

## Year-Round Mentoring for Pastors

*with John Kirkpatrick and Jim Crooks*

### Leaders



**Jim Crooks** is an Associate of Living Leadership in the UK providing support to Pastors. He was a Pastor of an independent church in Perth (Scotland) for many years but retired from that role in December 2021. Previously, Jim had a long career in senior management in Colleges of further and higher education and latterly as Principal of colleges in Northern Ireland and Scotland. He is committed to leadership development in others – and himself. Jim has also served as a lecturer and co-ordinator of part-time theological provision at Tilsley College. Jim also teaches and preaches in Scotland and around Europe.



**John Kirkpatrick** studied theology at Queens University and Union Theological College, and served as a pastor in the Presbyterian Church in Ireland in inner city, rural, and town churches. Since 1993 he has been the pastor of Portrush Presbyterian Church. Here, along with the regular work of the church, he oversees an apologetic course called Reality316, which provides training in apologetics and the biblical worldview. He serves as a chaplain in the sport of motorcycling.

### Overview

The Christian Ministry is one of God's particular means to fulfill his plans and purposes for the Church. You could say that pastors/ministers are right in the forefront of the action—or they should be. So engaged, pastors will experience some wonderful adventures, as they witness God at work. They will also experience many trials. And the nature of their role can sometimes leave them exposed and vulnerable. Particular temptations will present themselves, often in very subtle ways. How can we be sustained, fruitful, flourishing, and useful in the midst of these pressures?

We believe that God has provided simple and accessible means within the body of Christ, through one another. Just as 'safe houses' and even the biblical 'cities of refuge' are models of survival in the pressures of life, through the Forum's Year-Round Mentoring Initiative we seek to provide another a safe place. This time in the form of a small 'band of brothers'.

**Goal:** Our aim is to create, mentor and cultivate a small community of pastors who will have the courage to be honest with themselves and each other. It is only as we are transparent that we can be strong and find strength from others.

We therefore invite into this, those who value such a safe place for being mentored and who treasure the ministry as a strategic means of God.

**Target Group:** Six to Seven pastors and pastoral leaders *in the first 7 years of their ministry.*

**Plan:**

1. Attend an online seminar on 13 May 2021 (exact time TBD)
2. To have meetings with Jim and John at the 2021 ELF.

The purpose of these sessions is to:

- Build relationships
- Listen to concerns and needs
- Investigate relevant subjects together
- Develop a plan together for the span of a year (between Forums)—a relevant and tailored mentoring initiative for a small number of brothers.

The purpose of the meetings at the ELF will be to agree group-relevant content for the mentoring, and to get an idea, based on our developing relationships, the best means for mentoring each individual using various internet-based solutions such as Zoom, What's App, etc. The crucial determining factor will be to have means of communicating that will help build relationships throughout the year.

3. 2021 Retreat: In addition, we plan to meet together as a group, face to face, in December, along with other Year-Round Mentoring Groups of the Forum. All Pastor YRM participants will meet with John Kirkpatrick and Jim Crooks for a three-day retreat in December 2021. The participant fees for the retreat are 150 Euros, or 100 Euros for scholarship recipients. For the retreat, non-scholarship recipients also have the option of paying 190 Euros in order to stay in a single room. Participants are responsible for their own travel expenses.

4. Pre-Forum Conference at the 2022 Forum, on May 20 and 21, 2022. Participants will still need to apply for the European Leadership Forum and will be responsible for paying Forum fees in order to participate in the 2022 Forum. Participants must also pay for their own travel expenses.

**Commitments:** Candidates will need to submit an application, which includes a commitment to:

1. Attend an online on 13 May (exact time TBD)
2. Pre-Forum Conference at the 2022 Forum, on May 20 and 21, 2022.
3. Attend daily meetings at the 2021 Forum.
4. Pay the necessary fees for the 2021 December Retreat and the 2022 Pre-Forum Conference. For the 2022 Pre-Forum Conference, the fees are 70 Euros for a Double Room and 90 Euros for a Single Room (or 40 Euros for scholarship recipients).

**Content breadth:** In the programme – rum since 2017-18 – we have offered a number of Webinars and these included:

- Resilience

- Self-Care
- Trials and Temptations
- Developing a Gospel Culture
- Courageous Leadership
- Mentoring
- Pastoral Care
- Work Life and Family Balance
- Home Insurance
- Your diary as a spiritual tool

There is therefore a developing body of material and potential reading that may help Pastors face a range of issues in their personal development. However, the intention is that material will also be developed that is borne out of open relationships and that meets the relevant needs of each individual. The content is therefore flexible and not rigorously pre-determined.

Much of the content will therefore come out of the initial meetings of the group at the Forum in 2021.

In addition, one to one mentoring sessions may be offered to pastors with that desire and need.

## Application Process

1. Complete the [online application](#).
2. We will review your completed application and let you know if you are accepted into the programme within four to six weeks.

***If you have questions, contact us at [initiatives@euroleadership.org](mailto:initiatives@euroleadership.org)***