

New England roundtables



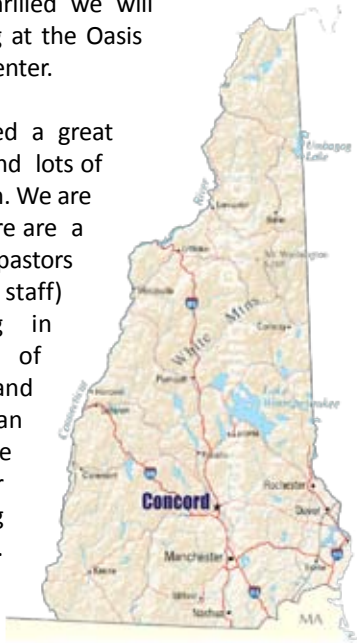
On to Concord September 9th Oasis Christian Center

We have been assessing our geographic reach in New England and felt the next step for a roundtable would be in New Hampshire. After making calls and talking with pastors in "the Granite State" we are all set for our first roundtable in September.

Our focus will be the challenges of pastoral leadership and the recurring battlefronts every pastor confronts in local church ministry.

We spent the summer recruiting pastors and nailing down the site and location and are thrilled we will be meeting at the Oasis Christian Center.

We received a great response and lots of anticipation. We are finding there are a lot of solo pastors (i.e., no staff) ministering in this part of New England and we can sense the hunger for this learning connection.



"My purpose is that they may be encouraged in heart and united in love ... in order that they may know the mystery of God, namely, Christ. Colossians 2:2

It is mid August already, and everyone is gearing up for fall...backpack sales at Target, fall calendars, talk about the Red Sox and the ALCS "wild card" hopes... I had two aborted starts at newsletters, there was the Spring edition that morphed into the Summer edition but somehow the exigencies of life intervened, and I apologize.

I want to update you on the exciting adventure that New England Roundtables continues to be. This fall, in addition to the expanding roundtables with Gordon Conwell, I'll be facilitating a new roundtable process as a follow up to the Leadership Summit that occurred in early August conducted by the Willow Creek Association. We've joined forces to assure that pastors are integrating the valuable leadership skills and perspective from this two day event. Thanks for all your prayers and support!

What is Peer Learning?

In the middle and muddle of all the talk about "life-long learning", there's a pointed question for pastors: With all the demands and pressures of pastoral ministry, how do you stay fresh and keep growing in your effectiveness and skills as pastoral leaders?

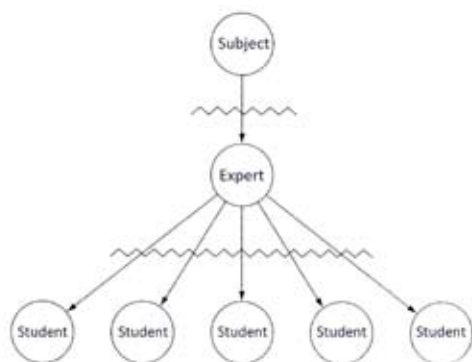
Our answer is the "peer learning community", the core design of a roundtable experience. Pastors gather with their peers, fellow practitioners who share high levels of experiential knowledge gleaned through their years of pastoral ministry. The learning occurs when we facilitate a conversation around a focused issue, one that draws on the pastors' knowledge and critical perspectives. The genuine transparency emerges over time that provides a supportive climate for addressing the particular context of each pastor.

This kind of learning community is a far cry from a pastor sitting alone in a study reading a book in isolation from others. Nor is it a typical classroom experience where one expert on the subject imparts objective truth to their students (see diagram). While these are both profitable and typical learning tracks, they tend to be simplistic and somewhat reductionistic when addressing the complexities of church ministry.

Pastors instinctively know the spiritual and
(cont.)



The Classroom

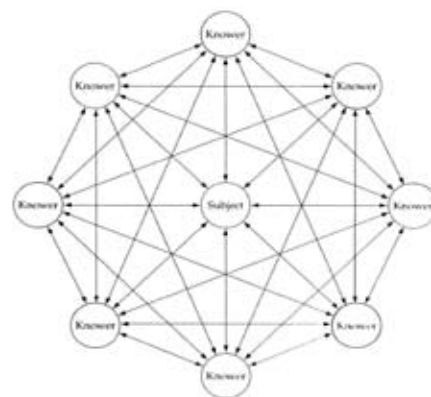


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relational issues embedded within church cultures.

While there is no “silver bullet”, they can glean critical action steps in addressing their particular challenge when listening to the reflections of fellow laborers. Their contextual knowledge forms an instant appreciation for the various perspectives shared around important topics.

The Roundtable



Here are two diagrams that indicate two different approaches to the flow of information and ideas. We use the paradigm to the right in our pastor discussions.

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 Vision New England

Pray for us ...

Upcoming Dates

Pastor Roundtables (monthly; Wednesdays) – in cooperation with Gordon Conwell Theological Seminary

- Sept 2 Portland, ME (2nd year)
- Sept 9 Concord, NH (1st year)
- Sept 16 Hamilton, MA (ongoing)
- Sept 23 Boston South Shore (3rd year)

Leadership Summit (Willow Creek)– 4 Month Roundtables

- Sept 10 Rehoboth, MA
- Sept 17 Metro Boston

Religious Dialogues

- Liberal-Evangelical Dialogue - September 17 and December 3
- Catholic-Evangelical Dialogue - October and January

Evangelical Denominational Leaders - October 1

New England Consultation of Church Leaders (NECCL) - October 6-7

Consultation – Future of the Evangelical Mission (GCTS) - October 13-15



Processing input...

Please continue to pray for financial support to fund this growing ministry...Thank you.

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roundtables
New England

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