



Pastoral Internship Program

In this day, we need to encourage more pastors to follow the example of the apostle Paul in mentoring Timothy as a young minister, preacher, and pastor. As a seminary president, I want to partner with pastors like that in order to raise up a generation of faithful pastors who will, as Paul instructed Timothy, “fulfill your ministry.”

Al Mohler, President, Southern Seminary

One of the ways Christ Covenant Church is committed to raising up a generation of faithful pastors is through the church's Pastoral Internship Program. We do not see this as a new, trendy program, but as one way in which we can be faithful to the biblical model of training up men who will fulfill the ministry to which they have been called.

What to Expect?

We are not a big, famous or cutting edge church and certainly not a perfect one (or even close to it), but if you are aspiring to be a pastor one day yourself, this pastoral internship is designed to give you a place to start as you develop a philosophy of gospel ministry and grow in your understanding of the church and your role as a future pastor. You will undoubtedly grow beyond us and do things differently wherever God leads you to minister, but through the pastoral internship you can expect to receive a model or grid for how to think through these important issues.

What makes a church a church? What is the mission of the church? Is church membership biblical? Who should lead the church? What priorities should guide a pastor in pastoring? How should we read the Bible and preach God's Word? We will explore these and other questions by reading and discussing some great pastors and theologians from the past. Through these conversations and your interaction with our church's life, you will discover that we believe God's church is the main sounding board of the gospel and yet, sadly, a sounding board that is largely ignored in Christian circles today. Not only this, you will consider what it means to build a church, not according to the latest cultural waves or “whatever works,” but according to all that the Bible says about our life together as the local church. Praise God that his Word is not silent on matters of ecclesiology and pastoring.

Internship Structure and Work

At this point, we offer the internship program to one man for a minimum of six months to a year. The optimum time period would be a school year, from late August/early September to the following May. Applicants must have completed his undergraduate degree, but beyond that he can either be heading to seminary, in seminary or a recent graduate.

Due to the brevity of the internship program and its purpose, men coming from outside of Christ Covenant Church should not expect the internship to help them answer the question, “Am I called to the Ministry?” Our church is not built on the backs of its interns (teaching publicly, leading small groups, etc.) so applicants should not expect the internship to be a

time where all his gifts are fully tested. That said, an intern will have opportunities to teach publicly and lead while at Christ Covenant.

Who is Eligible?

We welcome applications from men who are interested in pastoral ministry and who are able to affirm the CCC covenant and statement of faith. Furnished housing is provided for single men and a monthly stipend of \$1,000. Healthcare is not included. No paid vacation is provided other than national/state holidays.

What Does an Intern's Typical Week Look Like?

An intern's week includes attendance at staff meetings, (some) Elder meetings, all public services of the church, staff prayer times, intern discussions, at least one wedding, wedding rehearsal and funeral (if possible), and any spontaneous meetings that arise in the course of a week. Interns can also expect to serve the church in an administrative capacity (when needed).

The rest of the week will be devoted to reading and writing papers and meeting with Pastor Bradley Aucoin to discuss what is being learned. Here are some of the books/articles that are planned to be read and discussed:

Bleeding of the Evangelical Church by David Wells

9 Marks of a Healthy Church by Mark Dever

The Deliberate Church by Mark Dever

Life Together by Dietrich Bonhoeffer

"No Church? No Problem?" (Article)

"The Church—Why Bother?" (Article)

"A Family Affair" by Joseph Hellerman (Article)

Retrieving the Tradition and Rescuing Evangelicalism by D.H. Williams

"Evangelicals, Irenaeus, and the Bible" by Jeff Bingham (Article)

Ch. 8 of Hall's *Reading Scripture with the Church Fathers* (Article)

Is Sproul Right? by Matthew Heckel (Article)

Confessions by St. Augustine

The Bondage of the Will by Martin Luther (Excerpts)

Religious Affections by Jonathan Edwards

Sin & Temptation by John Owen

"The Gospel and the Supremacy of Christ in a Post-Modern World" by Keller (Article)

The Reason for God by Tim Keller

The Reformed Pastor by Richard Baxter (Excerpts)

Working the Angles by Eugene Peterson (Introduction)

Family Driven Faith (Chapters 9-10)

The Trellis and the Vine by Tony Payne

In the Name of Jesus by Henri Nouwen

"The Glory of God" by John Hannah

The End for Which God Created the World by Jonathan Edwards

The Rest of Success by Denis Haack (Chapter 7)

CD: *Distinctly Collegiate Discipleship* by Byron Berger

Reaching Out Without Dumbing Down (Chapter 3)

Subscriptions to *Mars Hill Audio Journal* (Ken Meyers) and *Critique* (Dennis/Margie Haack)

Other Things an Intern Will Do

- (1) Each intern is required to complete three sermon comparisons, each of which involves comparing two, pre-approved sermons based on the same biblical text.
- (2) We require interns to schedule one-on-one lunches with each church elder and deacon and encourage such lunches with other members of the church during their internship. These lunches provide the interns with an opportunity to learn about various aspects of the church's history and life.
- (3) We also ask interns to become members (or associate members) of the church during the time of their internship in order to best fold them into the life of the congregation.

