# FACILITATOR'S GUIDE VLE: FOUNDATIONS II



# Vineyard Church,

Foundations II is more than just a follow-up to Foundations I. It's a crucial next step in raising up leaders who don't just lead, but multiply leadership in others. It's not just about filling positions; it's about forming leaders who carry the values of the Vineyard and the heart of Jesus into every space they're called to influence.

TFoundations II shifts the focus from internal growth - leading ourselves and others - to external impact: equipping leaders who will, in turn, raise up the next generation. It's about expanding the reach of the Kingdom through people who are ready to serve in the church and live on mission in the world.

Your role as facilitator is essential. You're not just walking people through a curriculum - you're helping shape future leaders who will influence ministries, plant new churches, serve their cities, and extend God's love in ways we can't even fully see yet. You are creating space for transformation, empowerment, and calling.

Know this: you're not doing this alone. We're praying for you, cheering you on, and here to support you however we can. Your faithfulness and leadership make a real difference - not only in the lives of those in your church, but in the broader story God is writing through the Vineyard.

Thank you for leading. Thank you for investing. And thank you for helping us multiply leaders who carry the heart of Jesus into every corner of our world. I am grateful to be investing in this with you.



Associate National Director of Church Health and Development

Christia Lowery

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# 1. INTRODUCTION

## 1.1 VINEYARD LEADERSHIP PATHWAY OVERVIEW

We believe that churches flourish when leadership is shared among the congregation rather than placed on the shoulders of one or a few vocational leaders. This leadership distribution not only leads to healthier leaders but also a flourishing church community in which each person has the opportunity to recognize and utilize their specific gifts. Fostering this church environment requires supporting individuals at every stage of their leadership journey.

As leaders develop within your church, they progress along what we are calling the Vineyard Leadership Pathway. Individuals are gifted by God to lead in a variety of leadership roles - there is no hierarchy or levels of distinguished achievement in faithful ministry. While not all leaders will, or should, reach the final stages of the Leadership Pathway, the further along the Pathway a leader progresses, the more specific and specialized the training and support they will need.

### **VINEYARD LEADERSHIP PATHWAY**

**Leading Self:** Emerging leaders (and established ones) grow in an understanding of how their individual wiring and gifting, as well as their own spiritual and emotional health, are integral to their leadership of others.

**Leading Others:** Through ongoing spiritual and emotional growth, leaders develop the skills to lead others in their ministry contexts.

**Leading Leaders:** As leaders progress in the Vineyard Leadership Pathway, they shift from leading others to facilitating and fostering the leadership of other leaders, who in turn support a new generation of emerging leaders.

**Leading Ministry:** From a solid foundation of leadership skills, leaders are equipped to step into ministry-specific leadership roles in the church and beyond. Leaders learn to integrate leadership essentials with the specific competencies required to lead in their ministry contexts.

**Leading Churches:** Some leaders will be called to step into church leadership as church planters, lead pastors, or second-chair pastors. New church leaders need mentors' support to develop strategic plans and healthy rhythms that allow the church and the leader to thrive for years to come.

# 1.2 VINEYARD LEADERSHIP ESSENTIALS OVERVIEW

**Vineyard Leadership Essentials (VLE)** is a leadership development initiative designed to support local churches in developing leaders from within and facilitating progress along the Vineyard Leadership Pathway. We aim to equip and empower your church to embrace a paradigm of multiplication at every level and to raise the next generation of Vineyard leaders, church planters, and pastoral successors. We believe that a shift from fishing to farming will promote health in our movement and for generations to come!

**VLE: Foundations** was created collaboratively by Vineyard USA's National Leadership Team, led by Associate National Director Christina Lowery, to guide participants through the key tenets of leadership in the context of a Vineyard church.

**Foundations I** is a nine-month program that lays the groundwork of Vineyard DNA and distinctives, Kingdom theology, healthy spirituality, and leadership. Local mentorship and development will focus on leading self and leading others.

**Foundations II** is a nine-month program that builds on the content of Foundations I and explores leadership development, vision, and discernment in calling. Local mentorship and development will focus on leading leaders and apprenticeship for leading ministry.

# 2. VLE: FOUNDATIONS II

# 2.1 OVERVIEW

Foundations II is the next step in the Vineyard Leadership Pathway to develop healthy, whole, and empowered leaders within the Vineyard. While Foundations I focuses on leading self and leading others, Foundations II shifts the focus toward developing leaders who can develop other leaders - multiplying healthy, kingdom-minded leadership in your church and community.

Foundations II is built to equip lead pastors and high-level leaders as you continue to mentor emerging and current leaders in your church. It provides a clear and intentional way to raise up the kind of leaders your church needs - leaders who aren't just focused inward on church activity, but who are looking outward to their city, their neighborhood, and their mission field. Foundations II empowers leaders to think beyond themselves and begin multiplying leadership in others, fostering a culture of discipleship and release.

# 2.2 TARGET PARTICIPANTS

VLE: Foundations II is a great next step for

- People you see leadership potential in
- People who discern a call to leadership on their life
- Small Group Leaders
- Team Leaders
- Assistant Leaders
- · Pastors or Leaders of churches joining the Vineyard

# 2.3 ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

We have built this program to empower local churches to develop leaders from within and are committed to coming alongside and assisting you in your leadership development efforts. To be successful, it's important to understand the roles and responsibilities in terms of launching VLE in your local church. Depending on your church size and leadership needs, you may have one leader fill the roles of Pastor, Facilitator, and Mentor, or you may choose to recruit a team of leaders to fill the various roles.

**Vineyard USA** provides ongoing support for pastors, facilitators, mentors, and participants throughout the entire VLE process, to include:

- Managing all aspects of the application and registration process for churches and participants
- Managing the online Learning Management System (LMS) with content for participants to complete (consisting of videos, reading assignments, discussion forums, etc.)
- Hosting webinars throughout for all participants nationwide, which will include conversations with some of Vineyard's finest voices and friends of the Vineyard
- Providing check-ins with pastors, facilitators, and mentors to provide support and updates

The **Lead Pastor** provides support to the church facilitator, mentors, and participants, to include:

- Applying through Vineyard USA to launch VLE at your church
- Appointing a church leader to serve as the Facilitator
- Championing VLE from stage, through internal church communication channels and in-person
- Working closely with the Facilitator to recruit and select mentors and participants
- Hosting a Launch Retreat (at the beginning) and Closing Celebration (at the end) for participants in your church
- Following along with the online material your mentors and participants are engaging with
- Participating in periodic Lead Pastor check-ins provided by Vineyard USA and providing feedback

The **VLE: Foundations II Facilitator** provides ongoing communication with Vineyard USA, as well as support to the mentors and participants, to include:

- Serving as the Vineyard USA point person for VLE: Foundations I at your church, as well as the VLE: Foundations I point person for participants at your church
- Determining the VLE: Foundations I start date, Launch Retreat date, and Closing Celebration date
- Working closely with the Lead Pastor to recruit and select mentors and participants and assigning participants to mentors (if applicable)
- Working closely with the mentors to develop a monthly mentoring schedule
- Hosting a Launch Retreat (at the beginning) and Closing Celebration (at the end) for participants in your church
- Following along with the online material that your participants are engaging with
- Checking in with mentors throughout the program and providing them with pertinent information from Vineyard USA
- Participating in periodic Facilitator check-ins provided by Vineyard USA and providing feedback

The **VLE: Foundations II Mentor** supports, encourages, and challenges their participants through:

- Actively participating in the Launch Retreat and Closing Celebration
- Following along with and completing the online material your participants are engaging with
- Familiarizing yourself with recommended resources for additional learning
- Utilizing the VLE: Foundations I Mentor Guides for each module with participants
- Providing mentoring meetings twice a month for assigned participants (can be large group, small group, or one-on-one) utilizing the VLE: Foundations I Mentor Guides for discussion
- Participating in periodic Mentor check-ins provided by Vineyard USA and providing feedback

The **VLE: Foundations II Participant** learns, practices, and grows in their leadership through:

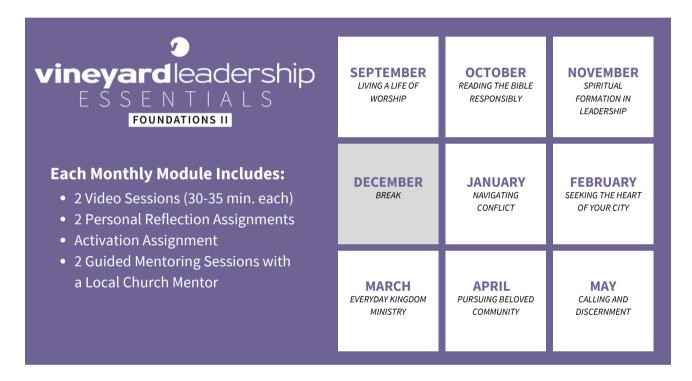
- Completing all assignments in a timely manner
- Attending mentoring meetings twice a month with their assigned mentor
- Participating in periodic webinars hosted by Vineyard USA for all participants nationwide, which will include conversations with some of Vineyard's finest voices and friends of the Vineyard
- Remaining faithful, available, and teachable as they engage with the content and their mentor
- Providing feedback to Vineyard USA through self-assessments and stories

### 2.4 SCHEDULE AND CONTENT

### **SCHEDULE**

Similar to Foundations I, Foundations II is a nine-month program that begins in September and ends in May, with a break in December. Foundations II begins with a kick-off meeting and ends with a closing celebration. Each month has a dedicated module, and each module is divided into two sessions. Following completion of the module, participants will meet with their mentors twice a month.

Mentor meetings are an opportunity to discuss the material and its application, connect relationally, and pray together. Additionally, there will be periodic webinars hosted by Vineyard USA throughout, which will include conversations with some of Vineyard's finest voices and friends of the Vineyard.



Prior to the start of Foundations II, the Facilitator should work closely with the mentors to schedule a rhythm for mentor meetings for the next nine months (to include schedule, location, and duration). Meetings can be in-person and online, but we do suggest that you have at least one in-person meeting per month. In-person will always be preferred when it comes to mentoring; as we all know, it's a lot easier to lay hands and pray for each other in person! If you meet virtually, we highly encourage meeting via a video-based call.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> If your church chooses, you can adapt the VLE: Foundations I start and end to suit your existing leadership development efforts.

Depending on the size of your group and number of mentors, these meetings can be a combination of large group, small group, and one-on-one format. We recommend you schedule at least 60 minutes per mentor meeting.

- For groups of five participants or less: Consider having one small group meeting with all participants using the suggested agenda (2.8 Mentor Meeting Components) and then one-on-one meetings with the participants for more personalized connection, celebration, and challenge.
- For groups of more than five participants: Consider having one large group meeting with all mentors and participants using the suggested agenda (2.8 Mentor Meeting Components) and then one small group or one-on-one meeting with the mentor and assigned participants for more personalized connection, celebration, and challenge.

*If facilitating Foundations I and II simultaneously*, we recommend scheduling the large group meetings for both to occur back-to-back, possibly with a meal break in between. This consolidates meetings for:

- Lead pastors and high-level leaders who serve as mentors to both Foundations I and II participants
- Foundations II participants who serve as Foundations I mentors

### CONTENT

40% of VLE: Foundations II will consist of content provided by Vineyard USA (as listed below), but 60% will be the discipling and mentoring that happens between the mentor and the participants once the module is completed.

### Module One: Living a Life of Worship (September)

**Sessions One and Two:** Anabeth Morgan (Worship Pastor, Mile High Vineyard) teaches you what worship is and how we worship, both in church and in our everyday lives.

# Module Two: Self-Discovery & Stewardship (October)

**Sessions One and Two:** Dr. Brittany Kim (Editing Scholar, The BibleProject) teaches you how to read the Bible faithfully and provides tools to read biblical narratives with greater attention to how the story was crafted in order to reveal the author's intention.

# Module Three: Spiritual Formation in Leadership (November)

**Session One:** Andy Saperstein (Associate Pastor, Elm City Vineyard Church) teaches how we are designed by God to live an intentional life with Him.

**Session Two:** Danielle Pathak (Associate National Director of Pastoral Health and Formation, Vineyard USA) teaches you what a "Rule of Life" is, why you need one, and how to start building one.

# **Module Four: Navigating Conflict (January)**

**Sessions One and Two:** Robb Morgan (Managing Director, Vineyard USA) teaches you how communication dynamics impact conflict and your sense of connection, and the necessity and benefits of healthy conflict.

# **Module Five: Seeking the Heart of Your City (February)**

**Session One:** Josh Williams (Associate National Director of Justice and Evangelism, Vineyard USA) teaches you the six-step process of seeking the heart of your city, beginning with understanding Jesus' life as the ultimate model, leading into laying intentional thoughtwork, and ending with taking action.

# Module Six: Everyday Kingdom Ministry (March)

**Session One:** Julie Yoder (Senior Pastor, The Vineyard Church of Central Illinois) teaches you about growing a Kingdom worldview and how that shapes the way you live.

**Session Two:** Daniel Goulet (Director, School of Kingdom Ministry) teaches you how to do Supernatural Ministry in everyday life by following the biblical call to heal and share the Gospel with power.

# **Module Seven: Pursuing Beloved Community (April)**

**Sessions One and Two:** Dr. Charles Montgomery (Associations Director, Vineyard USA) teaches you how to look introspectively at how your own story has shaped your understanding of ethnicity and diversity, and how understanding the biblical framework for beloved communities can equip you to pursue them in your leadership.

### Module Eight: Growing A Healthy Team (May)

**Session One:** Jared Boyd (Founding Director, Order of The Common Life) teaches you the basics of discernment and how to apply and recognize it in your daily life.

**Session Two:** Connie Willems (Ministry Coordinator for Pastoral Health, Vineyard Spiritual Direction Network) teaches the concept of vocation, how it can emerge, and how to balance the change it brings.

# 2.5 IDENTIFYING PARTICIPANTS

Foundations II is designed for current and emerging leaders who have completed Foundations I and are ready to move beyond personal growth and begin investing in the growth of others.

Foundations II is a great next step for:

- People you see leadership potential in
- People who discern a call to leadership on their life
- Small Group Leaders
- Team Leaders
- Assistant Leaders
- Pastors or Leaders of churches joining the Vineyard

Churches should invite participants who show a desire and aptitude for further leadership in the church, at whatever level that might entail - from potential Small Group Leader to Associate Pastor. While participants may not be currently serving in a formal leadership role, there should be an expectation that participants are moving forward with this goal in mind.

# Participants commit to:

- · Completing all assignments in a timely manner
- Attending mentoring meetings twice a month with their assigned mentor
- Participating in periodic webinars hosted by Vineyard USA for all participants nationwide, which will include conversations with some of Vineyard's finest voices and friends of the Vineyard
- Remaining faithful, available, and teachable as they engage with the content and their mentor
- · Providing feedback to Vineyard USA through self-assessments and stories

*If facilitating Foundations I and II simultaneously*, we recommend inviting Foundations II participants to serve as mentors for the next round of Foundations I. This stage of leadership development is where the ripple effect begins, and this is the perfect opportunity to put into practice everything the participants learned in Foundations I.

Similar to Foundations I, the expected time commitment for participants is 5-6 hours per month, with the majority of that time being dedicated to mentor meetings.

## Monthly content and meetings include:

- 2 video sessions within the Module (approximately 40-50 minutes total)
- 4-5 Personal Reflection Questions per video session within the Module (approximately 45 minutes total)
- 1 Activation Assignment within the Module (approximately 45 minutes total)
- 2 Mentor Meetings (approximately 1.5 hours each)

Because the most important characteristics of a disciple are faithfulness, availability, and teachability, we do not recommend this program for participants who are unable or unwilling to commit fully. While someone may be interested in leadership development, their current circumstances or stage of life may not allow them to commit at this time fully, and that's OK!

At the end of Foundations I, you will receive an email from the Vineyard Leadership Pathway Team with a list of current Foundations I participants. Working with the Lead Pastor, you will identify who has successfully completed Foundations I and who is recommended to move on to Foundations II, and provide this information back to the Vineyard Leadership Pathway Team. Approximately 2 weeks before your church starts VLE: Foundations II, approved participants will be granted access to the Foundations II content within the Learning Management System (LMS).

# 2.6 IDENTIFYING MENTORS

Each church must identify at least one mentor to facilitate Foundations II for the participants. Ideally, this is the Lead Pastor or someone with a similar leadership role who has experience successfully leading leaders and leading ministries.

We suggest inviting the mentors who served in Foundations I to continue to serve as mentors in Foundations II. This provides continuity, consistency, and an established level of trust and rapport.

Most mentors can effectively mentor three to five participants. Mentoring more than five participants at one time can potentially dilute the attention and support each participant receives, impacting the overall quality of mentorship.

Because the goal of mentorship is to build deeper relationships through more focused attention on the individual participants and provide personalized feedback and encouragement tailored to the participant's specific needs, we recommend not having more than five participants per mentor.

