



North American LEAD 15 will be held May 8–10, 2026 at Church of the Trinity MCC in Sarasota, Florida, USA. This retreat is the first step in MCC’s premier lay leadership training program, designed to empower, equip, and inspire laity to step into leadership in their churches and communities.

Scholarships are available to ensure cost is never a barrier.

If you would like to be considered for LEAD 15, please complete the application below. Applications are due by March 15, 2026 or until 18 applicants have been accepted.

For more details about LEAD 15, see the flyer here:

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1clQq4nQqyos3tVj8s50dxzf2ZuQZmRHh/view?usp=sharing>

North American LEAD APPLICATION

Dear UFMCC Lay Leader:

Thank you for your interest in applying for UFMCC’s North American LEAD (Laity Empowered for Active Discipleship) Program.

The application includes the following five sections:

- Personal information
- Education and professional training
- Professional development (last three years)
- Past/present church leadership/ministry positions
- Professional/personal references

Please complete each of these five sections thoroughly.

The second component consists of a statement of why you desire to obtain the LEAD certificate. The statement should consist of at least one paragraph but should be limited to one page in length (assuming double spacing and 12-point font). In addition, the applicant should select and answer TWO of four leadership questions. The answers to each of the two selected questions should consist of at least one paragraph but should be limited to one page in length (assuming double spacing and 12-point font) for each question.

In addition, we will be contacting your pastor or other ministry leader for a letter of recommendation so that we can have a better picture of your current ministry and your involvement in your local church. A one-page recommendation form will be sent directly to your pastor or ministry leader by LEAD.

All applications must be returned to the NA LEAD Core Team Members. Please send your application as an email attachment to NancyMaxwell@MCCchurch.net

Your application, statement, and recommendation letters will be reviewed by the Core Team Members. You will then be informed of our decision.

If you are accepted into the LEAD program, you will be required to attend an NA LEAD retreat. Upon your acceptance into the program, more detailed information will be sent to you about the Retreat schedule and travel options.

Please contact Elder Nancy Maxwell nancymaxwell@MCCchurch.net Elder Velma Garcia (velmagarcia@MCCchurch.net) Barry Hundley (barryhundley@MCCchurch.net) or Marie Tasker (marietasker@MCCchurch.net) should you have any questions regarding the NA LEAD program or the application process.

Blessings,

The North American LEAD Core Team Members

Elder Nancy Maxwell
Elder Velma Garcia
Barry Hundley
Marie Tasker



APPLICATION FOR NORTH AMERICAN LEAD
LAITY EMPOWERED FOR ACTIVE DISCIPLESHIP
UNIVERSAL FELLOWSHIP OF METROPOLITAN COMMUNITY CHURCHES

To be completed with accompanying essays and returned to:
 NancyMaxwell@MCCchurch.net

PERSONAL INFORMATION			
<i>Last Name</i>	<i>First Name</i>	<i>Middle Name</i>	<i>Pronouns</i>
<i>Permanent Address</i>	<i>City</i>	<i>State</i>	<i>Zip Code</i>
<i>Address to send correspondence (if different)</i>	<i>City</i>	<i>State</i>	<i>Zip Code</i>
<i>Preferred Email Address</i>	<i>Preferred Phone Number (Please include area code)</i>		
<i>Current MCC Church Affiliation Church Name/Address</i>	<i>Pastor's Name (will be contacted about your current ministry or involvement in your local church)</i> <i>Pastor's email address:</i>	<i>State/Province</i>	<i>Zip Code</i>
<i>Current Secular (Nonchurch) Work (or prior secular work if retired)</i>	<i>Secular Job Responsibilities</i>		

EDUCATION AND PROFESSIONAL TRAINING				
<i>Degree</i>	<i>Institution</i>	<i>Location (City/State or Province)</i>	<i>Year Graduated</i>	<i>Major/Minor</i>

PROFESSIONAL OR OTHER LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT		
<i>Workshops, Training, or Courses (last 3 years)</i>	<i>Date(s)</i>	<i>Location/Sponsor</i>

PAST/PRESENT CHURCH LEADERSHIP/MINISTRY POSITIONS	
<i>Leadership/Ministry Position</i>	<i>Dates Held</i>
	<i>From</i> <i>To</i>
	<i>From</i> <i>To</i>
	<i>From</i> <i>To</i>
	<i>From</i> <i>To</i>
	<i>From</i> <i>To</i>
	<i>From</i> <i>To</i>

PROFESSIONAL/PERSONAL REFERENCES			
<i>Name</i>	<i>Email Address</i>	<i>Phone/Fax#</i>	<i>Official Position</i>
1.			
2.			

I affirm that the statements above are true and complete to the best of my knowledge. I also affirm that I understand that, in order to meet the requirements of the LEAD certificate, I may incur tuition fees, conference fees, and other costs beyond the registration and expenses associated with the LEAD Retreat.

(Signature of applicant)

(Date)

LAITY EMPOWERED FOR ACTIVE DISCIPLESHIP (North America)
UNIVERSAL FELLOWSHIP OF METROPOLITAN COMMUNITY CHURCHES
LEADERSHIP STATEMENT AND QUESTIONS

1. Why would you like to participate in the LEAD Certificate Program?

Please write at least one paragraph but no more than one page in length, assuming double spacing and 12-point font.

2. Select and answer **TWO of the following four questions:**

Your answer to each of your selected two questions below should be at least one paragraph, but should be limited to one page in length (assuming double spacing and 12-point font) for each answer.

- 1. What do you think are the necessary skills and knowledge to become an effective UFMCC lay leader?**
- 2. How do you see your role as a leader supporting the strategic priorities of your local UFMCC church congregation as well as the Universal Fellowship?**
- 3. Describe a specific example of how your leadership impacted a positive change in your church. Be sure to include the results or outcomes of your efforts.**
- 4. Please write a statement of your faith.**