Is The Internship For You?

The program is designed for those seriously considering or currently in pastoral ministry. If you believe this internship would benefit your development as a minister, we encourage you to submit an application! The form is attached.

Internship Program Application General Instructions

Thank you for your interest in a Pastoral Internship at Christ Covenant Church.

The internship lasts for between 6-12 months. By offering an internship program, we hope to encourage and influence future pastors in their role as leaders of evangelical churches. Under supervision, interns will gain experience in the areas of teaching, pastoral leadership, church polity and Christian doctrine.

Please send the completed application to Bradley Aucoin, Christ Covenant Church, 1700 Lee Drive, Baton Rouge, LA 70808. Or e-mail to: jamesbradleyaucoin@gmail.com

- (1) Completed application form
- (2) Résumé
- (3) Two letters of recommendation (one from a pastor)
If you are married, include a letter from a pastor who can describe your marriage and speak to its suitability for ministry. These letters must be confidential and sent directly by the pastor to the above address or via e-mail.
- (4) Digital photo.
- (5) Answers to the following questions:
 - a. How did you become a Christian?
 - b. Describe the circumstances of your baptism (setting, officiant, etc.).
 - c. How did you learn about the CCC internship?
 - d. Why do you want to intern at CCC?
 - e. What do you intend to learn during the course of an internship?
 - f. Describe the church you currently attend and your involvement. (Include your spouse, if applicable.)
 - g. What kind of service do you think God is leading you into?
 - h. Interns are not considered regular employees of CCC, so it is not our practice to provide health insurance. What plans do you have to provide coverage during your stay?
 - i. If you are married, tell us about your marriage and any concerns you may have for it as you consider pastoral ministry.
 - j. Tell us something about yourself we would not learn from your resume.

*In addition, you will need to visit CCC over a weekend to meet with the pastors and participate in our worship services on Sunday. Please contact Bradley about opportunities for this to take place.

CCC wants to consider applications from those who show a passion and love for Jesus Christ; possess, by God's grace, a character of integrity; have the desire and potential to be an evangelical leader; and affirm CCC's Statement of Faith and Church Covenant. Interns must be able to become members of CCC during their internship.

Thank you for your interest. If you have any questions, please contact us at (225) 924-2269 or send an email to jamesbradleyaucoin@gmail.com.

Internship Program Application

Educational Information

Name of college/university_____

State_____ Major_____ Degree_____

Name of college/university_____

State_____ Major_____ Degree_____

Family Information

Name of spouse_____

Name of children (if any)_____

name age gender

Name of child_____

name age gender

Name of child_____

name age gender

Name of child_____

name age gender

Statement

I have read and affirm the CCC Statement of Faith and Church Covenant.

Date_____ Signed_____

Date_____ Signed_____

spouse, if applicable

CHRIST COVENANT CHURCH
CHURCH COVENANT

Having been graciously led by the Spirit of God to repent and believe in Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior, we do now, in the presence of God and this assembly, most solemnly and joyfully enter into covenant with one another as one body in Christ.

We commit, therefore, by the aid of the Holy Spirit, to walk together in Christian love; to work and pray for the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace; to not forsake the assembling of ourselves together; to strive for the advancement of this church and its stated mission; to sustain its worship, sacraments, discipline and statement of faith; to contribute cheerfully and regularly to the support of its ministries, the expenses of the church, the relief of the poor, and the spreading of the gospel to all peoples; to live holy and Godly lives in this age, encouraging one another to love and good deeds; to seek the salvation of our family members and acquaintances; to maintain family and private devotions; to educate our children in the Christian faith; to remember each other in prayer and to aid each other in sickness and distress; to cultivate Christian fellowship; and, if we should move from this church, to unite with some other church where we can continue in the spirit of this covenant.

May the Grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with us all. Amen.

CHRIST COVENANT CHURCH **STATEMENT OF FAITH**

From the time of the Apostles to today, Christians have articulated doctrinal beliefs in brief, definitive statements. As those who know God, we believe it necessary to set forth in a concise fashion the fundamental truths that the Members of Christ Covenant Church believe. Christ Covenant Church's Statement of Faith summarizes these essential Christian beliefs, demonstrates our unity with other believers in Christ, and guards our church from error.

