



THE COHORT EXPERIENCE

Built for leaders who want more than survival.

A six-month cohort for pastors and ministry leaders — community, space, and support for the road ahead.

THEAUTHENTICPASTOR.COM

You're probably not falling apart.

Dear Ministry Leader,

If you're reading this, you love what you do. You believe in your calling. You've built something real, and you intend to keep building for a long time. That's exactly who our cohorts are for.

But here's something we've learned from walking with hundreds of pastors — and something the research keeps confirming: *the leaders most committed to their calling are often the last to invest in themselves*. Barna's latest State of the Church research found pastors flourishing in faith and calling at remarkable levels. Where the numbers quietly dip is in the places nobody sees from the pews: real friendships and personal well-being. And when pastors are asked what help they want, most name skills they already have. So the thing that's actually wearing them down never comes up.

Think about your last week. How many conversations did you have where nobody needed anything from you? For most ministry leaders, the honest answer is zero. Not because anything is wrong. Because the role is built that way.

Everyone around you needs something from you. That's the job. It's also the ceiling.

The most effective thing a serious leader can do — for their church, their family, and their own future — is build genuine community with peers who understand their world and are willing to be honest about it. Not a conference. Not a network. A small circle walking the same road, with experienced guides, over enough time for it to matter. Six months from now, you could be leading with more clarity than you've had in years — with a plan you believe in and people who actually know you.

That's what this is for. That's what we built. Here's how it works.

You're not alone!

Tim Eldred

FOUNDER & CEO, THE AUTHENTIC PASTOR

"Pastoral ministry can be deeply isolating and I've longed to find others who 'get it.' During my cohort, I found meaningful relationships with real friends who know the journey I'm on and love me through my peaks and valleys."

KYLE BURKHOLDER | THE COVENANT CHURCH

Community, space, & support.

Six months. A small, closed circle. Two retreats, monthly coaching — group and one-on-one — and a proven process underneath it all.

01

Peers Who Get It

Each cohort brings together 8–12 pastors and ministry leaders. For once, you're not responsible for everyone else in the room. No explaining yourself. No managing how you come across. Just honest conversations with leaders who are serious about growth — not just looking for a place to vent.

02

Retreats That Reset

Your cohort opens and closes with a 3-day, 2-night retreat in comfortable homes across the country. Lodging, meals, and ground transportation are all handled. Your whole life is logistics for other people — here, you carry nothing. You'll leave with more clarity and energy than you came with.

03

Monthly Group Coaching

Your cohort meets by video for 75 minutes each month — a space to process real situations, think out loud, and learn from people facing the same decisions you are. These aren't curriculum walk-throughs. They're working sessions, guided by coaches who've spent decades in ministry.

WHAT ALMOST NO ONE ELSE OFFERS

An Hour Only About You

Every member receives a private 60-minute coaching session each month — a conversation with someone who has no agenda for your church and no needs of their own in the room. And your coach isn't confined to the calendar: when something comes up between sessions, you reach out.

“I wasn't sure what I was walking into — but The Authentic Pastor has been an absolute gift. The camaraderie, the encouragement, the friendships. If you're looking for that, look no further.”

J.R. LEE | FREEDOM CHURCH

OUR APPROACH

More than a peer group.

Most leaders don't join a cohort because they're in crisis. They join because they take their calling seriously — and they've realized that doing it alone, surrounded only by people who need something from them, isn't a growth strategy.

But honesty alone isn't a plan. Every cohort runs on **WholeCare™** — our proven framework that treats your life, your leadership, and your ministry as one integrated whole. Every challenge that surfaces gets examined in full context, with experienced coaches guiding the process, so the conversations build toward something. Full WholeCare™ course access is included.

You don't just leave with friendships — though you'll have those. You leave with clarity about who you are, what matters most, and how to lead from it for the long run.

WHAT SETS THIS APART

Individual coaching, every month

A dedicated hour each month devoted entirely to your growth, plus a coach you can reach between sessions — a component most programs simply don't include.

