

# The Orchard

A Project-Based Mentoring Program for Christian Ministry Leaders



**"I came into the program thinking the goal was just to create a ministry project. What I now see is that this program is focused on the spiritual growth of the individuals. As opposed to other ministry leadership programs that are mostly focused on product, the Orchard is focused on process. The leaders of the Orchard are excited about your personal growth because they know that your project will develop and evolve at God's pace."**

**– A Participant in The Orchard**

The Orchard is a **free** project-based mentoring program for those who want to discover or cultivate a ministry calling. Participants will develop a ministry project of their own design with the support of experienced mentors. The Orchard is a collaboration between Grace Communion International and The Anástasis Center.

#### Participants will explore:

- A Theological Foundation of Ministry
- Your Iterative Calling
- Jesus' Concept of Neighbor
- Leadership and Team Dynamics
- Organization, Time Management, and Project Management
- Conflict Styles and Criticism



GRACE COMMUNION  
INTERNATIONAL



THE ANÁSTASIS CENTER  
FOR CHRISTIAN EDUCATION & MINISTRY

**WHO?** The program is for those who are interested in ministry work but not sure where to start and those engaged in ministry who could benefit from training.

**WHAT?** Each cohort of The Orchard is made up of 5-7 ministry leaders from all over the US.

**HOW?** We use an online platform for all of our meetings so anyone with an internet connection can participate. Each participant gets individual mentoring and gets customized assignments to build content knowledge.

#### WHEN?

- Applications accepted through February 27, 2021
- Participants identified by March 6, 2021
- Program starts with full day (6 hr) intensive on Saturday, March 13, 2021
- Monthly meetings with your mentor: 1 hr each
- Monthly learning sessions with the cohort: 2 hrs each
- Conclusion of the cohort: August 2021

**FOR MORE INFORMATION,** please write Dishon Mills at [dishon.mills@gci.org](mailto:dishon.mills@gci.org), or visit our website: <https://resources.gci.org/ministry-pathway>.

#### Mentors:



#### Dishon Mills

- Pastor of Grace Christian Church in Waltham, MA
- Social entrepreneur
- Has over 19 years of experience in ministry
- Lives in Randolph, MA with his wife and two children



#### Mako Nagasawa

- Director of The Anástasis Center
- Social justice advocate
- Has over 27 years of experience in urban ministry
- Lives in a Boston intentional Christian community with his wife and children

*...bearing fruit in every good work, growing in the knowledge of God. (Colossians 1:9-10)*



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## PROGRAM APPLICATION

The Orchard is a mentoring program that supports Christian ministry leaders in developing ministry projects of their own design. The program helps participants discern their calling in God and gives them the skills to be effective. For more information about The Orchard, please see our website (<https://resources.gci.org/ministry-pathway>). All participants in The Orchard must complete this application. Please submit completed applications via email to **dishon-mills@gci.org**. Please direct all questions to Dishon Mills, who can be reached at the aforementioned email address or by calling 617-653-7565.

### BASIC INFORMATION

Name (First, Last):

Date of Birth:

Address:

Email:

Phone:

Church (and denomination, if not GCI) you currently attend:

### GETTING TO KNOW YOU

- 1) Are you applying as a participant or auditor (please select one)?
  - ☐ Participant (fully participates in the learning sessions and individual mentoring)
  - ☐ Auditor (participates in the learning sessions but not the mentoring — for potential Orchard facilitators and those with regional development responsibilities)
- 2) What interests you about this program? As you answer, please share a bit about your relationship with God and a ministry experience that you feel shows an area of passion and growth for you.
- 3) Do you currently serve in ministry? If so, what is your role(s)? How long have you been serving in ministry?
- 4) In The Orchard, participants can customize their experience to receive homework assignments that build their content knowledge. There are three tracks that correspond with Grace Communion International's three ministry avenues. Please select the track you would like to take (please select only one choice):
  - ☐ Faith Avenue (ministries connected to discipleship)
  - ☐ Hope Avenue (ministries associated with the Sunday worship service)
  - ☐ Love Avenue (ministries connected to mission and witnessing)



- ☐ Please check this box if you have a ministry idea that does not fit in the three avenues. If you select this box, please explain your proposed ministry project.

5) Why is The Orchard a good fit for you at this time of your life?

**REFERENCES (Only for those applying as a participant. Auditors just need to complete and submit the two previous sections.)**

Please provide us with two references: one from a pastor or spiritual mentor, and one general reference. Please use the form at the end of this application to collect the references.

**TIMELINE**

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*By submitting this application, you give your consent for your image to be used in documents and videos that promote The Orchard.*





## REFERENCE FORM

Thank you for being a reference for an applicant to The Orchard. The Orchard is a project-based mentoring program that helps ministry leaders discern their calling in God and gives them the skills to be effective. We are looking for people who love Jesus and are ministry-minded self-starters. Your perspective on the applicant will be very helpful. For more information about The Orchard, please see our website (<https://resources.gci.org/ministry-path-way>). Please complete this reference form and return it to the applicant so it can be included with her/his application.

### YOUR INFORMATION

Name (First, Last):

Address:

Email:

Phone:

### QUESTIONS

1. Applicant's name?
2. How do you know the Applicant?
3. What are the top three adjectives you would use to describe this person's strengths? Why?
4. What are the top three adjectives you would use to describe this person's weaknesses/areas of growth? Why?
5. Please briefly tell us about the Applicant's spiritual maturity and relationship with Jesus.
6. Please briefly give us an indication of the Applicant's sense of initiative-taking, risk-taking, and leadership.
7. *FOR PASTORS ONLY:* How are you and the congregation currently supporting the development of this leader? How will you support the implementation of the applicant's ministry project?

*Thank you for completing this reference form.*