary-level courses offered through the Flourish Institute of Theology
- Psychological Assessment
- Exegetical Paper and Sermon
- Final Examination

CLP2 students are required to enroll in the Lay Leader Program through the Flourish Institute of Theology. Visit flourishinstitute.online for program requirements. After completing the courses, a CLP2 student will start their psychological assessment and their exegetical paper and sermon before their CLP2 Final Examination. *The CLP1 Cohort can be done simultaneously or concurrently with the seminary courses.*

Designed For

- Someone feeling called by the Holy Spirit and the Church to be a CLP
- Covenant partners with a desire to be better equipped theologically & in ministry skills
- Someone wanting to be commissioned to preach & administer sacraments in missional communities & micro-expressions of church

Duration

The CLP1 certification is a 10-month process. The CLP2 certification is an additional 1-3 year process.

Cost

CLP1: \$1000

Plus miscellaneous costs for books

CLP2: \$6500

Plus miscellaneous costs for books and travel.

How to Get Started

To apply, visit eco-pres.org.



If you have questions, please email us at clp@eco-pres.org.