

# CECL<sup>SM</sup>

What is CECL<sup>SM</sup>? CECL<sup>SM</sup> is the Center for Excellence in Congregational Leadership -- a two year voyage, powered by the winds of the Holy Spirit, to help pastors increase joy in ministry and help churches reach communities for Christ through health and outward focus.



Class 7 begins in May 2010 and ends in May 2012.  
To apply, contact Pat Zimmer: PatZimmer@glcc.org or (920) 294-7365

[www.cecl.glcc.org](http://www.cecl.glcc.org)

# CECL<sup>SM</sup> Class 7 Syllabus



Pastor Bill Lenz

The CECL<sup>SM</sup> journey consists of five sessions held over a two year period.

## **Session 1 -- May 10-14, 2010: Prayer, personal and pastoral integrity, the foundations to sustaining pastoral excellence**

Led by Pastor Bill Lenz ([www.christtherock.org](http://www.christtherock.org)). Peer teams, led by a coach, are formed during session 1 to provide the mentoring, coaching, accountability and encouragement to enable goals to be realized. Between the sessions, peer teams stay connected through phone, conference calls and monthly one-on-one calls with their coach.



Stuart and Jill Briscoe

## **Session 2: Personal spiritual growth, pastoral leadership, and building a healthy marriage amidst the stresses of ministry -- September 5-10, 2010**

Led by Stuart and Jill Briscoe ([tellingthetruth.org](http://tellingthetruth.org)) and Dr. Tim Gardner, a marriage and family therapist ([www.marriageministries.net](http://www.marriageministries.net)).



Dr. Tim Gardner

## **Session 3: Creating and strategically implementing the vision to create outward-focused church health -- spring 2011**

Dr. Paul Borden ([www.growinghealthychurches.org](http://www.growinghealthychurches.org)) and Dr. Tim Brown ([www.fbcclovis.com](http://www.fbcclovis.com)) lead the first part of the week with the pastors, and then Dr. Dan Southerland ([www.westsidefamilychurch.com](http://www.westsidefamilychurch.com)) teaches "Transitioning" with the pastors and a group of their lay leaders who come for the weekend.



Dr. Paul Borden

## **Session 4: Pastoral leadership, handling conflict and church governance -- fall 2011**

This session begins with pastors and then lay leaders come back for the weekend when the focus turns to handling conflict biblically and to Dr. John Kaiser's accountable leadership model for churches.



Dr. Tim Brown

## **Session 5: Finding your unique excellence in preaching -- spring 2012**

Led by Dr. Lori Carrell ([www.uwosh.edu/faculty\\_staff/carrell](http://www.uwosh.edu/faculty_staff/carrell)). This session also includes the final program evaluation and graduation celebration.



Dr. Dan Southerland

## **What is the cost of CECL<sup>SM</sup> Class 7?**

\$750 for the pastor to attend all five sessions (\$150/session).

The pastor's spouse has two options during session 2: attend Dr. Tim Gardner's marriage sessions for \$150, or to stay for the whole session and also hear Stuart and Jill Briscoe for \$300.

Add \$150 per lay leader per session to attend the weekend portion of session 3 and session 4. Churches typically bring 4-6 lay leaders for each session.

The cost includes all program fees covering speakers and coaches for each peer team, double occupancy hotel lodging, meals and breaks for the pastor, their spouse and lay leaders during applicable weeks, and some free rounds of golf at our 4 ½ star golf course! The full cost is \$9,000 and the gap is covered by a grant from Lilly Endowment.



