

# Damascus Road Collaborative: Overview

## IT'S TIME FOR ACTION!

- In 2022, more than 42% of pastors gave serious consideration to quitting the ministry (Barna).
- About 25% of Americans identify as practicing Christians (Barna, WSJ), a decline of 50% in the last 20 years.
- As many of the major institutions of our society are fracturing (media, politics, academia), the church is under attack, often perceived as judgmental, exclusive, and irrelevant.
- Some thriving, mission-focused churches are perpetually relevant, making a difference in people's lives and in their communities. In doing so, they provide a Christ-centered model for the reform of the church.
- *We exist to help churches thrive.*

## OUR MISSION: Healing Our Fractured World Through Thriving Churches

- We believe that God has something He wants to accomplish in our world.
- God calls us into a loving relationship with Jesus Christ, so that, through the power of God's Spirit, we, together as Christ's disciples, can be a thriving, invitational and impactful church.
- A church aligned with Christ's mission, excels at the work of transforming lives, overcoming evil with good, and bringing healing and wholeness to individuals, marriages, families, communities, and society.

## MISSION-FOCUSED CHURCHES

We work with pastors and their boards to structure and animate Christ-centered, Bible-based, and perpetually-relevant churches:

- **Invitational**, exceling at inviting people into a lifelong relationship with Jesus Christ.
- **Transformational**, continually nurturing and developing the faith of believers at every age.
- **Impactful**, healing the world through lives of service.

## ABOUT US

- We are a team of Pastors and retired Pastors, Seminary Professors, Christian Business Leaders, Certified Coaches and Psychologists.
- We work with pastors and churches of all denominations.
- We stay current with the best practices of thriving churches.
- We all are currently leading or have held leadership roles in thriving churches.
- We love God, keep ourselves in the love of Jesus Christ, and strive to be like him in the way we live.
- We have a deep desire to be a friend to pastors. Daily we pray for their health, well-being, marriages, and families.
- Our lives are committed to being disciples and making disciples of Jesus.
- We all freely and joyfully invest in the mission of Damascus Road with our time and money.

## HOW WE HELP

- We work with each church for two years.
- Over that time, we deliver four workshops (2 or 3 days), spaced six months apart, to cohorts consisting of the pastors, staff, and board members. We limit participation in each workshop to eight churches.
- We provide individual weekly coaching, support, and assessments for each pastor as they lead change and manage complexities in their congregations.
- We work individually with each church to create, equip and inspire disciples who envision, structure and launch programs that powerfully impact their communities, our society, and the world.
- We collaborate with other Christian organizations to provide resources to our churches beyond the scope of our services.

## OUR REACH

- We started recruiting churches in June 2023 and, thanks to God and the generosity of our donors, began our program of workshops and coaching with 44 churches in October 2023.
- Currently, DRC churches are in Texas, Minnesota, Ohio, Iowa, and South Dakota.
- The membership of these churches combined exceeds 36,000 disciples.
- Denominations currently served include Baptist (Converge), Presbyterian, Evangelical Free, Episcopal, and Non-Denominational Churches.
- We currently have a waiting list of 100+ churches. Expanding our donor base to be able to serve them is one of our top priorities.

## DONATE

- Damascus Road Collaborative, Inc. is an IRS 501(c)(3) tax-exempt, public charity (EIN: 92-2992278). We offer our services and resources at no charge through the generosity of people like you. With your gift of any size, you'll help us to equip Christian disciples with high-quality, biblically-based content and support.
- We ask that you prayerfully consider joining us in this work!

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## COMMENTS FROM PASTORS AND LAY LEADERS OF PARTICIPATING CHURCHES

*"For years we've needed a reset. We've been so resistant to change and, as a result, have become irrelevant in the eyes of those we want to reach. Your work with us has already helped us tremendously. We see clearly the influence of Damascus Road on our culture, our programs, our impact and, most importantly, in our own spiritual lives."*

*"For the last 30 years, I've been a C-suite business executive. During that time, I've attended many business leadership seminars/workshops/classes. As a church board member, I've also attended five of these events for churches. This experience was, by far, the best – levels above anything I've experienced. Your discussion about strategy and how we could deploy it organizationally in our church to become more relevant around mission, was the best I've ever heard. I left thinking that we can really make this happen."*

*"Last Friday, nine pastors who attended the first two Damascus Road workshops met together for lunch. The whole time we talked about the impact you've already had on us and our churches and the impact we see going forward. One word sums it up: HUGE!!! Thank you so much for doing this."*

*"This was exactly what we needed. The three-day experience was transformative for me and our team. Having the whole team together, getting us on the same page was very impactful."*

*"From all outward appearances, our church looks successful. For a while I've felt that we were not adequately focused on the core things that God wants us to do. I also wasn't sure what to do about it. I can't tell you how valuable this experience was for us and how much I'm looking forward to the rest of this program."*

*"We are only just beginning with Damascus Road, but already, over the last 8 months, we've seen our Sunday morning attendance double. We had over 800 at Easter this year (during a big snowstorm!), compared to 400 in 2023. For us, the workshops were outstanding, but we particularly appreciate our weekly conversations."*