

# Pastoral Leadership Pathway (PL Pathway)



This pathway is for experienced leaders who are enrolled in a Pastoral Leadership programme at Laidlaw College. It offers an integrated formation experience that combines immersive retreats, online gatherings, personalised coaching, and engagement with guest practitioners to support deep theological reflection and practical ministry development.

The Pastoral Leadership Pathway is designed to strengthen pastoral identity and leadership capacity. The PL Pathway also provides special entry into postgraduate pastoral leadership programmes for participants who have a minimum of 80% attendance.

## The PL Pathway caters for

- Those who are enrolled in the GradCertTh(PL), PGCertTh(PL), PGDipTh(PL), and MTh(PL);
- Those who are in their second or third year of the BTh who have ministry leadership experience and are interested in Pastoral Leadership.

In addition to the above:

- Admission in the programme requires evidence of a minimum of five years' recognized ministry leadership experience (or similar approved experience);
- Applicants must complete a police check;
- Applicants must complete a questionnaire and may be required to have an interview;
- Applicants must provide a written reference from a senior ministry leader.

# Pastoral Leadership (PL) Pathway

Participants with at least 80% attendance will receive a certificate of completion.

The Centre for Church Leadership (CFCL) will be facilitating the cohort experience of the PL Pathway.

## ANNUAL RETREAT

**Facilitators: Matt Lilly and Louise Wernich**  
**21-23 April**  
**Flaxmill Retreat Centre**

The three-day retreat is a focused, immersive learning experience within the Pastoral Leadership Pathway, designed to integrate theological reflection with practical ministry formation. Across learning sessions, group discussion, and prayer, participants engage deeply with key themes such as the formation of healthy, disciple-making communities; the inner life of the leader; engagement with God's mission; communication and preaching; spiritual vitality; organisational leadership; ethics; pastoral care; and other contextual issues.

The intensive provides space to wrestle with real-world pastoral challenges, learn from experienced practitioners, and apply insights directly to ministry. Strengthened by the cohort learning environment, this gathering accelerates leadership growth.

## ACCESS TO GUEST SPEAKERS/LECTURES

**Invites to be sent out when applicable**

You benefit from input and proximity to international and local guests who bring fresh insight, diverse experience, and practical wisdom. These sessions broaden perspectives, deepen theological reflection, and expose you to a range of ministry contexts and leadership approaches - contributing to your overall formation journey.

## 2026 Fees

**Pastoral Leadership Pathway: \$800** per year. This includes a 3 day annual retreat, monthly two-hour interactive cohort learning sessions, access to international guest speakers/lecturers, and 4 coaching sessions. This fee does not cover transport costs to or from gatherings, and would not be covered by a student loan.

To apply for the PL Pathway please contact the Pastoral Leadership Coordinator Louise Wernich - [Lwernich@laidlaw.ac.nz](mailto:Lwernich@laidlaw.ac.nz)

## COACHING SESSIONS

**Centre for Church Leaders Senior Coaches**  
**4 1-hour sessions**

You receive personalised coaching that supports your growth in pastoral identity, skill, and formation. Through reflective conversation and practical guidance, the Senior Coach helps you integrate learning with real ministry, set meaningful goals, and navigate leadership challenges. These sessions provide a trusted space for encouragement, clarity, and next steps, ensuring you are accompanied and well-supported throughout the pathway.

## MONTHLY ONLINE GATHERINGS

**Facilitators: Matt Lilly and Louise Wernich**  
**10 monthly sessions on a Wednesday evening 7pm-9pm**  
**or Thursday morning 9am-11am**

Each month, you join online sessions featuring expert input and training from a variety of experienced ministry practitioners. These gatherings combine input with interactive discussion, giving participants space to reflect, ask questions, and engage with peers. The sessions foster ongoing learning, community connection, and practical application.