### **Mentors commit to:**

- Actively participating in the Launch Retreat and Closing Celebration
- · Following along with and completing the online material your participants are engaging with
- Familiarizing yourself with recommended resources for additional learning
- Utilizing the Mentor Guides for each module with participants
- Participating in periodic Mentor check-ins facilitated by Vineyard USA and providing feedback

# 2.7 KICK-OFF MEETING

While there is no official Launch Retreat for Foundations II, we recommend you host a kick-off meeting for Foundations II mentors and participants. After completing Foundations I and taking a break for the summer, this is a great opportunity to get back into the habit of gathering in community, cast a fresh vision for the next nine months, lay out expectations and logistics, and recommit to going all-in together!

We encourage you to schedule your kick-off meeting before jumping into the Foundations II content, but you have flexibility as to when works best for you and your church!

# **2.8 MENTOR MEETING COMPONENTS**

Participants will meet with their mentors twice a month. The way mentor meetings look may fluctuate depending on your group size and if you're meeting in a large group, small group, or one-on-one format; however, we have a suggested 60-minute agenda you can use below to ensure mentor meetings are balanced and healthy.

- For groups of five participants or less: Consider having one small group meeting with all participants using the suggested agenda below and then one-on-one meetings with the participants for more personalized connection, celebration, and challenge.
- For groups of more than five participants: Consider having one large group meeting with all
  mentors and participants using the suggested agenda below and then one small group or one-onone meeting with the mentor and assigned participants for more personalized connection,
  celebration, and challenge.

**Connection Time (5 minutes):** The relationships formed among participants and mentors are central to the process, not secondary. Avoid rushing into content at the start of the meeting; instead, this is an opportunity for you to encourage and connect people from different ministry areas, neighborhoods, stages of life, etc.

**Celebration Time (5 minutes):** Ask your participants what they have seen God do in their lives or ministry in the past two weeks that they'd like to share. This is an opportunity for you, the mentor, to affirm and reinforce the growth happening in your participants.

**Processing Time (25 minutes):** Walk through key reflection questions and the activation assignment from the module. Rather than go question by question, we encourage you to use this time to focus on application of the content and ask the participants:

- What did you learn about leadership or discover about yourself from this module?
- What does that mean for your own life and work, or your leadership of others?
- What would you like to do differently based on your new understanding of yourself or leadership?

**Ministry Time (20 minutes):** This is arguably the most important part of your meetings. In ministry time, we provide space for the work of the Holy Spirit among us.

**What's Next? (5 minutes):** This is an opportunity to highlight important events (like upcoming VUSA webinars), introduce the next module topic, and remind participants when your next meeting is scheduled.

# 2.9 CLOSING CELEBRATION

Congratulations! You, your mentors, and your participants have made it to the end of Foundations II, and now it's time to celebrate! Churches should take this opportunity to celebrate this achievement, acknowledge the growth in your participants, and highlight any leadership advancement your participants have experienced while in Foundations II.

The number one rule of a celebration is to HAVE FUN! Make sure you plan some fun elements for your celebration - bring in cupcakes, come up with fun superlatives for each participant, cater or go out to dinner - the possibilities are endless!

Certificates of completion will be provided to the Facilitator before your closing celebration and can be used in the closing celebration.

# 2.10 FACILITATOR TOOLS

# **LEARNING MANAGEMENT SYSTEM (LMS)**

Vineyard USA has created a web-based LMS to deliver, manage, and track the Foundations II content. All video-based modules, Reflection Questions, and Activation Assignments will occur and be documented in the LMS. Facilitators, mentors, and participants will be granted access to the LMS by Vineyard USA.

### **DASHBOARD**

Within the LMS, facilitators and mentors will use the Dashboard to track the progress of their participants through the eight modules. Facilitators and mentors are encouraged to check the Dashboard monthly as a discipleship tool to encourage and challenge participants to stay on schedule and not miss assignments.

### **VINEYARD USA WEBINARS**

Vineyard USA will provide periodic Facilitator and Mentor check-ins to encourage, update, and answer questions. We encourage you to prioritize attending these, both for the information and the community!

# 3. NEXT STEPS

The next steps in the Vineyard Leadership Pathway are already in motion, and we're actively developing what comes after Foundations II. We're excited about where God is leading us as we continue to build a clear and intentional process for raising up leaders across the Vineyard. While we're not ready to release the next phase just yet, know that more is coming soon - and we can't wait to share it with you!

Toward the end of Foundations II, the Lead Pastor and Facilitator will receive additional information regarding next steps in the Vineyard Leadership Pathway.

