

Harvest Academy

A Multi-Tiered Discipleship and Leadership Program at Metro Harvest Church

Overview

At Metro Harvest Church, we believe that the local church is God's primary context for the formation and maturity of believers. While we are grateful for outside institutions, we are deeply convinced by the biblical precedent that leaders are to be raised, equipped, and affirmed within the life of the church itself (Ephesians 4:11-13; 2 Timothy 2:2).

Harvest Academy is the training ground where this conviction comes to life. Rooted in our mission—to help people become passionate followers of Jesus Christ—the Academy provides a clear pathway of spiritual growth, leadership development, and preparation for eldership or other areas of five-fold ministry — all in alignment with our vision.

Harvest Academy is all about formation. It renews minds, shapes hearts, and equips hands for service—developing passionate Christ-followers who live out their faith with conviction, integrity, and impact.

The Academy consists of three sequential schools:

1. **School of Discipleship** – Building a foundation of faith, theology, and spiritual practices.
2. **School of Leadership** – Developing Christlike leaders who can serve and influence others.
3. **School of Eldership** – Forming, testing, and affirming qualified men for eldership and any five-fold ministry assignments.

School of Discipleship

Purpose Statement

The School of Discipleship exists to equip believers with a firm foundation in faith, formation, and practice so they can grow as fully devoted followers of Jesus Christ.

Timeframe

- **2-Year Program**
- Prerequisite: Completion of **Starting Point** and being an active **Dream Teamer (church member)**
- Four semesters taken over two years
- Each semester runs **12 weeks**
- **Year 1:** Spring & Fall semesters
- **Year 2:** Spring & Fall semesters

Core Classes

- **Christian Beliefs** – Systematic Theology
- **Christian Story** – Understanding the grand narrative of Scripture, seeing Jesus throughout the biblical story, and understanding our place within it
- **Christian Formation** – Becoming who God has called us to be
- **4th Class - More information coming soon!**

Outcomes

Graduates will:

- Possess a solid theological foundation.
- Understand the biblical narrative and our place in God's plan.
- Experience spiritual formation and transformation.
- Establish lifelong spiritual practices.
- Live out and share their faith with confidence.

School of Leadership

Purpose Statement

The School of Leadership exists to form Christlike leaders who can serve, influence, and innovate with integrity.

Timeframe

- **1-Year Program**
- Prerequisites: Completion of **School of Discipleship + Freedom Curriculum**
- Two semesters
- Each semester runs **12 weeks**
- **Spring & Fall semesters**

Core Classes

Vision & Character

A 12-week semester focused on developing the **head and heart of a leader**.

Topics include:

- Visionary leadership
- Continuous learning
- Innovation
- Discernment
- Leading change
- Accountability
- Integrity
- Resilience
- Humility
- Emotional health

Skills & Service

A 12-week semester focused on developing the **hands and posture of a leader**.

Topics include:

- Influence
- Communication

- Adaptability
- Conflict resolution
- Mentoring and developing others
- Decision-making
- Servanthood
- Empowerment
- Inclusivity
- Developing healthy teams

Outcomes

Graduates will:

- Develop visionary thinking rooted in Scripture.
- Establish a character foundation that sustains leadership.
- Grow in practical leadership skills.
- Embrace servant leadership by empowering others.
- Be prepared for greater leadership roles in church, work, and community.

School of Eldership

Purpose Statement

The School of Eldership exists to form, test, and affirm qualified men for eldership or any five-fold ministry assignment at Metro Harvest Church.

Timeframe

- 1-Year Program
- Prerequisites: *Completion of School of Leadership* and *invite only by Elders/Pastor*
- Meets once per month for 2–3 hours
- Formal apprenticeship established with hands-on training.
- Concludes with a final exam and review

Core Classes

1. Theology
2. Character & Integrity
3. Family & Personal Health
4. Spiritual Authority & Accountability
5. Vision & Mission Alignment (DNA and culture)
6. Teamwork & Resolving Conflict
7. Church Correction & Restoration
8. Spiritual Disciplines
9. Shepherding
10. Doctrine & Teaching
11. Administration & Oversight
12. Exam & Review

Outcomes

Graduates will:

- Demonstrate doctrinal depth and sound theology.
- Embody biblical character qualifications (1 Timothy 3, Titus 1).
- Maintain healthy family and personal rhythms.
- Lead with spiritual authority under accountability.
- Uphold the vision and culture of Metro Harvest.
- Shepherd God's people faithfully and courageously.
- Be prayerfully discerned by the Elder Team for eldership affirmation or five-fold ministry assignments.

