



## Course Syllabus

### **Rooted in the Call: A Chairperson's Guide to Spirit-Led Leadership and Discernment**

**Course Duration:** 8 weeks (8 one-hour sessions)

**Facilitator:** Keith Clark-Hoyos

**Platform:** *Effective Church Leadership Community* Private Space

**Text:** *Rooted in the Call* by Keith Clark-Hoyos (included)

**Course Description:** This cohort-based formation journey equips church chairpersons and board leaders to serve as “Mission Keepers”—those who help governing bodies remain aligned with the church’s calling. Drawing from *Rooted in the Call*, participants will explore how to lead with discernment, shape Spirit-centered agendas, nurture unity among leaders, and guide their churches through seasons of change and renewal.

Each session includes centering prayer, guided breakout dialogue, and shared reflection. Participants also engage asynchronously on the ECLC platform, 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:**

- Reading Assignment (from *Rooted in the Call*)
- Group Dialogue Questions
- Optional Resources (downloads, tools, and reflection guides)

##### **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 Call of the Mission Keeper

 **Reading:** Introduction + Chapter 1

 **Focus:** Understanding the sacred role of the chairperson as Mission Keeper

 **Dialogue Questions:**

- Where do you sense the Spirit has “planted” you in leadership?
- What does it mean for you to be a Mission Keeper rather than a meeting manager?
- How might your leadership invite deeper discernment within your board?

## Session 2: Roots of Leadership

 **Reading:** Chapters 2

 **Focus:** Leadership identity grounded in Calling, Energy, Resources, and Discernment (CERD)

 **Dialogue Questions:**

- What sustains or drains your leadership energy?
- How do you stay rooted when challenges arise?
- In what ways can your leadership strengthen the body as a whole?

## Session 3: Leading with Discernment

 **Reading:** Chapters 3–5

 **Focus:** Shaping agendas, listening for the Spirit, and facilitating dialogue

 **Dialogue Questions:**

- How can your agendas reflect God’s calling rather than efficiency alone?
- What helps you recognize the Spirit’s whisper during meetings?
- How can you foster dialogue that becomes prayer rather than debate?

## Session 4: Anchoring in Mission

 **Reading:** Chapters 6–8

 **Focus:** Translating policy to practice, honoring the rhythm of the year, and nurturing the whole body

 **Dialogue Questions:**

- How well do your church’s policies align with its mission?
- What rhythm of discernment could your board adopt across the year?
- How can you strengthen collaboration between board, pastor, and congregation?

## Session 5: Leading Through Crisis and Change

 **Reading:** Chapter 9

 **Focus:** Rooted leadership in seasons of disruption and uncertainty

 **Dialogue Questions:**

- What recent challenge tested your board's faithfulness?
- How do you discern between reaction and Spirit-led response?
- Where might God be deepening your congregation's roots through struggle?

## Session 6: Preparing for Succession

 **Reading:** Chapter 10

 **Focus:** Mentoring, multiplying, and entrusting leadership for the next generation

 **Dialogue Questions:**

- Who is God raising up to lead after you?
- How can you begin mentoring others now?
- What would faithful succession look like in your context?

## Session 7: Cultivating a Rule of Life

 **Reading:** Chapter 11

 **Focus:** Personal rhythms of prayer, rest, and reflection that sustain Spirit-led leadership

 **Dialogue Questions:**

- What practices keep you rooted amid busyness?
- How does Sabbath or silence shape your leadership?
- What new rhythm might help you lead from rest rather than exhaustion?

## Session 8: Rooted for the Future

 **Reading:** Chapter 12 + Conclusion + 10 Practices of Spirit-Led Chairing

 **Focus:** Integrating calling, discernment, and mission for long-term faithfulness

 **Dialogue Questions:**

- What fruits have you seen through your leadership journey?
- How will you continue to stay grounded beyond this cohort?
- What blessing or charge do you carry forward for your board and church?

## Course Materials

- Required Text: ***Rooted in the Call*** by Keith Clark-Hoyos (included in registration)
- Optional Resources: ECLC downloads (Leadership Identity Reflection, Spirit-Led Agenda Template, Annual Discernment Calendar, Collaboration Map, Crisis Discernment Toolkit, Succession Planning Guide, Rule of Life Template)

## 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.