



**A MINISTRY OF AMERICAN BAPTIST CHURCHES OF INDIANA AND KENTUCKY
IN COOPERATION WITH ABC-GI ALONG WITH SPONSORING
AMERICAN BAPTIST CHURCHES & ASSOCIATIONS**

C108-Leadership

January 19, February 2, February 16, March 2

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Description and Purpose

This introductory class on leadership will focus on an exploration of leadership theory and practices for today's church. Participants will be exposed to a variety of Biblical and contemporary leadership styles and understandings, and will work toward the goal of determining their own approach to leadership roles in life, and especially in a Christian ministry context.

Focus of This Experience

This experience will utilize varied methods of learning, including class discussion, reading of primary texts, homework assignments, and group reflection. Four primary topics will be reviewed in the course. These include: Understanding Leadership; Understanding Yourself as a Leader; Leadership and Others; Leadership and the Church Today.

Participants will find it helpful to keep a course notebook for class handouts, note taking and personal reflections. It is hoped that this notebook will become a useful tool for the participant's use as a leader. Class participation, advance reading of assigned texts, and completion of assignments will be expected.

An assignment will be due in conjunction with each of the four class sessions. These assignments are integrated into the class calendar provided later in this syllabus. A supplemental bibliography will be provided to students on the first day of class.

Required Texts

There are two text books for this course.

Leaders Who Last: Sustaining Yourself and Your Ministry, Margaret J. Marcuson, Seabury Books, 2009.

8 Questions Jesus Asked: Discipleship for Leaders, Daniel M. Cash and William H. Griffith, Judson Press, 2017.

*Both text books are available through Amazon.com or Amazon marketplace (print and digital). Judson Press also has the *8 Questions* book for sale in both print and electronic versions. Approximate cost: \$10 – 20 each.

Program Expectations of Students

1. Attend all sessions whenever possible
2. Contact the instructor in advance, if you will be absent
3. Be prepared for each class session
4. Participate in class
5. Support and encourage other students in the class
6. Communicate with the instructor, if you have any questions or concerns

Please bring the following to each class session:

- Textbook(s)
- Good English Translation of the Bible
- Notebook (for handouts, assignments and taking notes)
- 2 pens/pencils (electronic device to take notes, if preferred)
- Syllabus, handouts & assignments

Requirements to Earn Credit

Those participants choosing to meet the class requirements will earn a certificate and will be eligible for 2.0 Continuing Education Units.

1. Completion of all reading and written assignments.
2. Participation in class discussions and exercises.
3. Read additional articles or blogs as may be assigned
4. Bring textbooks and completed assignments to each class session.
5. Attend at least 15 of the 20 hours of classroom time
6. If absent one class session, earn an excused absence by doing the following:
 - a. contact the instructor about your absence (preferably before the absence, but at least within 72 hours of the absence)
 - b. obtain notes from two students who did participate in any class session you missed
 - c. request a copy of the PowerPoint presentation(s) for the class session you missed in note format (3 slides per page); of course, this only applies if the instructor uses PowerPoint in the class session you missed.
 - d. complete a special assignment given by your instructor in addition to regular assignments; this is usually an enriching experience that will most likely pertain to the class session the student missed in some way.

Class Calendar

Note: Assignments listed under each class session date are due on or before that date.

Session 1—January 19 **Understanding Leadership – What is Leadership?**

Assignments prior to Session 1:

Complete a two-three page book review of the book, *Leaders Who Last*, responding to the following questions: How does the author understand or define leadership? What, in your opinion, are the strengths of that understanding? What, if anything, would you add to this understanding of leadership? What does the author say about knowing yourself as a leader? What did you find yourself appreciating about this text? What was challenging to you about this text?

Class Session Outline:

- Class Introductions
- Finish the sentence: “Leadership is”
- Biblical Reflection: “Do You Want to Get Well?” John 5:1-18 (Ch. 1 8 Questions)
- Review Definitions of Leadership
- Review Current Leadership Theories
- Begin to Integrate Definitions and Theories into your own Understanding of Leadership

Session 2—February 2 **Understanding Yourself as a Leader**

Assignments prior to Session 2:

- Complete the spiritual gifts inventory you received at Session One. What are your spiritual gifts? Be prepared to identify and reflect on these in class.
- Reflect on your life. Who has had the most influence in defining leadership for you? Be prepared to discuss in class.
- Be prepared to respond to the question: Do you believe that leaders are born or grown? Why?

Class Session Outline:

- Biblical Reflection - “Who Touched My Clothes?” Mark 5:21-43 (Ch. 2 8 Questions)
- The Self-Aware Leader--Assessing personal strengths, weaknesses & tendencies in leadership through spiritual gift inventory, spirituality and personality type assessment, and personal reflection.
- Common Misconceptions About Leadership
- The Leader as Life Long Learner
- Self Care of the Leader
- Developing “practices” of wellness.

Session 3—February 16 Leadership and Others

Assignments prior to Session 3:

- Ask at least three diverse people in your church or community what they admire about the Christian leaders they have known. Then ask them what it is about these leaders that cause them to be followed. Note your reflections in a 1-2 page paper.
- or**
- In a 2-3 page paper, identify two of your favorite Biblical leaders (other than Jesus). What appeals to you about their leadership style?

Class Session Outline:

- Biblical Reflection – “Do You Also Wish to Go Away?” John 6:51-71 (Ch. 4 8 Questions)
- Sharing Conclusions from Class assignments
- Review of Critical Skills for Working with Others
 - Conducting Effective Meetings
 - Creating Ownership
 - Cultivating Decision Making
- When Leadership Styles Collide
- Leadership Development - Mentoring leaders
- Exploring a “Theological Reflection” Model of Leadership

Session 4—March 2 Leadership and the Church Today

Assignments prior to Session 4:

Utilize the “Theological Reflection” model for leadership introduced in class session three to think through an issue of leadership you are involved with in your congregation. Demonstrate the process you followed in the reflection. (**Describe** the issue. What sources did you **discover** or attend to? How did you bring these sources into **dialogue/deliberation**? What response/conclusion did you **determine** or arrive at?). This assignment should be three-five pages of written work.

Class Session Outline:

- Biblical Reflection – “Do You Believe This?” John 11:1-53 (Ch. 6 8 Questions)
- Review and Discussion of Homework Assignments
- Baptist Perspectives on Leadership
- Leadership in an Age of :
 - Discontinuous Change
 - Post Modernism
 - The multi-generation challenge
- Leadership Avenues in the Local Church
 - Preaching
 - Assimilation
 - Teaching
 - Leadership Transitions

Service/Mission
Church Structure
Pastoral Care & Counseling
- The Vision Thing
- Course Evaluation

TENTATIVE DAILY CLASS SCHEDULE

Arrive 8:45am

9:00-10:15	Session A
10:15-10:30	Break
10:30-11:45	Session B
11:45-12:30	Lunch
12:30-1:45	Session C
1:45-2:00	Break
2:00-3:15	Session D

CLASS LOCATION

Westport Baptist Church
Outreach Center
205 E Main St
Westport, IN 47283