***Equipping Biblical Counselors***

**Appendix 6.1**

**LEAD Biblical Counseling Ministry Information Packet**

**LEAD Biblical Counseling Ministry**

 **L Life**

 **E Encouragers**

 **A And**

 **D Disciplers**

***Information and Application Packet***

***Changed People Changing Lives with Christ’s Changeless Truth***

**“Speaking the truth in love” (Ephesians 4:15)**

**“Encourage one another daily” (Hebrews 3:13)**

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**Cover Letter**

Dear \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_,

 Thank you for your interest in our LEAD (Life Encouragers And Disciplers) Biblical Counseling Ministry. We’re excited about equipping God’s people to change lives with Christ’s changeless truth.

 Our prayer is that we could mutually discern whether the LEAD ministry is the right fit and match for you and your calling and giftedness from God. As you read the enclosed material and complete the enclosed forms, please pray with us that together we would discern God’s will.

 In the packet you will find:

* Our LEAD Biblical Counseling MVP-C Statement
* Our LEAD Philosophy of Biblical Counseling
* A Profile of a Nurtured LEAD Graduate
* God’s Calling: Who God Is Calling to Minister in LEAD
* God’s Equipping: How LEAD Will Minister to You
* Your Future Ministry: How You Will Minister through LEAD
* Your LEAD Personal Cost and Commitment Inventory
* Your LEAD Personal Commitment Form
* The LEAD Biblical Counseling Ministry Application Form
* A Redeemed Personality Inventory

 Because the process is mutual, the first step is yours. After reading the information portion of the packet, you should prayerfully decide if you want to complete the application process. If you do, then you need to turn in your signed Personal Commitment Form, your Application Form, and your Redeemed Personality Inventory to \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ by \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (due date). You then need to contact \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ at \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ to arrange a personal interview (which follows up on your written application).

 At that point, the next step is ours. After we read everyone’s application, check with the people everyone listed as ministry references, and conduct all the personal interviews, our LEAD team meets to pray and decide who we believe are the best fit for this round of training (this training sequence we are able to select \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ trainees). We will then contact you either to welcome you into this training group, ask you to consider waiting until the next training sequence, suggest that perhaps there might be a better ministry fit in another ministry, or discuss areas that we believe you may want to address in order to be better prepared for a ministry in biblical counseling.

 If you have any questions, please feel free to contact \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ at \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_. We are praying for you. Please pray for us.

In Christ’s Grace,

Your LEAD Biblical Counseling Ministry Team

**Our LEAD Biblical Counseling MVP-C Statement**

**Our *M*ission Statement**

According to the Bible, the mission of LEAD is to

equip biblical counselors, one-another ministers, and small group leaders

to speak the truth in love to people struggling with suffering and battling against sin,

in order to promote Christlike maturity in the body of Christ.

LEAD exists to assist our church to become

an equipping center (Ephesians 4:11-14), a fully functioning family (Matthew 22:34-40),

a Christ-centered community (Hebrews 3:7-16; 10:19-25),

a healthy body (Ephesians 4:15-16), and a

teaching hospital for soul physicians healing hurting and hardened hearts

(Matthew 23:23-26).

**Our *V*ision Statement**

It is the DREAM of our LEAD ministry to be a maturing team of

loving encouragers and dynamic disciplers equipped to make God’s house a home.

We will be empowered toward personal maturity, encouraged by biblical community, and

equipped for relational ministry to God’s family and our community.

Through spiritual maturity, biblical wisdom, and relational skillfulness we will

speak the truth in love so that we all may mature in Christ.

**Our *P*assion Statement**

Changed People Changing Lives with Christ’s Changeless Truth

**Our *C*ommission Statement**

We will seek to fulfill our LEAD MVP through the 4Es of

*e*nvisioning, *e*nlisting, *e*quipping, and *e*mpowering

a congregation of one-another ministers, biblical counselors, and small group leaders.

We will comprehensively equip soul caregivers and spiritual directors in the 4Cs of

biblical *c*ontent, Christ-like *c*haracter, counseling *c*ompetence, and Christian *c*ommunity

so they can sustain, heal, reconcile, and guide

individuals, couples, and families in our congregation and community

to know Christ, grow in Christ, and care like Christ.

