



Leadership Cohort FAQs

1. What is a cohort?

A cohort is a small group of pastors and leaders who commit to meeting regularly for mutual care, encouragement, accountability, learning, and growth together.

2. Are there different kinds of cohorts?

Yes! These cohorts will be formed either regionally, by affinity, or training focus.

- Regional cohorts will be made up of Pastors from within their region.
- Affinity cohorts will be made up of Pastors who have shared experience, ministry, or interest (i.e. church planters, urban pastors, next-gen pastors, etc.).
- Training cohorts will be made up of Pastors who are committed to learning and growth in a specific area. The Shoreline Conference is offering five training cohorts this next year.

3. What are the training cohorts being offered?

- Dirt Roads Network: September-May, 2x/month for 1 hour
- Greater Prayer: September-April, 1x/month
- Discipology: September-November, Mondays 6:30-8:00 pm (This cohort is divided into 3 series-8 weeks each. Therefore, it will continue until April or May.)
- Thriving Leaders: 20 months, 1x/month
- Multipliers Journey: September-March, 1x/month
- To see each description and register click [here](#).

4. When do these cohorts take place?

Regional cohorts will begin in September or October. As seen above, the training cohorts each have their own schedule.

5. Why are some free while others have a cost?

Some cohorts involve expenses for materials or external facilitators. In some cases, we partner with outside networks that require compensation.

6. What happens if I don't register for 1 of the 5 training cohorts offered by Shoreline?

If you choose not to register for one of the offered cohorts, your Regional Superintendent will place you in a regional cohort, providing you with a smaller community of pastors for mutual care, accountability, and learning.

7. Who must participate in a cohort?

Every lead pastor and elder appointed to a local church is expected to participate in a cohort.

8. What are the benefits of a cohort?

Cohorts provide a space for pastors to grow spiritually, personally, and as leaders through meaningful relationships with peers. They offer practical support so that no one



leads alone. By investing in one another, we become healthier leaders and better equipped to serve our churches and advance God's mission together.

9. I'm not an elder appointed to a local church. Can I participate in a cohort?

Absolutely! Cohorts are open to anyone who is able to participate, and we encourage you to join unless otherwise noted.

10. Are cohorts expected to meet in person or can we meet virtually?

- Virtual: Dirt Roads Network, Greater Prayer, Discipology
- In-person: Thriving Leaders, Multipliers Journey
- Regional cohorts will meet in person.

11. Are there materials (books, etc.) that we will need to purchase for these cohorts?

Some cohorts may have required reading, and in those cases, the cohort participants are responsible for purchasing the books.

12. I am a newly appointed pastor. I have heard that I am required to participate in a specific cohort. Is this true?

Yes. *Newly appointed* pastors are *required* to participate in the Thriving Leaders cohort.

13. What about affinity cohorts?

Currently Shoreline is offering one affinity cohort for church planters. However, if there is a group of pastors who want to form an affinity group, they are welcome to do so but need to have it approved by the Director of Pastoral Development.

14. I am already in a group or cohort of pastors that meets regularly. Do I need to participate in one of these cohorts as well?

The aim of these pastoral cohorts is that every pastor is connected relationally with a group of Pastors where they experience mutual care, accountability, and learning. Additionally, these cohorts are spaces to connect with the Shoreline Mission and Vision and therefore it's important that these cohorts include Shoreline leaders. If your group satisfies these objectives, then it can be considered for your cohort participation upon approval from the Director of Pastoral Development.

15. What is the deadline for registering for a training cohort or forming an affinity cohort?

Because all training cohorts begin in September, pastors will need to register by August 31st, although the sooner you register, the better for planning purposes. Following that date, anyone who is not confirmed for a training or affinity cohort will be assigned to a regional cohort. If you do not wish to participate in a training cohort or affinity cohort, you do not need to register and will automatically be placed in a cohort.

16. If I am participating in a regional cohort, when will I be notified about my cohort?

You will be notified in September. Regional Superintendents are currently identifying regional cohort leaders and meeting with their pastors to discern cohort needs.



Therefore, the confirmation and launch of regional cohorts will vary by region. All regional cohorts will begin in October at the latest.