



LEAD 2026

Leadership Discernment Academy

MONDAYS • OCTOBER 5–NOVEMBER 9, 2026 • 6:00–7:00 P.M. CENTRAL

PURPOSE

LEAD is a six-week discernment and leadership-development experience designed to help participants better understand their leadership style, strengths and growth edges, intercultural competency, and learning patterns—and then integrate those discoveries into leadership practice in a post-Christendom context.

The academy also gives Horizon Texas Conference leaders a fuller picture of the leaders in the system: how they may fit particular roles or appointments, where further development may be helpful, and where leaders may show aptitude for entrepreneurial ministry, innovation, church revitalization, or the creation of new ministry spaces.

WHO IS LEAD FOR?

LEAD casts a wide net for clergy and ministry leaders who want a deeper understanding of themselves and of what adaptive leadership requires in the church's current context. It is particularly useful for leaders in seasons of discernment, transition, new appointment, revitalization, or exploration of new ministry expressions.

Cohort outcomes

- Complete a comprehensive leadership assessment process and integrate the findings into leadership practice.
- Gain clearer language for personal strengths, growth areas, team needs, and leadership patterns.
- Reflect on the church's post-Christendom context and the leadership shifts it requires.
- Develop greater intercultural awareness and a concrete growth plan through the IDI process.
- Identify experiences, passions, and patterns that may point toward calling, innovation, and future ministry direction.

WEEK	DATE	FOCUS	PRIMARY EMPHASIS	ZOOM
Week 1	Mon., Oct. 5	Introduction + Assessments	Orientation to LEAD; overview of the assessments; participants begin assessments and schedule their 1:1 interview.	Join Zoom
Week 2	Mon., Oct. 12	Know Thyself + Assessment Integration	Assessment debrief, reflection, optional “Unpacking the Assessments” content, and/or a participant 1:1 interview.	Join Zoom
Week 3	Mon., Oct. 19	Innovation	Explore innovative and entrepreneurial leadership in a post-Christendom context and connect self-awareness to experimentation.	Join Zoom
Week 4	Mon., Oct. 26	Building a Team	Identify the people, roles, and complementary strengths participants need around them in order to lead well.	Join Zoom
Week 5	Mon., Nov. 2	Guesting + Hosting	Explore neighboring, relational engagement, and the shift from primarily hosting people at church to intentional guesting in the community.	Join Zoom
Week 6	Mon., Nov. 9	Identifying Convergence Experiences	Identify experiences, relationships, gifts, and passions that may point toward deeper calling and future ministry direction.	Join Zoom

WHAT THE ACADEMY INCLUDES

- Comprehensive assessment: Big Five, Grit, Intercultural Development Inventory (IDI), Enneagram, Vision Inventory, and an assessment interview.
- Leadership profile: a short integrative report naming strengths, growth areas, team considerations, and possible next-development steps.
- IDI coaching and growth plan: individual feedback with a Qualified Administrator and a customized developmental plan.
- Post-Christendom missional lens: practical reflection on how leaders engage their context, build relationships, and lead beyond inherited church assumptions.
- Six-week learning rhythm: live webinars, suggested readings, reflection, and field application.

2026 SCHEDULE

ZOOM ACCESS

The same Zoom room will be used for all six live LEAD sessions. Use the “Join Zoom” links in the schedule below or the full link at the end of this document.

PARTICIPANT RHYTHM

- Complete the assigned assessments during the opening phase of the cohort and submit results as directed.
- Schedule and complete a one-hour assessment interview during the six-week academy.
- Attend the live Monday webinars and come prepared to reflect on how the material connects with current leadership practice.
- Use suggested readings as optional companions for deeper exploration; they are not intended as weekly “homework” to complete in full.

SUGGESTED RESOURCES BY WEEK

Week 2 — Know Thyself: The 9 Types of Leadership — Beatrice Chestnut

Week 3 — Innovation: Get Together — Bailey Richardson, Kevin Huynh, and Kai Elmer Sotto

Week 4 — Building a Team: The Five Dysfunctions of a Team — Patrick Lencioni

Week 5 — Guesting + Hosting: The Art of Neighboring — Dave Runyon and Jay Pathak; Positively Irritating — Jon Ritner

Week 6 — Convergence Experiences: Let Your Life Speak — Parker Palmer; Another Way — Matthew Wesley Williams, Dori Grinenko Baker, and Stephen Lewis

ZOOM ACCESS

LEAD ZOOM ROOM

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87189546542>

Meeting ID: 871 8954 6542. This is the Zoom room used for all six live LEAD sessions.

HORIZON TEXAS CONFERENCE OF THE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH