

## Core Team Invitation Guide

Dear Student,

Thank you for embarking on the Core Team invitation process. We are delighted that you are interested in joining our family. Core Team is the nucleus of Alabaster Group's campus programs. It is the most progressive expression of our vision for Christian ministry. We believe that spiritual awakening on campuses will be birthed through the students. True campus-wide transformation comes from deep cultural healing among students that cannot be brought by those of us who are alumni or ministers. Thus, we are deeply committed to pastoring the most radical students believers committed to contend for supernatural awakening on university campuses.

Enrollment in Core Team is limited to current students of our target universities. We define current students as undergraduate and graduate students (but not "continuing education" or executive education students) enrolled in a degree-earning program.

### **Entry Procedure**

Entry into Core Team begins with the completion of our reading list. We require students who enter have a foundation in the Bible and important tenants of Christian theology. When you begin working through this list, please contact Core Team's president to inform her of your interest. Our current reading list is as follows:

*Knowledge of the Holy* by AW Tozer  
*Power from On High* by Charles Finney  
*The Final Quest* by Rick Joyner  
*The Screwtape Letters* by C.S. Lewis  
*Possessing the Gates of the Enemy* by Cindy Jacobs

Candidates must also read through the Membership Primer of Alabaster Group's local church. Although Core Team members are not required to be members of the church, our primer will explain the theological foundations for our community and illustrate what we believe a healthy Christian life looks like. Core Team students will be called to live at a high standard of faithfulness, similar to what we require of church members.

Completing the reading list does not guarantee an invitation to Core Team. We will prayerfully consider every student's interest and extend invitations to those we feel God has called to this group. We are careful to consider whether the student's time commitments or life goals may prevent them from meeting our high standards of faithful service.

Core Team is designed to be the primary spiritual community of our student members. Thus, we do not permit Core Team members to hold leadership positions with extensive responsibilities in another ministry. Other extra-curriculars should be evaluated to determine whether they may compromise the candidate's ability to remain faithful to Core Team duties.

### **Membership Responsibilities**

#### *I. Responsibilities of Participation*

Core Team retreats are held every other weekend during the school year; we also host events during school breaks. Core Team regularly engages in fasting and prayer outside of events. Participation in everything is required, without exception.

We permit one absence per semester for medical emergencies or personal commitments. (Missing part of a retreat counts as an absence.) Absences are not permitted at conferences or mandatory retreats. Please plan to arrive on time and depart after 3 PM on Sunday. Our calendar for the following school year is available by May; please plan accordingly.

## *II. Responsibilities of Ministry*

Core Team organizes all of Alabaster Group's student conferences and is responsible for other events, programs, and outreach efforts. Members are typically expected to spend a minimum of ten hours per week on these preparations – throughout the school year and during breaks. We expect the highest standard of professionalism, excellence, and timeliness. During special events, members often work through sessions to insure the best possible experience for attendees. Members may also need to arrive a day early and depart a day after the event. Please plan your study and class schedule in advance to accommodate these contingencies.

## *III. Responsibilities of Finances*

Retreats are free for student members. We also provide a travel stipend, currently \$50 per retreat, to help cover transportation expenses. However, we believe that scripture requires believers to tithe to their spiritual home (Mal 3:10). Therefore, Core Team members are required to tithe (i.e. give ten percent) of their income and financial support, including provisions given to them by parents and scholarships, to the ministry.

## *IV. Responsibilities of Personal Faith*

No corporate meetings will ever substitute the need for personal pursuit of God. Participation in any Christian organization is futile without deep personal engagement with and affection for Jesus, evidenced by a daily walk with him and a commitment to righteousness. Without being legalistic, we require a minimum of five hours per week of scheduled time to engage with God. This calling supersedes every other in life.

## **Contact Us**

If you have any questions about whether Core Team may be appropriate and helpful to you, we encourage you to speak with our Core Team alumni. We are delighted to make introductions if you would like.

Our current Core Team president is Shiyi Li ([shiyi@alab.org](mailto:shiyi@alab.org)); please contact us to formally declare your interest in Core Team. If you have any questions, please contact either of us to discuss Core Team. Pastoring the students of Core Team is one of our great joys, and we are always delighted to welcome another to join us on this journey.



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Yours to the glory of Jesus,



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