



MERRIMACK VALLEY

— baptist church —

MVBC Ministry Internships

Purpose: We aim to train men and women to be Christ-centered, competent, and virtuous in ministry.

Christ-centered – we want to disciple our interns to live personally by faith in Christ, to treasure Him (Galatians 2:20). We also desire that their ultimate ministry aim be to glorify God by working that others treasure Christ (1 Corinthians 2:2).

Competent – we want to train our interns to be competent in the skillset that their area of ministry requires (1 Timothy 3:2). This includes skills such as preaching, teaching, administration, and leadership.

Virtuous – We also want to train our interns to be people of virtue who grow in the fruit of the Spirit (Galatians 5:22-23) and the wisdom to best live out those character traits in a ministry setting (James 1:5; 3:17).

Structure: We will train each intern to be Christ-centered, competent, and virtuous through three interweaving pathways: study, practice, and mentorship.

Study – (Think) The intern will learn to think rightly about his or her area of ministry through reading, writing about the material, and discussing the material with the mentor.

Practice – (Do) The intern will learn to be competent in his or her area of ministry by serving in the ministry at MVBC. Interns can accomplish this aim through writing class material, teaching or preaching, planning an event, watching children in nursery, and much more.

Mentorship – (Be) The intern will grow in virtue through the relationship with his or her mentor, meeting at least bi-monthly, discussing the internship's areas of study, practical ministry, personal walk with Jesus, and all of the challenges and joys that arise in those areas.

This purpose and structure can be applied differently depending on the area of ministry in which the intern serves. Examples are pastoral ministry, Christian education, youth ministry, women's ministry, and missions.

Pastoral Ministry Intern

Description: The pastoral internship is for men who desire to be pastors (1 Timothy 3:1). These interns will learn to be Christ-centered and competent in preaching, caring, and oversight. They will also grow in the virtues Paul describes in 1 Timothy 3:1:7.

Study

Reading

Books can vary based on the Intern's capacity. Possible titles include:

Deeper by Dane Ortlund – This book helps the Christian understand how best to grow as a follower of Jesus. It especially helps us to be Christ-centered and virtuous.

Discipleship by Mark Dever – This small book is filled with both theological and practical wisdom surveying what discipleship is, how important it is, and how to do it in a local church.

The Whole Christ by Sinclair Ferguson – One of the most critical theological controversies is the one between legalism and antinomianism. Ferguson helps us be Christ-centered by demonstrating that both legalism and antinomianism commit the same error. He helps us pursue Christ in the face of this difficult theological question that proves remarkably practical as we try to follow Christ in our own lives.

Center Church by Tim Keller – This book is not recommended for Keller's position but because of his methodology. He shows that ministry is not only about having the correct doctrine but is also about theological vision and ministry philosophy. His book is a helpful model for us to learn how to navigate the complexity of putting our theology into practice in a ministry setting.

Writing

The intern will write a one-page "book review" will be written on each book that describes 1) the main point of the book, 2) the strengths of the book, and 3) the weaknesses of the book. The goal is to read each book critically and to apply them to life and ministry. The mentor will then discuss the review with the intern.

The intern will study the overall storyline of the Bible and will write and then teach/preach a 30-minute message on the whole Bible – notably how all of Scripture points to Christ.

The intern will study the character qualifications in 1 Timothy 3 and write a paragraph on each qualification explaining 1) what the qualification means, 2) how it is especially relevant in our cultural context, and 3) the intern's personal strengths and weaknesses relating to the qualification. The mentor and intern will then discuss the paragraphs.

Practice

Teach – the intern will teach in one of the opportunities offered at the church. Length and topic will be determined in conversation with the mentor.

Preach – the intern will prepare and preach two sermons throughout the internship. This could be Wednesday evening or at an event.

Children's – the intern will spend time serving in both children's ministry and youth group.

Events – the intern will work with a ministry leader to organize and lead an event. This can be an ongoing event or a new event.

Mentorship

The intern will meet with his mentor at least two times per month. While these meetings will often focus on study and practice, they will also focus on virtue – who the intern is as a person. The mentor will discuss the spiritual disciplines of the intern, ongoing struggles with sin, and other personal struggles such as people-pleasing, depression, and anxiety.

The mentor will also ensure that the intern spends concerted time in prayer, perhaps through a simple prayer journal.

The mentor will also work with the intern for him to grow in Scripture memorization, especially by memorizing Romans eight.

The intern is also required to curate a list of questions to ask experienced pastors and to have a meal with each of the pastors at MVBC to learn about their joys, struggles, and wisdom in ministry.