**Our LEAD Philosophy of Biblical Counseling:**

**What Makes Biblical Counseling Truly Biblical**

The various approaches to biblical/Christian counseling are numerous and diverse. Below, you will find a definition of biblical counseling as we see it, and a description of our convictions about what makes biblical counseling truly biblical. If your philosophy and theology of counseling differs noticeably from what you are about to read, then we likely will not be a good ministry training match. The idea is not to force anyone to walk in lock-step with everything we teach. We desire you to be Bereans (Acts 17:11), not Corinthians (1 Corinthians 1:10-17). As a Berean, based upon your understanding of God’s Word, test what we teach. At the same time, our team can’t function biblically if any member has a Corinthian attitude of negativity, biting criticism, and againstness.

**Our Summary Working Definition of Biblical Counseling**

*Christ-centered, church-based, comprehensive, compassionate, and culturally-informed biblical counseling depends upon the Holy Spirit to relate God’s Word to suffering and sin by speaking and living God’s truth in love to equip people to love God and one another (Matthew 22:35-40). It cultivates conformity to Christ and communion with Christ and the body of Christ leading to a community of one-another disciple-makers (Matthew 28:18-20).*

**Biblical Counseling Is Scriptural**

Biblical counseling clings tenaciously to the supremacy, sufficiency, relevancy, and profundity (depth of wisdom) of the Scriptures. God has provided us with all that we need for godly living (2 Peter 1:3). The Scriptures, rightly interpreted and carefully applied, offer us all-encompassing insight for living. The Bible provides us with the interpretive categories for making sense of life from God’s perspective. By building our counseling approach on Christ’s Gospel of grace, we obtain wisdom for bringing people healing hope, the stimulus for change (God’s glory), and the understanding of human motivation that energizes these God-honoring changes (2 Timothy 3:15-16).

**Biblical Counseling Is Theological**

Biblical counseling unites Creation, Fall, and Redemption. In studying a biblical theology of *Creation*, biblical counseling examines *people*—God’s original design for the soul. In probing the *Fall*, biblical counseling examines *problems*—how sin brought personal depravity and suffering. In investigating the Bible’s teaching on *Redemption*, biblical counseling examines *solutions/cures*—the Gospel of Christ’s grace which offers eternal salvation and provides us with daily victory in our ongoing battle against the world, the flesh, and the devil (Matthew 4:1-11).

**Biblical Counseling Is Historical**

The Church has always helped hurting and hardened people. Biblical counseling respects that “great cloud of witnesses” (Hebrews 12:1-3) who have gone before us. Biblical counselors appreciate the legacy of Christian soul care and spiritual direction, seeking to apply for today that ancient legacy and consensual wisdom for living found in the writings of the great historic Christian soul physicians.

**Biblical Counseling Is Positive**

Biblical counseling is “Berean counseling” (Acts 17:11). Biblical counselors have a *critical mind minus a critical spirit*. Biblical counselors seek to focus positively on rightly understanding the Word (2 Timothy 2:15) and on graciously interacting with those with whom they disagree.

**Biblical Counseling Is Relational**

Because the God of the Bible is the eternal Community of intimate Oneness (John 1 and 17), biblical counselors discard aloofness in favor of “real and raw counseling.” While techniques, skills, and tools of competent counseling are not ignored, soul-to-soul relating is emphasized (1 Thessalonians 2:8). Biblical counseling highlights neither directive nor non-directive counseling. Rather, it practices collaborative counseling where the counselor, the counselee, and the Divine Counselor form a three-way relationship shaped by God’s Word and led by God’s Spirit.

**Biblical Counseling Is Relevant**

It is not enough to promote the sufficiency of the Word if we do not also minister in such a way that demonstrates the relevancy of God’s Word. Problems in living are seen by biblical counselors as spiritual, relational, mental, volitional, and emotional issues addressed in the Book of Life by the Author of Life so that we can live the abundant life (John 10:10) to glorify the Creator of Life.

**Biblical Counseling Is Transformative**

Biblical counseling applies the principles of *progressive sanctification* to the daily lives of believers (2 Corinthians 3:16-18). It does so *through spiritual formation* which cultivates *communion with Christ* and *conformity to Christ* through the practice of the biblical/historical individual and corporate spiritual disciplines. Transformative biblical counseling highlights *the inner life* through its emphasis on forming the character of Christ in us—*our inner life increasingly mirroring the inner life of Christ*. It focuses on the *body of Christ* by encouraging the corporate spiritual disciplines and by equipping believers in the individual spiritual disciplines.

