



Course Syllabus

Embracing Our Call: A Spiritual Framework for Church Leadership

Course Duration: 9 weeks (9 one-hour sessions)

Facilitator: Keith Clark-Hoyos

Platform: *Effective Church Leadership Community* Private Space

Text: *Embracing Our Call* by Keith Clark-Hoyos (included)

Course Description: This cohort-based training program equips church governing body members to lead with confidence, clarity, and spiritual grounding. Drawing from the book *Embracing Our Call*, participants will explore the sacred nature of church leadership, develop Spirit-led practices of discernment, and learn how to align Calling, Energy, and Resources to support the church's mission.

Each session includes a combination of centering, guided breakout dialogue, and group reflection. Participants also engage asynchronously through the ECLC platform by responding to weekly dialogue prompts and interacting with one another's reflections.

Weekly Live Format (Zoom):

- 10 min: Gathering and Centering with Keith
- 40 min: Breakout Dialogue (guided by weekly questions)
- 10 min: Group Reflection and Blessing

Online Learning Expectations (via ECLC)

Each week's module includes:

- Weekly Reading Assignment (from *Embracing Our Call*)
- Group Dialogue Questions
- Optional resources (quotes, tools, downloadable practices)

Participants are expected to:

- Post responses to dialogue questions by Friday evening
- Reply to at least two other group members before Monday night

Session 1: The Spirit Has Placed Us Here

 Reading: Introduction + Chapters 1–2

 Focus: Calling-centered governance and the spiritual framework

 Dialogue Questions:

- Where in your leadership journey have you sensed that “the Spirit placed me here”?
- In what areas is your board reacting rather than discerning?
- Which of the Calling–Energy–Resources questions do you feel most drawn to in this season?

Session 2: Braided and Aligned

 Reading: Chapters 3–5

 Focus: The Threefold Cord (spiritual, relational, organizational) and wise stewardship

 Dialogue Questions:

- Which strand is strongest in your board? Which needs strengthening?
- What does “stewarding the storehouse” mean for your leadership team?
- Where might your church need to seek help or shared leadership?

Session 3: Listening Spaces

 Reading: Chapters 6–8

 Focus: Silence, discernment, Spirit-led structure, and adaptive bylaws

 Dialogue Questions:

- When has silence helped you hear something essential in leadership?
- What shift could make your board meetings more Spirit-centered?
- How might your bylaws or structure better reflect your church’s current Calling?

Session 4: Guarding the Sacred

 Reading: Chapters 9–11

 Focus: Covenants, culture, and the role of the board in fostering trust

 Dialogue Questions:

- Does your board have a behavioral covenant? What might it include?
- Where is your board called to “stand watch” right now?
- How do your leaders model spiritual maturity during difficult conversations?

Session 5: Watchtower Leadership

 Reading: Chapters 12–14

 Focus: Fiduciary duty, red flags, policies, and spiritual responsibility

 Dialogue Questions:

- Where might your church be vulnerable to risk or drift?
- How do you distinguish trust in people from trust in systems?
- What does it mean to be a “sentinel” in your leadership context?

Session 6: Financial Clarity, Spiritual Witness

 Reading: Chapters 15–16

 Focus: Financial reporting as ministry; transparency, trust, and accountability

 Dialogue Questions:

- What story is your budget currently telling? Is it aligned with your mission?
- How can your church better present its financial life as testimony?
- Where might re-alignment be needed in your financial practices?

Session 7: Invitations and Inheritance

 Reading: Chapters 17–21

 Focus: Mission-focused budgeting, stewardship, and planned giving

 Dialogue Questions:

- What would it look like to “compel people to come in” in your setting?
- How is your church preparing to bless future generations?
- What legacy-building step could your board take this year?

Session 8: Protecting the Call

 Reading: Chapters 22–24

 Focus: Saying no with clarity, healing from harm, and governing through grief

 Dialogue Questions:

- Where does your board need to say a faithful “no”?
- What part of your church's life may need healing before moving forward?
- What boundaries or practices protect the integrity of your Calling?

Week 9: Unity in Calling

 Reading: Chapters 25–27 + Conclusion

 Focus: Disagreement, unity, maturity, and recommitting to the body

 Dialogue Questions:

- Are we modeling the kind of spiritual maturity we hope to see in our church?
- What image from the final chapters speaks to your board's next season?
- How might your board bless and be blessed in the work ahead?

Course Materials

- Required Text: ***Embracing Our Call*** by Keith Clark-Hoyos (included in registration)
- Optional Resources: Governance covenant samples, policy templates, discussion guides (via ECLC Resource Library)

Assessment and Grading

This is a voluntary, non-graded course designed to deepen spiritual formation and strengthen leadership practice. There are no exams or written assignments. Full participation in discussions and dialogue is strongly encouraged for mutual enrichment.