

Peer Learning Groups for Large Church Lead Pastors

All pastors serving large churches should become a part of a Peer Learning/Mentoring Group comprised of pastors in similar circumstances and demographics. This Peer Learning/Mentoring Group would allow pastors in similar ministry settings to discuss problems, share solutions, and offer ongoing support.

1. The recommended size of these Peer Groups is five pastors. At times, groups could be combined to share resources.
2. The makeup of these Peer Groups should include pastors of churches with similar demographics. Attention should be given to being gender and racially inclusive in these groups.
3. The Peer Group(s) could invite a professional church consultant (or consultants), familiar with the issues of a large church to meet with the Peer Group(s) at least once or twice per year.
4. On some occasions, the Peer Group(s) would meet with skilled executives from other disciplines (business, education, non-profit organizations, etc) in order to gain new insights into the task of effective leadership.
5. It might also be beneficial for the Peer Group to meet occasionally with a retired large church pastor to glean insights from his/her experiences.
6. It might also be beneficial to have some connection to a Seminary or some other Leadership Institute (such as the Lewis Center for Church Leadership at Wesley Seminary).
7. Funding for the Peer Group could come from a combination of sources (the Annual Conference, individual churches involved, endowments, etc).
8. These Peer Groups and program would be self-initiated and self-directed. The Large Church Lead Pastor Committee will assist by recommending resources and facilitating connections.