

## THE LATEST INITIATIVES OF L.E.A.D. FOR THE FOURSQUARE GOSPEL CHURCH OF CANADA

Our world has changed since Foursquare arrived in Canada eight decades ago. People are more educated and more sophisticated, with higher expectations of those who would lead them. Those who have real influence lead with passion, integrity, and proven ministerial skills (Psalms 78:72), combined with a commitment to ongoing educational and professional development. Their voices are relevant and articulate in presenting the hope of the gospel to this generation. Their strategies are culturally aware and able to penetrate the influential urban hubs to ultimately reach the nation. How can we together prepare such leaders within the Canadian Foursquare Church?

A network dubbed L.E.A.D. was initiated to address that question. The name is an acronym for Leadership Enrichment And Development. The LEAD Council works with the LEAD Coordinator to serve the Canadian Foursquare Church by enriching current leaders and developing emerging leaders through formal and informal educational opportunities emphasizing character development, practical ministry experience, and academic excellence.

It is our intent to elevate an appreciation for and commitment to ongoing education among current and future leaders within Foursquare Canada. To do so will require initiatives on several fronts:

### 1. Improved Licensing Standards

The Foursquare Ministerial Diploma (FMD) has now become the minimum educational standard for pastors becoming licensed within Foursquare Canada.

This standard applies to all future licensed applicants who do not already have an undergraduate theological degree. Current licensed pastors will only be required to fulfill the standards imposed at the time of their licensing (grandfathering), but will still be encouraged with incentives to complete the FMD.

Pastors may be licensed prior to their completion of the FMD, but they will be expected to make continuing progress, completing at least 2 courses each year, in order to have their license renewed.

### 2. Commitment to Higher Education and Professional Development

Education doesn't stop with the minimum –

Foursquare Canada has now created incentives to encourage our pastors to enroll in graduate studies. These incentives will address the two biggest barriers to pastors pursuing further education: lack of time and money.

### 3. Sabbaticals

The CARE Committee has led the way in providing our Canadian Foursquare pastors with a two-week sabbatical option each year. This gives them the opportunity to dedicate some of that time to formal education or professional development. For more on how to arrange sabbaticals contact [switmer@telus.net](mailto:switmer@telus.net).

### 4. Tuition Subsidies

An endowment fund has been established to provide tuition subsidies for pastors pursuing formal studies for credit.

- Available to all licensed (national or staff) Canadian Foursquare pastors.

- Covers all of the remaining tuition costs for PLBC (PLBC already subsidizes 50%).
- May provide up to 50% of tuition costs for seminary studies (Kings, ACTS, Regent, or another approved institution). Applications will have to be approved on the basis of available funds and other conditions. The applicant will have to demonstrate how the degree will enhance their own personal effectiveness as well as the Canadian Foursquare Church.
- Granted as available on a first-come basis, with application for approval before studies begin and funds awarded after the successful completion of each course. Funding priority will be given to the applications for undergraduate studies first.
- Free and discounted books and other resources will be given out to all our pastors at conventions and conferences as funds are available through the LEAD budget. Additional incentives may be awarded free to pastors completing courses and programs.
- The courses required in the Foursquare Ministerial Diploma are the highest priority for LEAD and our church institutes.
- All courses in the FMD and the second year for the Leaders Track degree will be available through distance education. PLBC currently has done that but many of these courses need upgrading. Online/cohort courses will also be introduced.
- Some of these courses and seminars will be offered each year in or around the annual pastors' conference/convention.
- Others will be taken to the units as regional intensives, at least one each year.
- PLBC will offer some of these courses and professional development seminars during a Summer Leadership Institute. We will also webcast and/or record these courses for those who are unable to come to the campus.

Churches will be encouraged through the Foursquare Administration Manual to also contribute to their pastor's ongoing training either through providing further tuition subsidies, buying books, underwriting related travel, and allowing for study time (ie. study sabbaticals).

### **5. Course Offerings**

A new emphasis on training can only be sustained as courses are made available. To encourage participation across Canada, portability and format variety are paramount.

- A calendar will be sent out every year detailing which courses will be available that year with the intent that all the courses in the FMD program would be offered live on rotation every 2-3 years, along with additional professional development intensives/seminars of more general interest to our pastors. The FMD course requirements have been adjusted to include more of these shorter track sessions under seminar credits. For example, the Church Reproduction Intensive will be included as an option within those seminar credits.

---

## **Course Distribution Calendar**

The entire FMD curriculum will be available through various delivery systems over the next two years. While the classroom hours for live courses may be shortened to seminar or intensive formats, pastors taking these courses for credit will have additional reading, writing, and practical assignments to fulfill on their own. The projected schedule (subject to changes) is as follows (see next page):

Course Format	2008	2009
Itinerant Instruction at Unit Events	Leadership Development 1	Intro to Hermeneutics Old Testament Survey
Summer Leadership Institute at Pacific Life Bible College	Leadership Development 1 Personal Renewal	Philosophy of Ministry
Foursquare Conference / Convention	Homiletics Foursquare Distinctives	Leadership Development 2 Pastoral Ministry
Distance Education Development	Foursquare Distinctives Old Testament Survey New Testament Survey	Church Leadership/Mgmt Church Administration
Online / Cohort Courses	Survey of Christian Beliefs	Church Administration

Subsequent years will see repeated courses from the FMD track as well as a second level featuring courses from year two of the Leader's Track BTh degree program.

