



In the realm of faith-based leadership, the need for compassionate, visionary leaders is paramount. Here is a compelling argument for why a faith-based leader should invest in the Premier Program of Leadership Howard County:

1. Holistic Leadership Development:

The Premier Program is designed to cultivate leaders who can navigate complex challenges with compassion and vision. Faith-based leaders benefit from a holistic approach, integrating leadership skills with values that align with their spiritual principles.

2. Networking within a Diverse Community:

Participating in the Premier Program offers unique networking opportunities within a diverse community of leaders. Engage with leaders from various religious backgrounds, fostering understanding, collaboration, and the exchange of ideas that transcend denominational boundaries.

3. Community Engagement with a Purpose:

The program emphasizes community engagement, providing a platform for faith-based leaders to actively contribute to local initiatives and social causes. This aligns with the core values of faith-based leadership, creating a positive impact and fostering a sense of responsibility within the community.

4. Measurable Impact on Spiritual and Community Outcomes:

The Premier Program's outcomes extend beyond traditional leadership metrics. Previous participants have reported a strengthened sense of purpose, enhanced spiritual leadership skills, and positive impacts on the communities they serve. These outcomes contribute to the overall well-being and growth of faith-based organizations.

5. Future-Proofing Spiritual Leadership:

In a world where faith and spirituality intersect with diverse challenges, the Premier Program equips faith-based leaders with the skills needed to adapt and lead in an ever-changing environment. It is an investment in the future resilience and relevance of spiritual leadership.

6. A Wise Investment for Sustainable Spiritual Growth:

Consider the Premier Program as an investment in the enduring growth of your faith-based leadership. The knowledge and skills acquired contribute not only to short-term success but also to the long-term sustainability and influence of your faith community.

Conclusion:

For faith-based leaders seeking to navigate the complexities of the modern world with grace and purpose, the Premier Program at Leadership Howard County is a transformative opportunity. It is more than a leadership development program; it is an investment in aligning leadership skills with spiritual values, fostering community, and creating a positive impact. By participating in the Premier Program, faith-based leaders not only enrich their own leadership journey but contribute to the collective flourishing of the communities they serve. Invest in leadership, invest in purpose, and embark on a journey that transcends traditional leadership paradigms.

Frequently Asked Questions:

What is the program content?

The core program for Leadership Howard County is its ten-month leadership development program designed with a focus on civic engagement, adaptive leadership, and collaborative problem-solving. Through site visits, presentations, design thinking activities, and informal discussions, participants learn how major decisions are made, who makes them and ways they can engage in systems change in their home community. The program also utilizes a team-building overnight retreat that allows participants to examine the tenets of leadership.

The program covers topics such as:

- Human services
- Housing and Transportation
- Local and State Government
- Healthcare
- Human services
- Education/Lifelong Learning
- Business and economic development
- Public safety
- Quality of life: cultural and recreational opportunities

Participants also commit to a “Community Impact Project,” which is a project identified by a host organization – typically a nonprofit organization or government entity – addressing an organizational challenge or strategic issue. Participants work in teams on a consultant basis, performing research and proposing creative, sustainable solutions. This activity is designed to be a beneficial experience not only for the organization but for our participants as well, helping them gain a better understanding of community needs and a deeper appreciation for community involvement.

What is the long-term value of completing the program?

With a network of more than 1,500 graduates, our members continue to stay connected to the issues in the community and to each other for personal and professional support. LHC conducts many regular meetings and forums for graduates and other members of the community to meet and learn about issues or resources in the community. These include quarterly breakfasts and luncheons with guest speakers and our annual Big Event fundraiser, which features a keynote speaker with an inspiring message about meeting the challenges of community leadership.

Graduates commit to using their experience for the long-term benefit of our community. They have learned about community issues, developed their leadership skills and the knowledge of how to tap into vital resources. With this knowledge, many graduates serve on nonprofit and community boards and committees where their interests, talents and resources can best be used.

What is the time commitment?

This is a 10-month program, running from September to June.

The kick-off orientation meeting is held early to mid-September following Labor Day. In addition, a mandatory, two-day overnight retreat is held at the end of September. All monthly day-long sessions, *usually held* on the third Tuesday of the month, will be published in early spring.

Additional Commitments

Applicants must have the full support (financial and time commitment) of the organization or corporation they represent. They must also commit to the overnight retreat and monthly sessions.

How do I apply to Leadership Howard County Premier?

Starting in January through May 17, 2024, individuals may apply online by visiting the website: www.leadershiphc.org, and going to the Programs link, and clicking on Apply.

A non-refundable application fee of \$75 is required.

How many participants are selected for each class year?

Each year, approximately 40 to 50 individuals are selected to participate in the program. The Selection Committee reviews applications and selects participants, based upon the merits of the written application and a personal interview.

How much is tuition?

Tuition for the 2025 Class will be \$6,400 – the cost includes the overnight retreat, program materials, program transportation, meals during the monthly sessions, and a ticket for the annual graduation dinner held in June.

Is tuition assistance available?

Tuition assistance is available to those in need (nonprofits, faith-based organizations, community activists, small businesses). We can typically provide up to one third to one half of the tuition cost. A request must be submitted with the application and is available online or by calling the office at 410-730-4474. Payment plans are also available. While we ask that individuals have the financial support of the organization or business they represent, we also encourage nonprofits and individuals with a sincere interest to apply, as community partnerships may also be able to offer additional financial support.