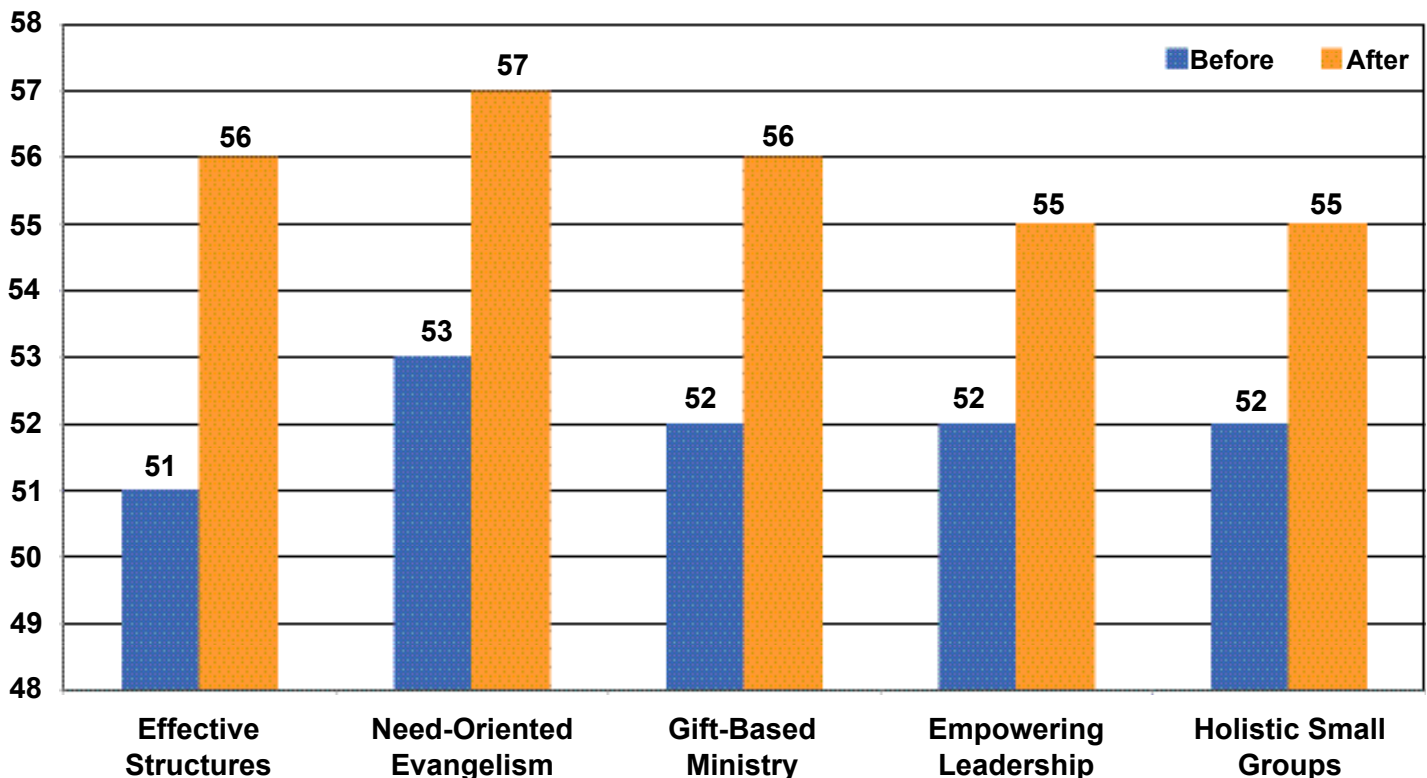
Dr. Lori Carrell

# Research reveals how God is using CECL<sup>SM</sup> to deeply impact pastors' lives and church health

by Ben Mott, CECL<sup>SM</sup> Co-Director and Dr. Tom Watkins, CECL<sup>SM</sup> Evaluator

## Five of the eight Natural Church Development measures significantly increase for CECL<sup>SM</sup> churches

Natural Church Development Average Scores Before and After CECL<sup>SM</sup> for 118 Churches in Classes 1-4  
Increases on each of these five scales were statistically significant at the 99% confidence level



**Pastors are rediscovering joy in ministry and report their potential for burnout has been greatly reduced.**

Sixty-five percent of CECL<sup>SM</sup> pastors expressed moderate to high risk of burnout prior to CECL<sup>SM</sup>, while only 30% expressed this level of risk after CECL<sup>SM</sup>. Participation in peer team learning communities provides the support necessary to dispel isolation and discouragement in ministry, with deep friendships forming which will last for decades. Prayer, personal coaching and teaching on topics like the Sabbath are critical in helping pastors develop healthy habits and patterns. Green Lake's beautiful setting and free golf at Lawsonia also rejuvenates pastors.

**CECL<sup>SM</sup> churches received a 4.7% average annual increase in offerings during CECL<sup>SM</sup> and most churches experienced an increase in attendance.**

**Powerful lay leadership teams emerge from their two training retreats at Green Lake during CECL<sup>SM</sup>, ready to support the pastor and help discern the vision and lead change.**

When CECL<sup>SM</sup> pastors rate the statement "the congregational team is doing their part to cooperate with me to bring about change," average scores go from 4.7 before CECL<sup>SM</sup> to 7.4 at the end (on a scale of 0-10) – an improvement of 57%! For Dennis Zirkle, pastor of Meadowbrook Baptist Church in Anderson, IN, one of the most important things from CECL<sup>SM</sup> is "a church leadership team that is 100% for Godly growth in our church, 'whatever it takes.' This team came together at CECL<sup>SM</sup> and they are a great blessing to me."

# Jump into CECL<sup>SM</sup> and begin your adventure!

When my wife Sherri and I heard about CECL<sup>SM</sup>, we immediately considered the potential a program like this might have on us and our Vineyard church that we co-pastor in Des Moines, IA. Interestingly enough, at the time, Sherri was right in the middle of treatment for leukemia. This could have been a very good reason to decline the opportunity, but instead it fed in us a most voracious desire to grow and make every precious day count. I'm so glad we said yes, took the risk, and embarked on the CECL<sup>SM</sup> adventure which set us, and our entire church, on a course for growth, transformation, and even greater mission.

