

# Our Education and Formation Never Ends: *Helping Pastors Thrive Announces 2020 Workshop Retreats for Clergy*



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## CBF of NC WORKSHOP RETREAT FOR CLERGY

February 23-25, 2020  
St. Francis Springs Prayer Center, Stoneville, NC

### Pastoral Leadership in an Age of Polarization

Over the past forty years, polarization has permeated nearly every level of American lives, including the most intimate spheres of faith and interpersonal relationships. This workshop is designed to address pastoral leaders with relevant, practical mentorship on navigating polarized environments, equipping leaders to both manage themselves and effectively lead others in highly polarized and anxious systems.

Leader: **David R. Brubaker** is associate professor of Organizational Studies and Dean of the School of Social Sciences and the Professions at Eastern Mennonite University. His recent book, *When the Center Does Not Hold: Leading in an Age of Polarization*, was published by Fortress Press in November of 2019.



A Ministry of the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship of North Carolina

Registration limited to 18 participants. Fee for Workshop (includes two-night accommodations in private room and all meals): **\$100**

Register at [helpingpastorsthrive.org](http://helpingpastorsthrive.org)

is committed to creating those opportunities for learning in the context of practice. Beginning in February 2020, the Helping Pastors Thrive program will launch a five-year series of retreats. Designed as “workshops,” these retreats will bring together between 15 and 20 ministers at each event to explore topics that broadly fall into four major rubrics: Ministerial Leadership; The Arts of Ministry; Spiritual and Identity Formation; and Emerging Issues that Inform the Practices of Ministry. Three to four workshops will be offered each year, and the cost for participation will be underwritten in part by the Helping Pastors Thrive program.

As one who spent many years in higher education, particularly graduate and professional education, I am privileged to have experienced the excitement of students and graduates at the very beginning of their professional lives. Propelled by idealism, energy, and a desire to make a difference in the world, these young professionals transitioned from the classroom into the day-to-day practices of a wide variety of professions: nursing, business, public health, social work, teaching and non-profit work, to name a few. I always took comfort in knowing what a difference they would make in the world.

I also knew that the “work world” they were entering was undergoing massive change. Advances in technology, communication and medicine—combined with new scientific research, social change and intractable problems that would eventually temper their idealism—threaten their energy and professional commitment. If they were going to thrive in their work, then learning and professional development would need to be never-ending. As a nursing faculty member once told me, “The best students I have are those that know that learning never ends, and there are some things they cannot learn except in the emergency room, at the bedside, or in the rehab center.”

If they are to flourish in their ministries and lead their congregations, pastors, like all professionals, need opportunities to gather together, to share and to learn. Helping Pastors Thrive

Participation is open to all clergy who serve CBFNC-affiliated congregations.

Led by leaders from a wide range of sectors including business, health care, nonprofit, education, and ministry, the retreats will provide extended time for pastors to learn in dialogue with experts and peers. Central to each workshop is the assumption that in gathering together, participants will discover sources of wisdom, insight and learning.

The first workshop retreat, taking place February 23–25, will focus on the topic of “Pastoral Leadership in an Age of Polarization.” How can pastors be effective in bridging the divisions—political, social, economic, and theological—that dominate our cultural climate both outside and inside the church? This workshop retreat will be led by David Brubaker, professor of organizational management at Eastern Mennonite University and author of a recent book, *When the Center Does Not Hold: Leading in an Age of Polarization* (Fortress Press, 2019).

Additional workshops in 2020 will include “The Pastor as Spiritual Guide,” “Addiction and Pastoral Care,” and “Leading Congregations When You Don’t Know Where You Are Going.” 🌱

For more information on the Helping Pastors Thrive program, including these retreat workshops, please visit our website at [helpingpastorsthrive.org](http://helpingpastorsthrive.org).