Retreats where you carry nothing

Two multi-day, in-person retreats with lodging, meals, and ground transportation fully included. You bring yourself; everything else is handled. For once, someone else deals with the details.

Guides who've lived it

Our coaching team brings over 200 years of ministry experience — lead pastors, church planters, executive pastors, NextGen pastors, and seminary professors who've served churches from 70 to 7,000+. They're not facilitators reading from a binder. They've sat in your chair and walked in your shoes.

A room full of iron

Cohorts are built from leaders who want more, not less — which means the person across from you sharpens you as much as the process does. Everyone receives when everyone gives.

THE DETAILS

Everything included. Nothing hidden.

Length: 6 months

Cohort size: 8–12 pastors & ministry leaders

Retreats: Two 3-day, 2-night retreats (opening & closing) — lodging, meals & ground transportation included

Group coaching: 75 minutes monthly, by video

Individual coaching: 60 minutes monthly, tailored to you

WholeCare™: Full course access for independent study

Start dates: New cohorts begin every spring & fall

Flights to retreats are not included.

THE INVESTMENT

\$3,950

EVERYTHING ABOVE, INCLUDED

Two conference registrations with travel can clear this number — and change nothing by November. Many boards fund a cohort from a continuing-education line, because the health of a pastor shapes the health of a congregation.

If the investment is the only thing between you and a yes, talk to us.

“Tired of tips and tricks promising results only to be disappointed? I was. Then, I went to a cohort with The Authentic Pastor. The process was real and the results were tangible. I’m in this for life!”

CODY WHITFILL | RIVER VALLEY CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP

What happens next

No pressure, no pitch. We'll set up a 30-minute video call — a real conversation about where you are, what you're looking for, and whether a cohort is the right fit. If it is, we'll find your dates. If it's not, we'll tell you that too. Each cohort accepts only 8–12 leaders, and seats fill before each spring and fall start. Call (989) 214-3849 or reach out at theauthenticpastor.com/contact.

You've spent years investing in everyone else. This season, include yourself.

FOR THE ONE WHO MAKES THIS DECISION

Funding a cohort isn't a perk. It's stewardship of your most important asset.

A leader you're responsible for has asked about The Authentic Pastor Cohort — or you're considering it for them. Whether you're a senior pastor, an executive pastor, an elder board, or a personnel committee, this page is for you: the one who decides whether this gets funded.

Why this, and why now

The health of a leader shapes the health of everything they lead. Barna's latest research finds ministry leaders strong in faith and calling — and quietest in the places nobody sees: peer relationships and personal well-being. Most ask for skills training instead, because that's what feels professional to request. A cohort funds what actually sustains them: honest peer community, structured coaching, and room to think.

What you're funding

A six-month cohort of 8–12 pastors and ministry leaders, guided by coaches with decades of ministry and leadership experience.

Two 3-day, 2-night retreats (opening and closing) Includes the following: lodging, meals, and ground transportation.

Monthly coaching, twice over: a 75-minute group session and a private 60-minute session, with coach access between sessions.

The WholeCare™ framework — a proven process that treats life, leadership, and ministry as one integrated whole.

The stewardship math

The investment is **\$3,950**, plus flights to two retreats. For comparison: two conference registrations with travel routinely cost as much — and rarely change anything by year's end. Meanwhile, a pastoral transition costs a church far more than that in search expenses, interim coverage, lost momentum, and congregational strain. Developing the leader you have is the least expensive option on the table.

Most churches fund this from a continuing-education or staff-development line.

What we ask of you

Cover the investment, protect the two retreat dates on their calendar, and expect nothing in return for six months except a leader who is becoming clearer, steadier, and built for the long run. That's the whole ask.

If it would help, we're glad to speak with you or your board directly — a 30-minute call: (989) 214-3849.

The Authentic Pastor Team

THEAUTHENTICPASTOR.COM