



Pinnacle Portfolio

Hi, I'm Doug Cushing and I've been a Pinnacle Leadership Associate since 2008. My interests are focused on coaching and consulting with people called to plant new churches; church leaders seeking innovative ways to lead a 'Purple Church' within a deeply partisan society and church leaders looking for ways to simplify and integrate worship, mission and small groups as a way of injecting new life into their congregation.

Education - Doug attended Carroll College earning B.S. degrees in Clinical Psychology and Communications. Doug earned a Master of Arts in Christian Thought from Trinity Divinity School; a Master of Divinity from Princeton Theological Seminary and a Doctor of Ministry with specialization in Church Planting from Columbia Theological Seminary. Additionally, Doug has studied in Israel and at the University of Aberdeen, Scotland.

Training – Doug is an ordained Pastor in the Presbyterian Church (USA). He is a certified coach for new pastors within the Presbyterian Church (USA); a certified people map trainer; a certified pastoral care specialist; and has completed training in the Palmetto Health Center for Clergy and Congregations; Congregational Leadership Initiative.

Vocational Journey – Doug has served Presbyterian Church (USA) congregations in Chicago, IL; Morrisville, PA; Greenville, SC; Moore, SC; and Leland, NC. For the past 15 years, Doug has served as a PCUSA certified coach for new churches and church planters. He has coached and consulted church planting projects in Minnesota; Ohio; Georgia; Tennessee and the Carolinas. He has taught about his experiences in church planting in Baghdad, Iraq; Columbia Theological Seminary and Denver Theological Seminary.

Publications – Doug published his first book: Where There's No Road At All: Adventures in Church Planting in 2013. Doug's new book is: Launching Missional Sermon-Based Small Groups, published in June of 2023.

Pinnacle Services – Doug's contributions to Pinnacle Leadership include providing coaching, consulting and workshops on Church Planting; Navigating Church-Size Transitions; 'How to Lead the Purple Church: Pastoral Leadership in a Partisan Society; Developing Mission and Vision Strategies and Long-Term Plans; How to Launch Missional Sermon-Based Small Groups.

References – Here are a few references from Doug's work:

- Dr. Robert Jacks, retired pastor (PCUSA), (704)562-5309, Pastorbob@cclw.org
- Ms. Lora Rissmiller, Commissioned Ruling Elder, New Hope Presbyterian Church, 910-540-3920; Lorarissmiller@gmail.com.
- Mr. Jeff Gilstrap, Commissioned Ruling Elder, St. Andrews Presbyterian Church, 864-304-1156; Jeffgilstrap60@gmail.com
- Rev. Tim Hughes, Pastor, Light Street Presbyterian Church, 809 Light Street
- Baltimore, MD 21230; 443 603 7106; tim@lightstreetchurch.org
- Rev. Paul H. Moore Pastor, Chain of Lakes Church, 763-257-6994 (cell); pastor@colpres.org

Endorsement Quotes –

"Doug Cushing has been an essential conversation partner for me during these wild and wooly COVID years of ministry. He brings a great blend of wisdom and faithful curiosity to the work. His ministry has blessed our ministry." **Rev Tim Hughes Williams, Pastor: Light Street Presbyterian Church, Baltimore, MD.**

"Doug Cushing has been an essential part of my own personal spiritual development and has provided guidance and support to the church I have served for 16 years. He has a deep heart for God and that is evident in his service to God, church and community. He has a unique talent of assessing the situation and addressing the solutions to church issues and growth. This unique talent is fueled and guided by the Holy Spirit and his faithfulness to the Kingdom." **Mr. Jeff Gilstrap, Commissioned Ruling Elder, St. Andrews Presbyterian Church, Taylors, SC.**

"Doug was an invaluable resource for our church when we started as a new church. Today we have hundreds of people connected to our congregation and a new building. We couldn't have done this without Doug's help." **Rev Paul Moore, Pastor: Chain of Lakes Presbyterian Church, Blaine, MN**

*"During my preparation to become a lay pastor, Doug was a tremendous help to me and many others that were preparing. His unique approach was demonstrated in a day-long retreat: *Fostering A Way of Life that Makes A Difference: How Small Groups Change Everything*. In this workshop he explained how he crafted sermon series to support small group discussions each week. He provided thoughtful discussion questions that reflected back to his weekly sermons. Additionally, he provided opportunities for each small group to participate in mission projects that extended the theme of his sermon series."* – **Ms. Lora Rissmiller, Commissioned Ruling Elder: New Hope Presbyterian Church.**

"Doug Cushing worked with key leadership in our church during a critical time of transition from pastoral-driven to program-driven categories of size. We would probably have limped from one category to the next, but with his help and expertise we made a much smoother transition, and learned a great deal more of who we were and who God was calling us to be! Doug is not only a facilitator who gets results, he's also a dedicated man of God with a sensitivity to the needs and requirements of maintaining a church as it seeks to live in faithful fulfillment of the Lord's command to "go and make disciples." – **Dr. Bob Jacks, Pastor: Steele Creek Presbyterian Church at Pleasant Hill, Charlotte, NC**

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