**Biblical Counseling Is Comprehensive in Theory**

Biblical counseling focuses on the full range of human nature created in the image of God (Genesis 1:26-28). A comprehensive biblical understanding sees human beings as relational beings who desire (spiritual, social, and self-aware capacities), rational beings who think, volitional beings who choose, emotional beings who experience, and physical beings who act. Biblical counseling models of change focus on each of these areas, seeing the human personality as united. Biblical counseling does not deny the interplay or the complexity of our mind/brain and body/soul connection (Genesis 2:7). It takes seriously the role of the brain (in a fallen world in an un-glorified body) and its impact on healthy human functioning (Romans 8:19-25).

**Biblical Counseling Is Comprehensive in Methodology**

Biblical counseling *treats both* *suffering and sin* by recognizing that God’s Word is profitable for dealing with the evils we have suffered as well as with the sins we have committed (2 Corinthians 1:3-11; 2:5-11). Biblical counselors offer comfort for the hurting as well as confrontation for the hardened. They provide sustaining and healing for those battered by life as well as reconciling and guiding for those ensnared by Satan.

**Biblical Counseling Is Comprehensive in Equipping**

Biblical counseling training unites equipping in biblical content, Christ-like character, counseling competence, and Christian community (Romans 15:14). Scriptural insight is learned in the context of close Christian community and applied to the spiritual character development of the counselor-in-training. It results in the relational competency to interact soul-to-soul and to impact others deeply for Christ (Ephesians 4:11-16).

**Biblical Counseling Is Universal**

The Apostle Paul insists that all mature, equipped believers are competent to counsel (Romans 15:14). Therefore, biblical counseling is universal—it is what God’s people do informally as spiritual friends and formally as biblical counselors, what pastors do as soul physicians, and what professional Christian counselors do as caregivers.

**Biblical Counseling Is Culturally-Informed**

The fact that biblical counseling is universal in no way excludes the truth that biblical counseling should be culturally-informed. It blends into its universal worldview the *unique biblical perspectives* of both genders and all ethnicities (Revelation 7:9-10).

**A Profile of a Nurtured LEAD Graduate**

**God’s Calling: Who God Is Calling to Minister in LEAD**

We believe that God calls every Christian to become competent to encourage and disciple one another (Romans 15:14; 2 Corinthians 1:3-11). In LEAD, we will stir up each other’s God-given gifts (2 Timothy 1:5-7) so that we become equipped with biblical content, Christ-like character, and counseling competence in the context of Christian community. We will become spiritual friends and soul physicians who dispense Christ’s grace to heal our disgrace. *LEAD may be for you if:*

* You long to know what to do after the hug by becoming a *caregiver* who cares like Christ (Philippians 2:1-5).
* You dream of being the sort of *friend* who can deeply weep with your friend who weeps and who can heartily rejoice with your friend who rejoices (Romans 12:15).
* You sense that Christ is calling you to be a *soul physician* who can listen well and wisely and lovingly guide others through their problems to the Father’s heart (Galatians 6:1-2).
* You sense God leading you to be a *people helper*(a one-to-one encourager) or to be a *people healer* (a small group discipler) (Hebrews 10:19-25).
* God is stirring up within you a passion to be the sort of *Christian* who engages in soul stirring encouragement and spirit-shaping discipleship—a Christian who really makes a difference because you really love deeply (Ephesians 4:15).
* God is calling you to be a *spiritual friend* who offers *soul care* and *spiritual direction* to sustain, heal, reconcile, and guide others along their journey of faith.
* You desire to be the sort of *son or daughter* of God who connects so deeply with your Heavenly Father in your suffering and sin, that He empowers you to offer His goodness and grace to others during their struggles with suffering and sin (Hebrews 3:12-14).

**God’s Equipping: How LEAD Will Minister to You**

Through LEAD you will be equipped for relational ministry to God’s family by speaking God’s truth in love (Ephesians 4:11-16). You will learn how to care like Christ. In LEAD, we will mature together in four areas that we call the 4Cs: character, content, competence, and community. We derive these four dimensions of counseling from many passages, including Romans 15:14. “I myself am convinced, my brothers, that you yourselves are full of goodness, complete in knowledge and competent to instruct one another”

**The Four Dimensions of Comprehensive Biblical Counseling Equipping**

* Christ-like Character “Full of Goodness” Heart/Being
* Biblical Content/Conviction “Complete in Knowledge” Head/Knowing
* Counseling Competence “Competent to Instruct One Another” Hands/Doing
* Christian Community “Brothers/One Another” Home/Loving

**Christ-like Character: “Full of Goodness”—Heart/Being**

Throughout our training, we will apply God’s Word to our own suffering and struggles with sin by relating truth to our lives. Through Christ’s grace we will grow in grace—progressive sanctification. This personal application process will occur in our interactive lecture time, but even more so in our small group lab time. Through our small group relationships, we will experience mutual one-another encouragement and discipleship. In other words, we will experience biblical counseling so that we become more mature Christians who therefore are more effective biblical counselors.