The Pathway at a Glance

1. **Starting Point** → **Dream Team** (*membership & serving*)
2. **School of Discipleship (2 years)** – Foundation of faith, theology, and practices
3. **School of Leadership (1 year)** – Developing character, skills, vision, and service
4. **School of Eldership (1 year)** – Monthly training, mentorship, and final review for elder qualification

Tuition & Scholarships

At Harvest Academy, we believe in investing in your spiritual growth and leadership development. Tuition helps cover books, resources, childcare, celebration gatherings, and administrative costs, but we never want finances to be the reason someone cannot participate.

Standard Tuition

- **School of Discipleship (2 years):**
 - \$150/person per semester
- **School of Leadership (1 year):**
 - \$150 per semester
- **School of Eldership:** pending

Discounts

- **Student (16 - 21) Discount:**
 - \$75 per semester

Scholarships & Sponsorships

- **Need-Based Scholarships:** If finances are a challenge, partial scholarships are available. A short application will help us assess your needs.
- **Sponsor-a-Student Fund:** Church members can invest in the spiritual growth of others by covering tuition for a participant. A \$275 gift fully funds one participant for a year in the School of Discipleship, and \$299 gift fully funds one participant for a year in the School of Leadership. Partial gifts are also welcome!

Our Commitment:

Harvest Academy's priority is formation, not finances. Tuition is designed to foster commitment and cover practical costs. Still, we are equally committed to ensuring that every person called to this journey can walk it out, regardless of financial circumstances.

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ)

Q: Why is Harvest Academy only offered through Metro Harvest Church?

We believe the local church is God's primary context for the formation of believers and leaders. While outside institutions have value, we are convinced by Scripture that disciples and leaders are best raised and affirmed in the life of the local church.

Q: Who can join Harvest Academy?

Harvest Academy is open to anyone who has completed *Starting Point* and is an active *Dream Teamer* (church member). From there, students begin with the School of Discipleship and can progress through the pathway as they grow.

Q: How much does it cost?

Standard tuition is \$150 per semester across Harvest Academy. Qualifying students receive a reduced tuition rate of \$75 per semester.

Tuition helps offset the cost of books, curriculum, resources, childcare, gatherings, and other expenses associated with operating Harvest Academy.

Q: Are there payment options?

Yes. You can pay in full at the start of the year or pay per semester.

Q: What if I can't afford the tuition?

We never want finances to hold anyone back. Scholarships are available for those in need. We also have a "Sponsor-a-Student Fund" where others in the church help make this possible. Email info@metroharvest.com for more information.

Q: Is childcare available during Harvest Academy classes?

Yes! We're committed to removing barriers that prevent families from growing together. Childcare is available for all weekly class sessions during the School of Discipleship and School of Leadership.

Childcare is provided by background-checked volunteers who love serving families. Safety and attentive care are our highest priorities.

Childcare is available for infants through 14-year-olds, with safe, age-appropriate environments for each stage—from nursery to elementary.

During class time, children enjoy playtime and crafts.

Registration for childcare is included in your Academy enrollment form, ensuring we have the right staffing, space, and materials prepared each week.

Q: Is Harvest Academy accredited?

Harvest Academy does not offer formal accreditation. It is a church-based formation program—anchored in Scripture and lived out in community—for the development of disciples, leaders, elders, and those called to five-fold ministry assignments.

Q: Do I have to complete all three schools?

No, each school is designed as a stand-alone step. Some will complete the School of Discipleship and remain committed Dream Teamers. Others will continue through Leadership to grow as leaders. A select group, by invitation, will move into the School of Eldership.

Q: What happens after I complete a School?

Completion opens the door to the next stage of growth and responsibility. Discipleship graduates are equipped for deeper service. Leadership graduates are considered for leadership roles and prepared for greater ministry influence. Eldership graduates may be prayerfully affirmed by the Elder Team for ordination, further mentorship, or any five-fold ministry assignments.

Q: How much time does this require?

Each school is designed to be achievable alongside work, family, church involvement, and everyday life.

- **School of Discipleship:** Weekly classes during a 12-week semester, with four semesters completed over two years.
- **School of Leadership:** Weekly classes during two 12-week semesters completed over one year.
- **School of Eldership:** Monthly gatherings, apprenticeship, and hands-on development over the course of one year.