

## Program Calendar for *Company of New Pastors*

<b>Year 1</b>	<i>Spring</i>	Seminary middlers are recruited and begin to meet as a <i>Company of New Pastors</i> campus group during the Spring Semester. There is a formal “launch” led by the Director of the <i>Company of New Pastors</i> program, hosted by seminary mentors.
		<i>Company of New Pastors</i> campus group gathers for the balance of the spring, led by seminary mentors, which include table fellowship, prayer, and study of ordination vows.
		From the outset, and through the duration of the program, all mentors and participants adopt and maintain the <i>Company of Pastors</i> ’ covenant of daily prayer and reading.
	<i>Fall</i>	<i>Company of New Pastors</i> campus group, whose members are now seminary seniors, gathers four times for monthly meetings led by seminary mentors, which include table fellowship, prayer, and study of ordination vows.
All <i>Company of New Pastors</i> seminarians come to Louisville for a three-day national gathering, at which they become better acquainted with each other and denominational leadership. They learn more about the <i>Company of New Pastors</i> post-graduation phase.		
<b>Year 2</b>	<i>Spring</i>	<i>Company of New Pastors</i> campus group gathers four times for monthly meetings led by seminary mentors, which include table fellowship, prayer, and study of ordination vows.
	<i>Fall</i>	Spring seminary graduates gather for a second national gathering (near a major national airport) that is a combination mini-reunion and transitional meeting (travel, meals and lodging expenses are paid for by the program). Ad hoc in nature—some participants will already have received a call, while others will be delayed for a variety of reasons (e.g., additional ordination requirements such as ordination examinations, CPE, internship, final seminary coursework; haven’t found an appropriate call)—the primary purpose is to provide support to participants in their particular situation, be it first call or waiting to receive a call. Future Pastormentors will attend on an as-available basis to become preliminarily acquainted with future covenant group members. The theme for the gathering is Divine Providence.
<b>Year 3</b>	<i>Early Fall</i>	Seminary graduates from the previous spring (e.g., 2008 graduates in the spring of 2009) gather for the first time in regional pastor-theologian groups led by their new pastor-mentors, at an appropriate retreat location (the group convenes roughly every 8 months). The first gathering is designed primarily for group-formation. The pastor-theologian study component for this gathering is less intensive than it will be in future gatherings. The Four-year <i>Company of New Pastors</i> pastor-theologian study program explores the theological foundations of successive rubrics in the Service for the Lord’s Day. This topic for the first meeting is <b>Baptism and Trinity</b> , since entrance into the worshipping community is gained through the door of Baptism in the Triune Name. The liturgical focus is on the rubric of <i>Gathering &amp; Call to Worship</i> , allowing for exploration of the pastoral practices concerning <b>Worship and Baptism</b> . Brief readings will be assigned to each participant, with the expectation of some kind of ordered reflection in response. The gathering spans three days and two nights (travel, meals and lodging expenses are paid for by the program).
		<i>Company of New Pastors</i> mentors and participants continue the <i>Company of Pastors</i> ’ covenant of daily prayer and reading.
		Participants complete their first research survey.

<b>Year 4</b>	<i>Late Winter or Spring</i>	<p>Regional covenant groups convene for their second meeting (50% of travel, meals and lodging expenses are paid for by the program). The group convenes in a pastor-theologian gathering roughly every 8 months at an appropriate retreat location (twice in year four, once in year five, twice in year six). Each gathering spans four days and three nights. Pastor-mentors frame a substantive reading list, and participants present ordered reflection (e.g., a paper) to the group focusing on how they understand those readings to inform pastoral practice. Study themes continue to revolve around the rubrics of the Service for the Lord's Day. The topic for the second gathering is: <b>Theological Anthropology and Soteriology</b>, focusing on the liturgical rubric of <i>Confession, Pardon, Peace</i>, allowing for exploration of pastoral practices concerning <b>Sin, Forgiveness, Reconciliation</b></p> <p><i>Company of New Pastors</i> participants are encouraged to attend the national gatherings of the <i>Company of Pastors</i> at each General Assembly. Travel and program costs for those gatherings are borne entirely by participants.</p>
	<i>Fall</i>	<p>Regional covenant groups convene for their third meeting (participant expenses are socialized and born by group participants for this and all remaining regional gatherings). The gathering spans four days and three nights. Pastor-mentors frame a substantive reading list, and participants present ordered reflection (e.g., a paper) to the group focusing on how they understand those readings to inform pastoral practice. Study themes continue to revolve around the rubrics of the Service for the Lord's Day. The topic for the third gathering is: <b>Scripture, Revelation and Christology</b>, focusing on the liturgical rubric of <i>Ministry of the Word</i>, allowing for exploration of the pastoral practices concerning <b>Preaching</b>.</p> <p>Each Fall participants complete a research survey, which will be part of a major longitudinal study of entrance into ministry patterns and issues.</p>

<b>Year 5</b>	<i>Late Spring or Early Summer</i>	<p>Regional covenant groups convene for their fourth gathering. The topic is <b>Means of Grace and Pneumatology</b>, focusing on the liturgical rubric of <i>The Sacraments</i>, allowing for exploration of the pastoral practices concerning <b>The Lord's Supper</b>.</p> <p><i>Company of New Pastors</i> participants are encouraged to attend the national gatherings of the <i>Company of Pastors</i> at each General Assembly. Travel and program costs for those gatherings are borne entirely by participants.</p>
	<i>Fall</i>	<p>Each Fall participants complete a research survey, which will be part of a major longitudinal study of entrance into ministry patterns and issues.</p>

<b>Year 6</b>	<i>Winter</i>	<p>Regional covenant groups convene for their fifth gathering – The topic is <b>Mission, Ecclesiology and Pastoral Care</b>, focusing on the liturgical rubric of <i>Prayers of the People and Offering</i>, allowing for exploration of the pastoral practice of <b>Prayer</b> (participant expenses are socialized and born by group participants).</p> <p><i>Company of New Pastors</i> participants are encouraged to attend the national gatherings of the <i>Company of Pastors</i> at each General Assembly. Travel and program costs for those gatherings are borne entirely by participants.</p>
	<i>Fall</i>	<p>Final National gathering (<i>travel, meals and lodging are paid for by the program for this final event; spouses are invited</i>) with a nationally-known speaker in a nice retreat setting, focusing on the liturgical rubric of <i>Charge and Benediction</i>.</p> <p>Each Fall participants complete a research survey, which will be part of a major longitudinal study of entrance into ministry patterns and issues.</p>