

VISIONARY

LEADERSHIP INSTITUTE

An Initiative of the Foundation For The Mid South

Because of the strong institutional base of the church in the Mid South, the Foundation feels that the church is an important ally in any change efforts to revitalize the region through community-based development. In 1994, the Foundation for the Mid South joined other funders across the United States to open dialogue between philanthropists and faith leaders. A \$2-million investment from the Lilly Endowment made in 2003 supported and expanded the Foundation's creation of the Mid South Faith-Based Development Center (which recently changed its name to the Visionary Leadership Institute).

The Visionary Leadership Institute has three major components 3 *The Mid South Faith-Based Partnership* is a group of faith-based leaders that guide, advise, and steer the development of the Institute and its work; 3 *The Mid South Pastoral Leadership Development Institute* provides training and other learning opportunities for clergy that are affordable, logistically available, and tailored to and appropriate for their particular situation and needs. The Institute also provides support mechanisms by networking pastors from peer congregations in convenings, peer mentoring, and collaborative efforts from which they can receive and give mutual support; and 3 *The Mid South Pastoral & Congregational Development Grants Program* provides funds for pastoral and congregational leadership development opportunities.

The Institute strengthens the capacity - namely, the knowledge, competence, and effectiveness - of clergy leaders in small and medium-sized congregations to serve as well-rounded spiritual guides, worship leaders, preachers, teachers, counselors, administrators, economic developers and civic leaders.

for more information contact

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