# **3.1 SUPPORT TEAM**

We, the Vineyard Leadership Pathway Team, are here to support you as you launch and run VLE: Foundations II in your church. Should questions or technical issues arise, please reach out to:

Amy Carnall, Leadership Pathway Ministry Coordinator

amy.carnall@vineyardusa.org

Jessica Fox, Vineyard Leadership Essentials Support Coordinator <a href="mailto:jessica.fox@vineyardusa.org">jessica.fox@vineyardusa.org</a>

# 4. VLE: FOUNDATIONS I TIMELINE AND CHECKLIST

4.:	1 APPLICATION
	☐ Lead Pastor expresses interest in VLE to Vineyard USA
	☐ Lead Pastor appoints a Facilitator
	☐ Lead Pastor completes and submits <i>Pastor Application</i> to Vineyard USA
	☐ Vineyard USA creates church-specific cohort in LMS
	☐ Vineyard USA provides facilitator <i>Facilitator Guide</i> , Dashboard and LMS access via email
4.2	2 MENTOR AND PARTICIPANT RECRUITMENT
	Facilitator works closely with Lead Pastor to recruit mentors (must have a minimum of one, recommend one mentor for every three to five participants)
	☐ Mentors complete VLE: Foundations 1 Application
	☐ Facilitator works closely with mentors to develop a rhythm for mentor meetings twice a month for the next nine months, to include schedule, location, and duration (see meeting options according to group size in 2.7 Mentor Meeting Components)
	☐ Facilitator determines date and format for Launch Retreat and date for Closing Celebration ☐ Facilitator submits <i>VLE: Foundations I Information Form</i> to Vineyard USA
	Facilitator works closely with Lead Pastor and mentors to identify how they will communicate VLE launch within the church and what internal processes they want to implement for participants
	Facilitator, Lead Pastor, and mentors identify potential, emerging, and current leaders to personally invite
	☐ Participants and mentors complete VLE: Foundations I Application
	☐ Vineyard USA adds participants and mentors to the church-specific cohort in LMS
	Facilitator and Lead Pastor assign participants to mentors (if more than one mentor)
	Participants complete initial Self-Assessment and identify mentor
	☐ Vineyard USA provides participants and mentors LMS access via email
4.3	3 LAUNCH RETREAT
	☐ Facilitator communicates Launch Retreat date, nine-month mentor meeting schedule, and Closing Celebration date to all participants and mentors
	Facilitator works with mentors to plan and prepare for Launch Retreat using suggested agendas
	Facilitator communicates Launch Retreat reminder and logistics to all participants and mentors
	□ Launch Retreat occurs

<b>+.</b> 4	4 MENTOR MEETINGS			
	☐ Facilitator works with mentors to plan and prepare for mentor meetings using provided mentor meeting components (2.7 Mentor Meeting Components) and Mentor Guides per module			
	<ul> <li>Mentors communicate meeting reminders and logistics to assigned participants prior to each meeting</li> </ul>			
	☐ Facilitator and mentor review participant progress in Dashboard prior to each meeting			
	Mentor meetings occur twice per month (see meeting options according to group size in 2.7 Mentor Meeting Components)			
	Participants complete mid-point Self-Assessment upon completion of Module Three Activation Assignment			
1.5 VLE: FOUNDATIONS II APPLICATION				
	☐ Vineyard USA communicates with Facilitator and Lead Pastor in Month Seven regarding Closing Celebration and link to register for VLE: Foundations II			
	☐ If continuing to VLE: Foundations II, Facilitator completes VLE: Foundations II Information Form			
	☐ If continuing to VLE: Foundations II, mentors identify which participants want to/are recommended to move to VLE: Foundations II			
	☐ If continuing to VLE: Foundations II, Facilitator and Lead Pastor communicate with Vineyard USA which participants are moving on to VLE: Foundations II			
	☐ Vineyard USA creates church-specific VLE: Foundations II cohort in LMS and adds participants			
1.(	6 CLOSING CELEBRATION			
	Participants complete final Self-Assessment upon completion of Module Eight Activation Assignment			
	☐ Facilitator works with Lead Pastor and mentors to plan and prepare for Closing Celebration			
	☐ Vineyard USA provides Facilitator certificates for participants			
	Facilitator communicates Closing Celebration reminder and logistics to all participants and mentors			
	□ Closing Celebration occurs			

☐ If continuing to VLE: Foundations II, Facilitator provides advancing participants with next steps