



CHURCH AMBASSADOR NETWORK

A Ministry of Center for Christian Virtue

The Tom Minnery Fellowship for Cultural Engagement

Center for Christian Virtue's Continuing Cultural Education Program

The Minnery Fellowship for Cultural Engagement (The Minnery Fellowship) is an ongoing Continuing Cultural Education program to resource pastors and church leaders to understand the times and know how to respond.



THE MINNERY FELLOWSHIP
FOR
CULTURAL
ENGAGEMENT

The Minnery Fellowship is named for author, former Vice President of Focus on the Family and Chairman of the Board of Center for Christian Virtue Tom Minnery. Throughout Tom's career, he endeavored to encourage Christians to be salt and light in culture and “not be silent” on the most crucial issues facing our churches and families.

Purpose of The Minnery Fellowship

In 2023, Ohio voters passed one of the most radical abortion amendments in the nation. Despite a strong response from many church leaders opposing the amendment, an exit poll found that shockingly, more than one-out-of-three weekly-church attending Christians voted “Yes” on this deadly amendment.

In response, CCV and our Church Ambassador Network have a unique opportunity to systematically come alongside pastors to help them speak to the difficult cultural and political issues facing Christians today. *The Minnery Fellowship* will provide ongoing educational opportunities for pastors and church leaders to dive into the practical issues facing Christians in culture, and develop with a cohort of their peers Biblical strategies and messages to respond.

Structure of The Minnery Fellowship

Much like the “Continuing Legal Education” attorneys receive on an annual basis, *The Minnery Fellowship* is an ongoing equipping experience for pastors, not a one-time program. The structure of *The Fellowship* includes:

- Two four-month sessions annually focused on one core “Big Idea” each (August – November / January – April)
 - Pastors will go through the sessions in cohorts of 5-12 of their peers. Each cohort will have a leader to guide discussion. Cohort leaders will come to the CCV office prior to the kick off of each session to be trained on the content to come.
- Each session will include:
 - A kick off *Exploration* event with a leader on the topic. The *Exploration* will be an in-person event located outside of Columbus that fellows can attend in-person or virtually with their cohort.



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- A *Practicum* where pastors go interact with individuals addressing or interacting with the Big Idea in real life.
- Two monthly *Gatherings* of the cohorts to walk through together discourse questions.
- An in-person *Capstone* ending session in Columbus with a national leader.
- At the end of each session, *Fellows* will have:
 - Access to a resource bank of articles, books, podcasts, and other materials diving deeper into the topic.
 - A one-page *Session Summary* prepared by the *Fellow* answering practical questions including “What scriptures are relevant to this topic?,” “What policies or programs could my church implement to help my congregation think more Biblically about this topic?” and “How can I address this topic in a sermon?”
 - Implementable Bible study curriculum *Fellows* can provide their congregation to unpack the topic in their church.

Measuring the Impact of *The Minnery Fellowship*

Fellows will be surveyed at the beginning and conclusion of each session to measure how their perspective and understanding of *The Big Idea* has changed or been impacted by the session.

Pastors can also opt-into a Pre and Post-survey of the members in their congregation who engage in the bible study curriculum to see the needle move on their Biblical understanding of the big idea for each session.

Resources and Materials

When *fellows* enroll, they will receive:

- Access to *The Minnery Fellowship* online platform to track their progress, connect with CCV staff and other leaders, download materials from the *Resource Bank*, register for events, and more.
- A leather portfolio for notes and materials provided.
- At least one *Keystone* book per session.