



FBC MERIDIAN

Elder Apprenticeship

Apprenticeship?

The church was commissioned to make disciples, teaching them to observe all that her Lord Jesus Christ commanded (Matthew 28:19). One thing He has commanded is that his church be led by elders/pastors/overseers (these terms are interchangeable). Raising up, testing, and ordaining elders is the role of the church. Seminaries may assist the church in this, but they must not supplant her.

This is why FBC Meridian has an elder apprenticeship. We want to raise up elders from within our church and for other churches as well.

Two Tracks

While discipleship is lifelong, and should both precede and follow apprenticeship, this is a formal and focused time of training for the specific purpose of raising up elders. Going through the apprenticeship doesn't qualify one to be an elder, but it is meant to be a part of discipling men who have a desire to shepherd God's flock toward that goal.

There are two tracks for elder apprenticeship. *Track one* is referred to as an *intern-apprenticeship*. This is a one year intensive internship. This track works best for: 1. Someone coming to FBCM from another church, 2. Those preparing for, or having just completed seminary, 3. Young single men, or married men without children, 4. Those who can work part-time. This is not a paid internship, but housing with utilities may be available.

Track two, simply an *apprenticeship*, is more flexible, but for convenience a two-year plan is assumed by giving two months to each assignment given below. This track works best for men within our body who have families and full-time jobs.

Structure

Apprentices will take part in elder meetings, join elders during counseling sessions and pastoral visits, read a number of books and write papers on them, be given teaching opportunities, develop a sermon series and potentially preach it, and be given various other ministry and administrative tasks.

Additionally they must take the systematic theology course offered during their time as apprentices (intern-apprentices can only take two of the four semesters). Apprentices have additional course work as indicated on the attached syllabus.

Application and Requirements:

All persons interested in apprenticeship must fill out the apprentice questionnaire and submit a resume with five references (three for non-intern apprentices). To be considered for the current year, these must be received by May 1st. The intern-apprenticeship will last for a full year beginning in August.

Apprentices must be or become members of FBC Meridian, agreeing with the congregational affirmation of faith and the church covenant. Apprentices coming from outside of FBCM will need to go through the membership process as part of their application. They will be presented to the body as apprentices, with membership pending their coming. As members they must be involved in the life of the body by attending the weekly worship gatherings, participating in a LifeGroup, and attending all MeridianLife fellowships.

Required Reading

[The approximate number of pages to be read is indicated to help you pace your reading]

Theology:

1. *Knowing God* by J.I. Packer (279)
2. *The Cross of Christ* by John R.W. Stott (342)
3. *Delighting in the Trinity* by Michael Reeves (130)
4. *The Inspiration and Authority of the Bible* by B.B. Warfield (430)
5. *One with Christ* by Marcus Johnson (240)
6. *Christ of the Covenants* by O. Palmer Robertson (300)
7. *Systematic Theology* by Wayne Grudem (1167)

Discipleship:

8. *Temptation and Sin* (Volume 6 of Works) by John Owen (648)
9. *The Whole Christ* by Sinclair Ferguson (229)

Ecclesiology:

10. *Nine Marks of a Healthy Church* by Mark Dever (243)
11. *The Deliberate Church* by Mark Dever (202)
12. *The Lord's Supper* by Richard Barcellos (114)
13. *Christ-Centered Worship* by Bryan Chapell (300)

Preaching:

14. *Preaching and Preachers* by Martyn Lloyd-Jones (340)
15. *Preaching the Whole Bible* by Graeme Goldsworthy (256)

Biography/History:

16. *D. Martyn Lloyd-Jones* (2 volumes) by Iain Murray (1154)

Culture:

17. *Christless Christianity* by Michael Horton (259)

Leadership/Ministry/Productivity:

18. *What's Best Next* by Matt Perman (325)
19. *Lit!* by Tony Reinke (188)
20. *The Pastor's Book* by Kent Hughes (539)

Marriage and Family:

21. *Father Hunger* by Douglas Wilson (202)

Reading Schedule:

For most of your reading, a summary of no more than one page is required discussing: 1. anything you learned that was new or surprising, 2. any differences you have with the author, and 3. any questions you have after reading.