You will meet twice per month with your encouragement partner/spiritual friend for mutual one-another ministry, and twice per month with your mentor for encouragement and discipleship. During these meetings, you will not only work on counseling competencies, but you will have the opportunity to address issues of suffering and struggles with sin in your own life so you can grow in grace.

**Biblical Content/Conviction: “Complete in Knowledge”—Head/Knowing**

Throughout our training, we will focus on what God’s Word says about biblical encouragement and discipleship—biblical counseling. Through in-depth instruction in God’s Word, we will discover a practical, relational, biblical theology of the Bible, God, people, problems, solutions, suffering, salvation, and sanctification—we will develop biblical insight and wisdom for biblical counseling.

In addition to these interactive, applicational lectures, you will also carefully read, study, and reflect on biblical passages, Christian books, and teaching manuals. Through our primary text, *Gospel-Centered Counseling*,you will learn biblical answers to life’s eight ultimate questions.

**Counseling Competence: “Competent to Instruct One Another”—Hands/Doing**

Through your reading and application of our biblical counseling training workbook *Gospel Conversations*, and through our lab times together, you will develop twenty-two biblical counseling relational competencies. You will be trained in the art of soul care for suffering through sustaining and healing and in the art of spiritual direction for sin through reconciling and guiding. Our small group lab times will include opportunities to develop the relational skills necessary to be a competent biblical counselor. We will relate deeply with one another, practice counseling skills, engage in role plays, discuss case studies, observe live counseling, and counsel one another.

Your monthly meetings with your encouragement partner/spiritual friend and trainer/mentor will empower you to develop the relational skills necessary to be a true soul friend. Half-way into our training, you will have the opportunity for on-the-job-training—providing one-to-one encouragement (biblical counseling/spiritual friendship)or small group discipleship.

**Christian Community: “Brothers/One Another”—Home/Loving**

LEAD provides intimate fellowship with God’s people. It has the potential to become one of the most powerful small group experiences you have ever enjoyed. Our weekly study of God’s Word will allow us to interact about and relate God’s truth to our daily lives. Our weekly small group sharing and skill-building time will allow us to experience first-hand what it means to share Christ’s grace to heal our suffering and sin. We will experience, as past trainees have described it, “real and raw relating.” It is going to be intense and intimate as we speak the truth in love to one another.

Every member of our LEAD small group will pair up with an encouragement partner/spiritual friend. If past experience comes true, then your encouragement partner will become one of your most cherished spiritual friends. During our LEAD training, each member will meet twice monthly with our trainer or apprentice leader for one-to-one shepherding and discipleship. Through these means, you will find mending for your hurts, mentoring to find Christ’s victory in your struggle with sin, and motivation to develop your spiritual gifts.

**Your Future Ministry: How You Will Minister through LEAD**

**Relational Ministry: Informal One Another Ministry**

Our primary desire in LEAD is to promote relational maturity that leads to relational ministry: the capacity to love God and others out of a pure heart (1 Timothy 1:5) in the muck and mess of daily relationships. So each of us can immediately use the equipping we received in LEAD to grow in:

* *Love for God: Worship—To Exalt and Enjoy Our Father*

We are interested in promoting a deeper passion for God, a greater enjoyment of God, and a growing dependency upon God. We are interested in daily worship during the daily routines of life.

* *Love for Our Neighbor: Ministry—To Encourage and Disciple Our Brothers and Sisters*

We long to see one another grow in how we care for our friends, spouse, parents, children, co-workers, and neighbors. We’re interested in spouses who love each other more, parents who encourage their kids better, friends who care more, in Christians who love their unsaved friends better. We’re interested in daily relationships during all the storms of life.

