

The **Shape** Of Leadership

For Outdoor Ministry Professionals

Testimonials

Shape is the best thing I've done since seminary (which was wonderful). Each retreat has renewed and enriched me. Thank you!

Shape has been a wonderful asset for me professionally and personally. The relationships and leadership skills I have gained are invaluable. I would encourage all [church leaders] to invest in this process.

I was concerned that the leadership literature would be dry and lifeless, and instead experienced approaches that honor just what the church needs to be about in this time of change and challenge: self-knowledge, experimentation, relationship building, risk taking, creative conflict, and undergirding it all: purpose. To share this journey over time with brilliant colleagues has made for deep learning and courage for change.

For more information, contact LeaderWise co-director Mary Kay DuChene (marykay@leaderwise.org). To register, visit leaderwise.org/shape-of-leadership

The Shape of Leadership is for outdoor ministry professionals who want to renew their leadership and step up their ability to significantly impact the future of this vital ministry of the church.

The past few years have been incredibly challenging for camp professionals. Leaders are tired, if not burned out, and need safe places where they can reflect on the demands of their work and develop their leadership for the changing landscape of outdoor ministry. We create brave spaces where leaders can show up with their whole being and are accepted as they are. We invite participants to be authentic and vulnerable, to embed new learning that they then take back to their contexts. We provide emergent spaces to reconnect with God and self, so participants can serve more fully. This time away invites reflection on what changes organizations need to make for these complex times in which we live and how they will lead those changes.

In this program, Shape participants spend a year together, twice in person at opening and closing retreats to develop their leadership in adaptive and experiential ways: by experimenting with innovative practices, deepening self-awareness, and learning to navigate change, conflict, and the daily challenges of leadership. Shape facilitators cultivate an ethos that encourages leaders to wrestle with new ideas in the safety of a generous and compassionate space.

The program is highly experiential, collaborative and offers the opportunity to develop long-lasting support systems. In the Shape program, each retreat provides opportunity to bond and learn together. Between retreats, participants meet in cohort groups to journey through the year together, supporting each other and deepening the learning. In Shape, you can expect to work hard and gain much.



In addition to building deep supportive relationships that last, leaders explore the following topics and themes:

- Identity as a leader
- Leading through difference
- Power and influence within communities of faith
- Emotional systems
- Leading change, including leading in the midst of conflict
- Adaptive leadership and its application in faith-based settings
- Resilient leadership

Together, participants also wrestle with current events and societal issues that are relevant to our work. We don't shy away from hard topics, and, in fact, use the fertile and brave space to learn how to lead through them. We undergird it all with spiritual practice and worship, as well as activities that build resilience and community.

Because we want you to experience this exceptionally-rated program, it's priced as affordably as possible. Your investment in your leadership through the Shape program includes lodging for both retreats (single occupancy to allow private space), and the zoom experiences in between. Learning and support are deepened through monthly cohort calls in between retreats. Participants are led by two or three facilitators who are deeply passionate about leadership development and this program. We consistently receive accolades for the facilitation of this year-long program.

The cost of the Shape program is *\$2000 plus room and board.

The Shape Of Leadership for LOM Professionals 2026		
	Luther Hill La Grange, TX	
Retreat One	February 9-12, 2026	Leading in a Time of Disruption
Zoom One	To be agreed upon by the group	Orchestrating Change
Zoom Two	To be agreed upon by the group	Leading Amidst Difference
Retreat Two	September 21-23, 2026	Where Do We Go From Here? Chaos or Community

We live in a time of rapid, disruptive, and chaotic change. Today's faith-based institutions look nothing like those of our upbringing, and our training has left us unprepared and ill-equipped for the journey on which we find ourselves. As you shape the future leaders of faith communities we invite you to SHAPE your own leadership.

*The cost can be paid over the course of the year. We are looking for sources of funding to offset the cost to participants.