One chapter of *The Pastor's Book* will be discussed each month.

Iain Murray's biography and John Owen's works on sin and temptation must be read by the end of the internship with a five page paper due on each. This is to help apprentices learn how to read large works in small chunks and slowly digest them to draw out more spiritual nutrition.

For apprentices on *track two*, we recommend you take two months for each assignment and read volume one of Murray's biography and John Owen on sin your first year, and the second volume of Murray's biography the following year.

Month 1

- Discuss *The Pastor's Book* chapter 1
- Paper due for *What's Best Next?*

Month 2

- Discuss *The Pastor's Book* chapter 2
- Papers due for *Preaching the Whole Bible as Christian Scripture* and *Lit!*

Month 3

- Discuss *The Pastor's Book* chapter 3
- Paper due for *Knowing God*
- First sermon rough draft due

Month 4

- Discuss *The Pastor's Book* chapter 4
- Papers due for *Nine Marks of a Healthy Church* and *The Deliberate Church*
- First sermon revision due
- Second sermon rough draft due

Month 5

- Discuss *The Pastor's Book* chapter 5
- Paper due for *The Inspiration and Authority of the Bible*
- Second sermon revision due
- Third sermon rough draft due

Month 6

- Discuss *The Pastor's Book* chapter 6
- Papers due for *Delighting in the Trinity* and *Christ of the Covenants*
- Third sermon revision due
- Fourth sermon rough draft due

Month 7

- Discuss *The Pastor's Book* chapter 7
- Paper due for *The Whole Christ*
- Fourth sermon revision due
- Fifth sermon rough draft due

Month 8

- Discuss *The Pastor's Book* chapter 8
- Paper due for *Christ-Centered Worship*
- Fifth sermon revision due

Month 9

- Discuss *The Pastor's Book* chapter 9
- Paper due for *Preaching and Preachers*
- Further sermon revisions
- Potentially lead LifeGroup studies

Month 10

- Discuss *The Pastor's Book* chapter 10
- Paper due for *The Cross of Christ*
- Further sermon revisions
- Potentially lead LifeGroup Studies

Month 11

- Discuss *The Pastor's Book* chapter 11
- Papers due for *The Lord's Supper* and *Father Hunger*
- Potentially preach sermon series

Month 12

- Paper due for *Christless Christianity*
- Five page papers due for *D. Martyn Lloyd-Jones* and *Volume 6* of Owen's works.
- Potentially preach sermon series



FBC MERIDIAN

2017 Fellowship Meals

<u>DATE</u>	<u>GROUP</u>
January 15	Gray
February 5	King
March 5	MeridianLife*
April 2	Myers
May 7	Hill
June 4	MeridianLife*
July 2	King
August 6	Myers
September 10	MeridianLife*
October 1	Gray
November 5	Hill
December 3	MeridianLife*

~The life group assigned for the month is responsible for setting up and cleaning up.~

1. SET UP:

- Prepare coffee, water, sweet tea, and unsweet tea** (directions are in the kitchen)
- Fill cups with ice
- Restock silverware tray
- Set out plates, bowls, and napkins
- Put serving utensils with dishes

2. CLEAN UP:

- Wipe down eating tables, serving tables, and chairs
- Wipe down all kitchen counters with kitchen cleaner
- Sweep up messes
- Wash and dry tea containers/pots, coffee pots, and serving utensils.
 - To make clean up faster, do not wash personal dishes.
- Put paper goods back in pantry in correct packages
- Cover utensils with white cloth
- Bag up towels/washcloths and give to Josh King
- Take out trash

*On MeridianLife months, everyone cleans up.

**Church will provide coffee, tea, sugar, and ice.

***There will be no sign-ups. If you are coming, try to bring a dish and a dessert.