



CHARITY TO CHANGE INITIATIVE 2025-26

PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

In partnership with the Eli Lilly Endowment, Leadership Foundations has developed **Charity to Change**, an innovative training program to help churches and church collaboratives reimagine how congregations can bring about long-term change with the skills, knowledge, and tools embedded in their local communities; to develop a better understanding of their socio-cultural context; and to be responsive to their most pressing needs.

City cohorts of church leaders and Local Leadership Foundations will walk together through the initiative that couples online learning, individualized coaching, and personalized work plans to reimagine how congregations can invest in long-term, systemic community change.

PROGRAM FRAMEWORK

The framework for the LF Charity to Change Initiative is delivered to be contextual, relevant, accessible, and effective. There are three elements that make up the scaffolding of the LF Charity to Change Initiative to ensure the church cohorts are well-served:

The faith community is a potential force for massive social change. Churches possess a wealth of ideas, talent, and influence to deploy on behalf of the city.

Active Online Learning: Delivered through a Learning Management System featuring world-class theologians and community development experts. In 9 units over 9 months, participants will access original and exclusive lectures, interviews, panel discussions, tools, a library of resources and activities through Leadership Foundations' online platform.

One-on-One and Group Coaching: Each city cohort will have a coach that will work with them individually and as a collective to absorb the material and develop their plan for individual and collaborative action.

Collective Action: The cohort will work collectively to address a felt need within their city and apply the concepts explored within the course curriculum to address this need effectively, moving from fragmented, isolated ad-hoc efforts (charity) to collaborative action addressing systemic issues (change).

KEY DATES

- January 15, 2025: Proposal from Local LF due
- January 31, 2025: LLFs Selected
- February 20, 2025: Local Coaches Selected
- March-June 2025: LLFs will recruit 5-10 churches in their city to participate
- September 2025: National Introductory Meeting and enrollment in the online curriculum
- September 2025-May 2026: Participants engage with 9 chapters released monthly, City Cohorts Meet monthly

Curriculum Chapters

1. Seeing The City
2. The Church and The City: An Historical Perspective
3. Theology of Justice
4. Incarnational Ministry: Scripture and Culture
5. Engaging People of Good Faith and Goodwill
6. Systems Thinking and Asset Mapping
7. Faith And Work: Knowing Your Congregation
8. A Church For The City
9. Models of Church Engagement

THE COMMITMENT

To participate, each congregation must commit to the following:

- One senior pastor or church staff member and one lay leader must join the monthly city cohort meetings and one annual national meeting (virtual)
- Participate actively in the online learning community and be available for sessions with your city coach on mutually agreed upon dates
- Complete the readings and assignments in each module
- Complete all surveys related to the program

Please contact either Larry Lloyd or Jonathan Hayden at Leadership Foundations with any additional questions:

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