While we have always been missional in our thinking and practice, CECL<sup>SM</sup> has provided focus, a road map, and tools for us and our church. Strategically, each session of CECL<sup>SM</sup> builds upon the last by growing us as leaders, growing the leaders we bring along, and then in turn growing a healthy church. From the foundation of personal integrity, to forming structure that can facilitate the church's mission more effectively, CECL<sup>SM</sup> exposed us to ideas and concepts that really challenged us to think through our own paradigms and practices.

As we grew and were challenged the flow of life just passed along. In our first session we read *Integrity: The Courage to Meet the Demands of Reality* by Henry Cloud and now have a teleconference small group of professionals that are reading the book, sharing, and praying with each

other over biweekly lunch hours. In our second session we read *Emotionally Healthy Spirituality* (EHS) by Pete Scazzero and led a small group through it. Now a retired couple in their late 60s, who were transformed through that group, have led two groups of EHS and are planning a third.

In CECL<sup>SM</sup>, we were placed in peer groups of seven to nine other pastors from various denominations with a coach. This provided us rich friendships, and a place to unpack what we were learning with other pastors. Sherri was amazed at how it deepened her appreciation for all the expressions of the church and at the same time grew her confidence as to why we were called to the Vineyard tribe. Personal coaching sessions challenged us to put action behind our desires, and gave us a model to coach our staff, leaders, and volunteers. CECL<sup>SM</sup> embraced our equal partnership as co-pastors, and nurtured it.

One of the many tools CECL<sup>SM</sup> uses to help determine the health of your church is the Natural Church Development Assessment, which measures eight essential characteristics of a healthy church. Within one year of being in CECL<sup>SM</sup>, we saw a dramatic increase in our overall health. We made gains in all areas, specifically in the areas of Empowering Leadership [+11] and Functional Structures [+8]. These areas include having a clear

compelling vision, communicating change, and a commitment to church development.



By becoming more decentralized and working in teams, we've created an environment where "everyone gets to play and do the stuff", as we like to say in the Vineyard. We ran a pilot summer internship program with six young adults who were disciplined, challenged, and developed as leaders. A few of their thoughts at the end: "The kingdom isn't just words anymore." "I enjoyed the first hand experience of seeing God at work through the prayer times, and the team effort it takes to run the church." "I'm leaving the internship energized, filled up, and excited about serving and knowing God more." One couple even went on to attend a church planting conference and are beginning to explore the idea of being involved in launching a new congregation.

We are becoming a church that exists for the people who don't know Jesus in our city. We are finding creative ways to bridge the great divide that exists between the Good news and those who desperately need it.

## By Pastor Mike Harder Vineyard Community Church, Des Moines, Iowa

Out of Sherri's leukemia journey, a dream was born to share the love



and hope of Jesus Christ with cancer patients in our community. At our last women's retreat, the women pooled their money to buy fleece and spent the afternoon making blankets together. These "Made with Love" blankets were given away and the vision expanded as more people got involved.

A Community Homework Center became reality last fall, initiated by one of our interns. We partner with

neighborhood schools, teachers, and students to provide a safe, fun place for youth to come and do their homework, and be tutored.

Our hope is that it becomes a place for relationships to be built, drawing young people to Jesus Christ.

The highlight of last summer was our water baptisms out at the lake, where their stories tell the best story. One college student shared, "Today I'm being baptized because I've given my life to Christ, but I also am deciding that today, I forgive my father for the abuse he did against me. Today, I bury my resentment with my sins." A husband and wife, baptized together, both grew up in alcoholic homes of abuse and went that road in their own lives, but were now standing set free by

Jesus' love and power. At the end, a teenager jumping up from the crowd of observers, running forward to the lake asking if he might be baptized today too.



We entered CECL<sup>SM</sup> with a desire to grow, to risk, but most of all to become better fishers of men, because people matter to God, a LOT. What are you waiting for? Other people's lives depend on it. Jump into CECL<sup>SM</sup> and begin your adventure!

### Who is CECL<sup>SM</sup> designed for?

- Pastors with a desire for excellence – a hunger to realize God's dreams for them, their family and their church.
- Churches with a hunger to realize the Great Commandment and Great Commission in powerful ways.
- CECL<sup>SM</sup> is multi-denominational, with American Baptist, Baptist General Conference, Southern Baptist, Evangelical Free, Conservative Baptists, Lutheran, Methodist, Vineyard, Brethren and independent pastors already participating.

"CECL<sup>SM</sup> is high on excellence. But I think CECL<sup>SM</sup> is even more about wholeness as a leader - wholeness of body, mind, spirit. As a young pastor said to me, "What my people most need is for their pastor to be well in soul." Exactly! There are many fine programs on leadership strategies. But if you or your pastor are seeking wholeness, then you owe it to take a good look at CECL<sup>SM</sup>." -**Leighton Ford**



Ken Giacometto and Leighton Ford