

# Coastal Bend Mission Center Exploration Program

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# Coastal Bend Mission Center Exploration Program

## What is the Exploration Program?

The Coastal Bend Exploration Program is a 3-year commitment to study and exploration of theology, scripture, spirituality, and contemporary issues relative to discipleship. The program is designed to bring together a small group of seekers, who develop a long-term commitment to each other, who openly share their insights and questions with each other, and who hold sacred and confidential all that they share.

Participants meet three times a year over a three-year period, for a total of 9 weekend sessions. The sessions include tracks that either focus on scripture, theology, or “contemporary issues.” Each session spans a weekend – Friday evening, Saturday, and Sunday morning. Sessions are facilitated by Community of Christ affiliated ministers/members.

Participants earn Temple School credit for each weekend session.

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## Who can participate in the program?

Any Coastal Bend Mission Center member/friend aged 21 and older.

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## Are there any restrictions to participating in the program?

Participants must:

- Be 21 years of age or older
- Not be enrolled as a full-time university/college student
- Be physically capable of attending/participating in the program (see schedule).

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## What is required of participants in the program?

- Each session requires *preparation* – usually this involves reading 1-3 college-level books in advance of each session; incorporating prayer/meditation into a study routine; contemplating new insights
- Each session requires *participation* – during discussions participants are encouraged to share their thoughts and insights
- Each session requires active *listening* – sessions are intended as venues for dialogue, not debate; listen to seek an understanding of others’ viewpoints
- Each session requires *time* – away from family, congregation, and other obligations
- Each session requires *confidentially* – holding sacred all that is shared during sessions is vital to building relationships

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## Coastal Bend Mission Center Exploration Program

### How do I apply for the program?

- Read and understand the covenant agreement
- Complete an application form
- Submit application, no later than September 30, 2008, to:  
Kathy Wingard  
C/O Live Oak Community of Christ  
P.O. Box 16685  
Sugar Land, TX 77496-6685  
[kawingard@yahoo.com](mailto:kawingard@yahoo.com)

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### May I nominate/suggest someone as a participant in the program?

YES!!!!

Please forward nominations with some contact information to:

Kathy Wingard  
[kawingard@yahoo.com](mailto:kawingard@yahoo.com)

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### How many people will be selected to participate?

The class size is limited to **12**; plus the coordinator and session facilitator

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### When will applicants be notified of selection to participate in the program?

Timeline:

September 30, 2008 – Application deadline

October 31, 2008 – Notification of selection

November 30, 2008 – Those selected must complete and return the covenant agreement

December 15, 2008 – Pastors are notified whom in their congregation will participate

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### When is the first session?

The first session is scheduled for **February 13-15, 2009** (see schedule for more details).

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### What is the program schedule?

Click here for details.

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## **Coastal Bend Mission Center Exploration Program**

### **What is a typical weekend schedule/agenda?**

Friday evening:        8:30 pm to 10:00 pm: Welcome/Discussion

Saturday:                8:00 am – 9:00 am    Breakfast  
                              9:00 am – Noon        Discussion  
                              Noon – 1 pm            Lunch  
                              1pm – 4:30 pm        Discussion  
                              4:30 – 7:30 pm        Dinner  
                              7:30 – 9:30 pm        Discussion

Sunday:                 8:00 am – 9:00 am    Breakfast  
                              9:00 am – 11:00 am   Discussion  
                              11:00 am – Noon      Worship  
                              Noon                      Lunch

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### **Where are the sessions held?**

Initially the sessions will take place at the home of Alice and Steve Phillips, Houston, Texas. Later sessions may be rotated or scheduled for other venues.

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### **What are the weekend housing arrangements?**

Participants living in the greater Houston area may choose to commute daily. However, participants are still required to attend all portions of each session (including meals).

Otherwise, we will work to find housing arrangements that are as convenient as possible with host families or other accommodations.

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### **Are meals provided?**

Yes.

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### **What is the cost of the program to participants?**

The only costs to participants are incidental travel expenses (wear/tear on car, gas, meals on the road, etc.).

All reading material and meals/snacks are covered by the Coastal Bend Mission Center budget.

Some housing may be provided by local Community of Christ member/friends.

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### **Who facilitates the sessions?**

Community of Christ affiliated ministers/members.

See schedule for each session. The second and third years are there as guides – the facilitators are not yet confirmed.

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### **Who coordinates the program?**

Kathy Wingard

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### **What is the role of the program coordinator?**

#### Communications

Promote the program throughout the Mission Center.

Keep the Mission Center informed of the program's activities, schedule, etc.

Keep participants up-to-date, distributing materials

#### Logistics

Scheduling sessions and facilitators

Arranging for lodging and meals

Tracking expenses

#### Pastoring

Preparing worships for each session

Attending to participants questions/needs before, during, and after sessions

#### Liaison with Mission Center

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### **What role do congregations play in this program?**

Congregational leaders should free participants from obligations in the congregation during scheduled session. Avoid scheduling participants to serve in worship services or other congregation activities; scheduling important congregation meetings/celebrations during program sessions; and assisting families with child care needs during sessions.

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### **Can family members or friends of participants attend the sessions?**

No. Attendance is limited to participants.

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### **Is childcare provided?**

No.

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### **Can participants share what is discussed in sessions with family, friends or their congregation?**

Participation in the program requires confidentiality.

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### **Why is confidentiality so important?**

Confidentiality enriches the depth and flow of interchange of ideas and views. Participants can think out loud together, knowing that the context and integrity of the process is safeguarded.

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## Coastal Bend Mission Center Exploration Program

**Are there individuals in the Mission Center who have participated in similar programs? If, so, can they be contacted to answer questions about their experiences in such a program?**

Yes, within the bounds of confidentiality.

Several individuals in the Coastal Bend Mission Center participated in the first Exploration Program that took place from 2005-2008.

Sharron Bailey	Austin Congregation	<a href="mailto:sbailey663@yahoo.com">sbailey663@yahoo.com</a>
Carol Burdick	Shenandoah Congregation	<a href="mailto:carolaburdick@gmail.com">carolaburdick@gmail.com</a>
Jim Burdick	Shenandoah Congregation	<a href="mailto:JimBurdick-cofc@gmail.com">JimBurdick-cofc@gmail.com</a>
Judy Daniels	Bay Area Congregation	<a href="mailto:gjdans@sbcglobal.net">gjdans@sbcglobal.net</a>
Lynn Graham	Live Oak Congregation	<a href="mailto:lcgrahamfamily@yahoo.com">lcgrahamfamily@yahoo.com</a>
Darlene Haywood	Austin Congregation	<a href="mailto:damahad@mac.com">damahad@mac.com</a>
Larry Haywood	Austin Congregation	<a href="mailto:seventhfire@mac.com">seventhfire@mac.com</a>
Belva Koerth	Austin Congregation	<a href="mailto:belva@shpc.org">belva@shpc.org</a>
Paul Koerth	Austin Congregation	
Don Lambert	Bandera Congregation	<a href="mailto:ddldds42@yahoo.com">ddldds42@yahoo.com</a>
Louise Lambert	Bandera Congregation	<a href="mailto:llamb63@ktc.com">llamb63@ktc.com</a>
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Vickie Ramirez	Beaumont Congregation	<a href="mailto:vlramz@sbcglobal.net">vlramz@sbcglobal.net</a>
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