**Congregational Ministry: Formal Encouragement and Discipleship**

As we grow in relational maturity, God increases our power for congregational ministry. LEAD graduates, in addition to the daily worship and ministry in natural life settings, will minister in our congregation and to our community through:

* *Biblical Encouragement: Biblical Counseling/Spiritual Friendship/One-Another Ministry*

Some of you have special gifts and passions to relate one-to-one with a brother or sister who is hurting and needs the mending help of soul care (sustaining and healing). You will use your LEAD training to provide biblical counseling that helps people to taste and see that God is good even when life is bad.

Some of you have special gifts and passions to relate one-to-one with a brother or sister who is hardening his or her heart and needs the mentoring help of spiritual direction (reconciling and guiding). You will use your LEAD training to provide biblical counseling that helps people to taste and see that God is gracious even when they are sinful.

* *Small Group Biblical Discipleship: Coaching*

Some of you have special gifts and passions to facilitate mending small groups that provide support and recovery for people struggling with suffering and sin. You might use your LEAD training to facilitate a Beauty for Ashes Group (Sexual Abuse Redemption Group), a New Hope Fellowship Group (Addiction Redemption Group), a Parenting Adolescents Group, or another group you are passionate about.

Some of you have special gifts and passions to facilitate mentoring small groups that provide focused biblical discipleship for specific life issues. You might use your LEAD training to facilitate a Men’s Iron Sharpeners Group, a Women Mentoring Women Group, a Pre-Marital Preparing for Oneness Group, a Marriage Builders Groups, a Parental Home Improvement Group, or another group you are passionate about.

**Your LEAD Personal Cost and Commitment Inventory**

Jesus taught us to “count the cost” (Luke 16:25-35) to determine if we have what it takes to complete the commitments we are about to make. LEAD involves a high cost on your part (and promises many benefits). Please prayerfully weight these costs.

**Training Time Commitment**

**1. In-Class Training Time**

LEAD is a two-year training ministry. LEAD will meet every week (except for holidays) for two hours from September to May (approximately 36 weeks each of the two years). Consistent attendance is vital—it will be necessary for you to be in attendance at least 90% of the times that we meet.

**2. Out-of-Class Training Time**

You can expect to commit the following time outside of class:

* One hour per week reading/responding to workbook questions.
* Two hours per month meeting with your encouragement partner.
* Two hours per month meeting with your mentor.
* During the second year, two hours per month meeting with a protégé (your meeting time with your encouragement partner will be just once per month the second year).

**Ministry Time Commitment**

Everyone trained for two years will be asked to serve for the next two years.

**1. Biblical Counseling**

If you choose to serve as a biblical counselor, you would:

* Counsel one-to-two hours per week.
* Meet with your trainer/mentor one-to-two hours per month (may be individual and/or group supervision).
* Spend one hour per week in prayer, study, and preparation for your counseling.

**2. Small Group Leadership/Discipleship**

If you choose to serve as a small group leader, you would:

* Lead one ninety-minute-to-two-hour small group per week or every other week.
* Meet with your mentor/trainer one-to-two hours per month (may be individual and/or group supervision).
* Spend one hour per week in prayer, study, and preparation for your group leadership.

**Your LEAD Personal Commitment Form**

As you ponder whether you can commit to LEAD, we would ask you to evaluate yourself carefully, prayerfully, and honestly. We would also encourage you to gain feedback from others who know you. If you are married, please have your spouse read your LEAD information as he or she will need to weigh the costs and benefits.

If, after careful cost counting, you decide that you want to be considered for our LEAD equipping ministry, then the next steps in your process toward becoming a LEAD member will be:

1. Sign and date this Personal Commitment Form.

2. Complete the LEAD Biblical Counseling Ministry Application Form.

3. Complete the Redeemed Personality Inventory.

* Return these three documents to \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ by \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (due date).

4. Arrange a personal interview with \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ by contacting \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ at \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

**My Commitment to LEAD**

I have carefully read all the LEAD information. Having weighed the benefits and costs, I am willing to commit myself to fulfilling all my LEAD commitments. Therefore, I would ask you to prayerfully consider me for selection as a LEAD trainee.

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

 (Signature) (Date)

I also grant the LEAD Biblical Counseling Ministry my approval to perform a background check.

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

 (Signature) (Date)

**The LEAD Biblical Counseling Ministry Application Form**

**Personal Information**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Age: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Marital Status: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Church Membership (Where/How Long): \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

How Long Have You Been a Christian: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**Application Questions**: In the space under each question, please share concise and candid responses. If you need more space, please use the back of each sheet.

