



### **Seminar Objectives**

The participants will develop a philosophy of ministry for their work in the EFCC in light of the situation in which they minister, their personal leadership profile (DISC), and the EFCC *Our Character & Calling* and *Covenant of Personal and Professional Ethics of the EFCC*.

### **Seminar Description**

This seminar will help you identify and describe your reasons for being in ministry and the core priorities out of which you minister. This “philosophy of ministry” will be developed to fit within the distinctive of the EFCC and your local ministry context to provide a strong coherent base from which to support an effective and sustainable life of ministry.

### **Assignments**

1. Read the required readings according to the Seminar Schedule.
2. Participate in all the Sessions.
3. Read *Pastoral Graces* (Lee Eclov) prior to session one. Choose one chapter that speaks to you and prepare a 5-minute response to that chapter to share with your cohort during session 1.
4. Complete a *Directed DISC Assessment* by October 1<sup>st</sup>. **Note: A link to this will be provided.**
5. Interact with the “EFCC Covenant of Personal and Professional Ethics” and develop a strategy prior to session 3 for how you will become accountable to living up to this ethical standard.
6. Write a philosophy of ministry using the guide provided. Discuss your philosophy of ministry with your mentor (to be completed prior to session 3).
7. Present your philosophy of ministry to a group of three during session 3 and make adjustments based on the discussion.
8. Prior to session 4, read one of the books on the **secondary reading list** (page 2 in the Syllabus) and prepare a 5-minute presentation answering the following three questions;
  - i. What is the most important thing you learned from this book?
  - ii. What did you disagree with in this book and why?
  - iii. How has reading this book impacted your personal philosophy of ministry?
9. Taking into consideration everything you have learned during this Seminar, revise your philosophy of ministry and discuss it with your District Superintendent.
10. Write a 1000-word paper on the most significant lessons learned in this seminar, including an explanation of how your personal philosophy of ministry fits within the EFCC ministry context. Include with your paper a declaration that you have completed the reading assignment and discussed your Philosophy of Ministry with your District Superintendent. Due December 7, 2026.

### **Required Reading List. Read *all* of the following:**

Lee Eclov. *Pastoral Graces: Reflections on the Care of Souls*  
Eugene Peterson & Marva Dawn. *The Unnecessary Pastor: Rediscovering the Call*  
Marvin Penner. *Developing a Personal Philosophy of Ministry*  
Evangelical Free Church of Canada. *Covenant of Personal and Professional Ethics*

**Secondary Reading List.** Read at least **one** of the following:

- Lee Eclov. *Shepherding the Shepherd*  
 Tim Muehlhoff and Richard Langer. *Winsome Convictions*  
 Tom Oden. *Pastoral Theology*  
 Larry Osborne. *Lead Like a Shepherd*  
 Larry Osborne. *Sticky Teams*  
 Craig Paczkowski. *Authentic Community*  
 Paul David Tripp. *Dangerous Calling*

**Seminar Schedule**

<b>Session Date and Leader</b>	<b>Topics</b>	<b>Assignments and Due Dates</b>
<p><b>Session #1</b>                      September 16                      1pm-3pm Pacific                      Marvin Penner</p>	<p><b>The Nature of Congregational Leadership</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Introduction to the Seminar</li> <li>2. The minister’s “open hand”</li> <li>3. Assignment 3 presentations</li> <li>4. The devotional foundations of sustainable ministry</li> </ol>	<p>Due before Session 1:                      Read <i>Pastoral Graces</i>.                       Complete assignment #1 and assignment #3.</p>
<p><b>Session #2</b>                      October 14                      1pm-3pm Pacific                      Terry Kaufman</p>	<p><b>DISC Assessment</b>                      EFCC Leadership Catalyst Terry Kaufman will prepare and lead this session around the DISC assessments with an emphasis towards how these personal leadership style insights will affect a personal philosophy of ministry.</p>	<p>Complete a directed DISC assessment by October 1 for this session (assignment #4).</p>
<p><b>Session #3a</b>                      October 28                      1pm-2pm Pacific                      Dan Carlaw</p>	<p><b>Ministry Ethics</b>                      Becoming a person of integrity and how to maintain an ethical life and ministry that goes beyond keeping the rules.</p>	<p>Complete assignment #5 before this session</p>
<p>Session #3b                      October 28                      Small Groups                      2pm-3pm Pacific</p>	<p><b>Philosophy of Ministry 1</b>                      Present your Philosophy of Ministry to a group of three. Evaluate one another’s Philosophy of Ministry and seek to help each other improve their paper. Discuss the case study with your group of three (3). Highlight points which are similar to and those that differ from your own Philosophy of Ministry.</p>	<p>Complete assignment #6 before this session. Do assignment #7 during the session.</p>
<p><b>Session #4</b>                      November 18                      1pm-3pm Pacific                      Marvin Penner</p>	<p><b>Philosophy of Ministry 2</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Summarizing the seminar</li> <li>2. The importance of continued learning and development</li> <li>3. Presentation of Assignment #8</li> </ol>	<p>Complete assignment #8 before this session.                       1000-word Learnings Paper due December 7.</p>