## Foursquare Ministerial Diploma (FMD) and Bachelor of Theology (BTh)

The following is a three stage program that outlines the basic requirements for the FGCC Ministerial Diploma and guides the candidate to the completion of a Bachelor of Theology degree from PLBC.

### Stage 1 – Requirements for completing the FGCC Ministerial Diploma (FMD)

#### CAMPUS

TH101 Survey of Christian Beliefs	3
OT102 Old Testament Survey	2
NT103 New Testament Survey	2
PT230 Intro to Hermeneutics	3
PS317 Pastoral Ministry	3
CO345 Homiletics	3
PS412 Leadership Development 1	2
PS413 Leadership Development 2	2
PS425 Church Leadership & Mgmt	3
PS426 Church Administration	1
PS432 Foursquare Distinctives	2
Elective/Seminar Credits (incl. CRI)	6

Total Credits: 32

#### DISTANCE EDUCATION

TH101E Survey of Christian Beliefs*
OT103E Old Testament Survey
NT103E New Testament Survey
PT230E Intro to Hermeneutics
PS317E Pastoral Ministry
CO347E Homiletics
PS476E Leadership Development
PS424E Servant Visionary Leadership
PS425E Church Leadership & Mgmt
PS426E Church Administration*
PS432E Foursquare Distinctives

\*Not yet available through Distance Education

The successful completion of the above program of studies, while earning a GPA of 2.00 or higher, earns the student an FGCC Ministerial Diploma. It also satisfies the minimum educational qualifications for pastors applying for a national license with the Foursquare Gospel Church of Canada. It should be noted that other criteria are also evaluated at the time of licensing and that the educational component alone does not guarantee a license will be awarded.

The Foursquare Ministerial Diploma is also the first year of PLBC's Leaders Track Program. After the successful completion of the FMD and acceptance into Leaders Track, a Foursquare pastor can earn a Bachelor of Theology by completing another 32 credits of advanced studies (see Stage Three).

## Stage 2 – Application and approval for the PLBC Leaders Track Program

Leaders Track is a fast track program which offers credit for ministry experience. This B.Th. program provides advanced leadership development for mature students who may lack academic background, but who have demonstrated leadership qualities, Bible study disciplines, spiritual gifting, and proven ministry skills. At PLBC, these qualities are considered evidence of practical learning, so students who meet the program requirements are awarded advanced standing toward earning a Bachelor of Theology degree. The qualifying

applicant must be 30 years of age or older, be a high school graduate (or equivalent) and have at least 5 years of full-time church leadership experience (or 5000 hours in lay leadership). Some approved Bible College courses may be transferable. No practicum credits will be awarded in this program. Please note that there are special application procedures for this program, which includes an advanced Bible Knowledge Exam, an English Proficiency Exam, a Ministry Articulation Paper, and an evaluation by the Academic Review Group.

---

## Stage 3 – Requirements for completing the Bachelor of Theology

### **CAMPUS**

OT110 Pentateuch	3
NT111 Synoptic Gospels	3
TH114 Holy Spirit	2
NT209 Acts	2/3
TH210 Systematic Theology 1	3
TH211 Systematic Theology 2	3
TH214 Concepts of the Church	2
GS421 History of Christianity 1	3
GS422 History of Christianity 2	3
GS430 Philosophy of Ministry	3
Elective/Seminar Credits (incl. Personal Renewal.)	5/4
<hr/>	
Total Credits	32

### **DISTANCE EDUCATION**

OT110E Pentateuch
NT111E Synoptic Gospels
TH233E Holy Spirit
NT209E Acts
TH210E Systematic Theology 1
TH211E Systematic Theology 2
TH214E Concepts of the Church
GS423E History of Christianity 1
GS424E History of Christianity 2
GS430E Philosophy of Ministry

---

## How do I get started?

The first thing our pastors need to do is develop a plan of attack availing themselves of the resources listed in this document. Once you've determined what you want to do, email your plan to [LEAD@foursquare.ca](mailto:LEAD@foursquare.ca). Include in your email the following information:

- The name of the college or seminary where you'll be studying and their website address if other than PLBC.
- The tuition costs per credit (LEAD will only subsidize tuition, not other fees).
- The courses you wish to take this year (the LEAD budget may not accommodate full-time students) and future years (if known).

Email your request before taking the course(s). You will receive initial approval/disapproval. If approved, tuition subsidies are only provided after evidence (receipts, transcript) is given of course completion with a 2.0 grade point. Questions can be directed to [LEAD@foursquare.ca](mailto:LEAD@foursquare.ca). Watch for future issues of LEAD On covering ongoing LEAD initiatives: Internships, Symposiums, Journals, Seminary Options, Global Leadership Training Network, and the Emerging Leaders Network.