1. How did you come to know Christ?

2. Who and what has contributed most to your growth in Christ over the years?

3. As you review our LEAD MVP-C Statement:

 a. What questions do you have?

 b. What aspects resonate/connect with you the most?

 c. Which aspects least resonate/connect with you?

4. As you review our LEAD Philosophy of Biblical Counseling:

 a. How would you word differently your working definition of biblical counseling (please do not respond with, “I would not change it at all”)?

 b. Which of the twelve areas regarding what makes biblical counseling truly biblical do you think are most important? Why? Least important? Why?

5. Concerning the “4Cs” in the Profile of a Nurtured LEAD Graduate

* Christ-like Character: “Full of Goodness”—Heart/Being
* Biblical Content/Conviction: “Complete in Knowledge”—Head/Knowing
* Counseling Competence: “Competent to Instruct One Another”—Hands/Doing
* Christian Community: “Brothers/One Another”—Home/Loving

 a. What further growth do you need to experience in the area of Christ-like character?

 b. What biblical content do you think is most important for a biblical counselor to know and apply?

 c. In terms of counseling skills/competence, how would you rate yourself at this point in your life?

 d. What are examples in your life that demonstrate how highly you value Christian community—connecting deeply with others in Christ?

6. What are the primary reasons that you are interested in being a part of LEAD?

7. Describe any of your previous long-term (two years or more) ministry commitments.

8. What is your definition of sin?

9. What is your definition of maturity?

10. Having read our commitment inventory:

 a. Which area of commitment do you feel will be most difficult for you to keep? Why?

 b. Describe how comfortable you are with the openness and vulnerability required (being “real and raw” and “intense and intimate” and speaking the truth in love to each other).

11. Discuss your strengths, particularly as they may affect your readiness for LEAD.

12. Discuss your weaknesses, particularly as they may affect your readiness for LEAD.

13. Do you have a model/approach to counseling that you are most comfortable with? If so, please describe it and share how you learned it.

14. What authors, articles, and books have most significantly shaped your views and practice of counseling?

15. In counseling and discipleship, what would you tend to focus upon more, people’s suffering or their sin? Why? How?

16. What future ministry do you hope to fulfill as a result of your LEAD equipping?

17. Comment on the encouragement that you have received from family members, church leaders, and significant friends concerning your giftedness for a ministry in biblical counseling and discipleship.

18. A friend comes up to you and says, “I’m about ready to give up on Christianity.” Describe how you would interact with your friend.

19. What questions do you have for us?

20. Please list the names and contact information of two people you give us permission to talk to about your preparation for LEAD.

**The Redeemed Personality Inventory**

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

This inventory is based upon your candid assessment of where you currently are in your process toward mature Christlikeness. Evaluate your progress toward growth into the image of Christ using a 10 for “Most Like Christ” and a 1 for “Least Like Christ.”

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Like Jesus, I increasingly exalt, enjoy, love, and find satisfaction in God more than in anything or anyone else.

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ I increasingly cling to God, running home to Him as my Father, like a faithful son or daughter.

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ I increasingly enjoy Christ more than any other joy in life.

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ I increasingly depend upon the Holy Spirit to sanctify me, make me holy, beautify me, empower and equip me.

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ I increasingly love others deeply and sacrificially from the heart with grace.

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ I increasingly rest confidently in who I am in and to Christ.

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Like Jesus, I increasingly view life from the Father’s eternal, gracious, and good perspective.

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ I increasingly, together with all the saints, grasp the holy love of God.

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ I increasingly allow God’s eternal story to invade my earthly story.

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ I increasingly renew my mind and stir up wholesome thinking.

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Like Jesus, I increasingly die to self and live for God and others.

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ I increasingly trust Christ courageously and take risks to minister to others.

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ I increasingly find my life by dying to myself, taking up my cross, and following Christ.

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ I increasingly live to shepherd and minister to others.

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ I increasingly serve Christ and others out of a pure heart, a good conscience, and a sincere faith.

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ I increasingly develop emotional self-awareness: understanding my moods.

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ I increasingly develop emotional self-mastery: soothing my soul in my Savior.

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ I increasingly develop emotional maturity: managing my moods with a ministry focus.

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ I increasingly develop emotional empathy: recognizing emotions in others.

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ I increasingly develop emotional savvy: handling my relationships well.