

THE MINISTRY TRAINING CENTER

Fairview Baptist Church

"What you have heard from me in the presence of many witnesses, commit to faithful men who will be able to teach others also." – 2 Timothy 2:2

SUMMARY

One of the primary calls of pastors and healthy churches in the New Testament is to teach and train members, future ministers, and missionaries to do the work of the ministry (2 Tim. 2:2; Eph. 4:12). It is out of this biblical call that our Ministry Training Center was born.

Our Ministry Training Center (MTC) is a formal residency program for those pursuing a call to gospel ministry. Led by Matt Capps (M.Div., D.Min) and the pastoral staff at Fairview, the MTC is an internship in which participants will receive on-the-ground ministry experience, participate in church leadership readings and discussions. Those who are enrolled in seminary will have the opportunity to earn course credit through Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary's EQUIP Program. By the end of the MTC process, residents will have prayerfully grown in several areas of pastoral ministry training.

1. Knowledge of God's word, especially in respect to the vocation of full or part-time ministry.
2. Aptitude and temperament for biblical leadership in a local church.
3. Their affection for Jesus and for the local church.
4. Upon completion of the MTC process, all qualified men who have graduated from seminary will be eligible to receive ordination by Fairview Baptist Church for gospel ministry.

The MTC is designed to provide meaningful ministry experience and training for future pastors in specific areas of interest. For this reason, the MTC is designed to offer hands-on training in the ministry to which the intern is assigned. Each intern will have the opportunity to gain experience in both practical and theological aspects in their area of ministry focus.

PROGRAM DESIGN

This program is still in formation, and in many ways will take shape based on the students God sends us and the needs that arise in the church. All members of the Ministry Training Center would be encouraged to participate in several areas of the church.

1. Work with the Senior Pastor in developing sermons and teaching.
2. Participate in weekly staff meetings.
3. Read and discuss theological and ministry-related materials with the pastoral staff. If the participant is enrolled in seminary, these items will relate to their course work.
4. Ministry residents will be assigned to serve in a specific area that relates to their gifting and potential calling.
5. All Ministry Training Center residents will also benefit from specific areas of the church on Sunday mornings and Wednesday nights, including worship, missions, children, students, and adults. This will also include occasional teaching opportunities.
6. The Ministry Training Residents would also accompany pastors on home visits, hospital visits, and other ministry duties such as baptisms, weddings, and funerals as available.

The Ministry Training center is designed to have four types of service and experience.

Summer Intern (16 Weeks, June 1-September 1)

These interns would spend 2 hours a week with the Senior Pastor in sermon preparation, and would otherwise be focused on other areas of ministry under the direction of our pastoral staff. The goal is to give them a wide range of experience in pastoral ministry.

Seminary Ministry Resident (6 Months, June 1-December 1)

This intern would be a student at Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary. They would spend time each week with the Senior Pastor in sermon preparation, and would otherwise be focused on other areas of ministry under the direction of our pastoral staff. This experience will also include opportunities to teach and lead in various ministries of the church. Also, this intern would benefit from Fairview's partnership with SEBTS' Equip Program, earning seminary credit hours for their service and doing independent study courses under the direction of the Senior Pastor. The goal is to give them a wide range of experience in pastoral ministry.

Ministry Director (One Year)

These interns would be seminary students or graduates who have moved beyond a level 2 internship. Their area of ministry within our church family will be focused on their gifting and long term desire to serve in a specific area of ministry. As needed, these interns would benefit from Fairview's partnership with SEBTS' Equip Program, earning seminary credit hours for their service and doing independent study courses under the direction of the Senior Pastor.

Church Planting/Revitalization Missionary (Goal 2021-2022, 1-2 Years)

At some point, the 4th level of internship would be introduced to prepare our church to send out planters, revitalizers, and missionaries. These interns could either be seminary students or graduates, and their goal would be to learn at Fairview, build a team or network of support, and be sent out from among us. As needed, these interns would benefit from Fairview's partnership with SEBTS' Equip Program, earning seminary credit hours for their service and doing independent study courses under the direction of the Senior Pastor.

SEMINARY COURSE CREDIT

In partnership with Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary, Fairview Baptist Church is able to offer course credit classes through the EQUIP program. Seminary students have the ability to earn about half of their credits at an EQUIP center for an MA in Christian Ministry or M.Div. in Christian Ministry.

Because of the design of this program, it requires limited but specific effort from our staff. The students are required to watch pre-recorded lectures from seminary professors, read assigned books from the seminaries approved list, and meet with the pastoral staff from the EQUIP approved church for 1.5 hours a week to discuss their reading. The pastor, or field instructor, is required to read and grade papers and submit an end of the semester grade. Below is a list of approved classes. To find out more, visit this website.

www.sebts.edu/equip

PMN7900/EQC – Mentored Internship Practicum

PMN6501/EQC – Pastoral Ministry and Leadership Practicum
PMN6733/EQC – Christian Leadership Practicum
PMN6721/EQC – Administration and Education in the Local Church Practicum
PRS6101/EQC – Bible Exposition I: Hermeneutics and Preparation Practicum
PRS6501/EQC – Bible Exposition II: Delivery Practicum
BCO5502/EQC – Biblical Counseling Practicum
MIS5101/EQC – Christian Missions: Principles and Practice Practicum
EVA5101/EQC – Evangelism: Nature and Practice Practicum
EVA6611/EQC – Personal Discipleship and Disciple-Making Practicum

THE BENEFIT FOR THE CHURCH AS A WHOLE

As we aim to send people out for church revitalization and planting, this will be our “farm league”. It will also allow Fairview to be involved in the formation of these future pastors and missionaries in a personal way. I believe that these Ministry Training Residents will benefit from focused time within our church family, and will learn from the relationships they establish with our members. This is one way that Fairview can invest in the global body of Christ.