Section 1 - We are a "Christian People"

We are a Christ-centered church that is fully committed to the core teachings of the Old and New Testament Scriptures that Christians, in all places and at all times, have confessed throughout the ages. We believe that the Nicene Creed faithfully articulates many of these central truths of the Christian faith and, by affirming this creed, we demonstrate our unity through the Spirit with fellow saints through history and around the world.

The Nicene Creed

(As affirmed by the Council of Constantinople in A.D. 381)

We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, light from light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father; through him all things were made. For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven, was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary and became truly human. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures; he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father, who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets.

We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church. We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.

Section 2 - We are a "Local Church of Baptized Believers"

We are a local body of believers endeavoring to faithfully live out the truths of the gospel for the glory of God. To that end, the following statements explain how we understand and teach the Scriptures in the context of our local church.

A. The Scriptures

The Scriptures, both Old and New Testament, are verbally inspired of God and without error (inerrant) as originally written by their human authors, and this inerrancy extends equally and fully to all parts of the Scriptures. In addition, because the Bible is God's Word, it is both authoritative and sufficient in the life of the church and for individual believers and whatever it teaches is to be trusted and relied upon as being true and of supreme and final authority.

All the Scriptures are a testimony to the Lord Jesus Christ in His person and work at His first and second coming and, therefore, no portion of it, even in the Old Testament, is properly read or understood until it leads to Him (2 Tim. 3:16-17; 2 Peter 1:20-21; Heb. 4:12; Luke 24:27).

B. The Triune God

There is one and only one living and true God. He is an intelligent, spiritual, and personal being, the Creator, Redeemer, Preserver, and Ruler of the universe. God is infinite in holiness and all other perfections. God is all powerful and all knowing; and his perfect knowledge extends to all things, past, present, and future, including the future decisions of His free creatures. To Him we owe the highest love, reverence, and obedience (Gen. 1:1; Deut. 6:4; Is. 46:9-10; 1 John 3:20)

Within the unity of this Godhead, there are three persons--God the Father, God the Son and God the Holy Spirit—each of whom have distinct personal attributes, are co-eternal and of equal dignity and power, having precisely the same nature, attributes and perfections, and are worthy of precisely the same worship, confidence and obedience. The eternal God freely exists and lives in the community of love expressed within this triune relationship of Father, Son, and Spirit (Gen. 1:26; Matt. 28:18-20; Luke 3:21- 22; John 1:1-3, 16:4-15; 2 Cor. 13:14; Eph. 1:3-14; 1 John 1:2).

C. Jesus Christ

Jesus Christ is the eternal Son of God. And yet, in His incarnation, Jesus Christ took upon Himself human nature with its demands and necessities and identified Himself with mankind in every way except he was without sin. Accordingly, we believe that our Lord Jesus Christ is fully God and fully man in indivisible oneness (John 1:1-4, 14-18; Phil. 2:5-11; Col. 1:15-20, 2:9; Heb. 4:15).

The Lord Jesus Christ, as God's Son and Messiah, accomplished our redemption through the shedding of His blood and sacrificial death on the cross, a death that was voluntary, vicarious, substitutionary, propitiary and redemptive. Having risen from the dead, he ascended and is now enthroned in heaven at the right hand of God where He is the One Mediator, fully God and fully man, in whose Person is effected the reconciliation between God and man. He is now our High Priest and Advocate and dwells in all believers as the living and ever present Lord. He will return in power and glory to judge the world and to consummate His redemptive mission (Is. 53:11-12; John 1:29; Rom. 3:21-26; 1 Cor.15:3-8; 21-28; 2 Cor. 5:21; 1 Tim. 2:5-6; 1 John 2:1-2, 4:10).

D. Humanity and Sin

We believe that humanity was created by God in His image and likeness and for the purpose of bringing Him glory. We believe man sinned and, as a consequence, died. This death is spiritual separation from God and subjection to mortality and evil in this world. We further believe that this spiritual death and total depravity of human nature has been transmitted to the entire human race of mankind, the Man Christ Jesus alone being excepted; and hence that every child of Adam is born in the world with a nature which not only possesses no spark of divine life, but is essentially and unchangeably bad and inclined to evil apart from divine grace. In addition to this inherited guilt and corruption from Adam, we also believe that all men are culpable for committing actual sins in failing to conform to the character and moral law of God in attitude and acts of omission or commission. In this state, all humanity is under just condemnation to eternal ruin, without defense or excuse (Gen. 1:26-27; Is. 43:7; Rom. 1:18-32; 3:9-20, 23; 5:12-19; 6:23; Eph. 2:1-3).

E. God's Gracious Salvation

We believe that the salvation of sinners is wholly a work of God's grace through the mediatorial work of the Son of God, our Lord Jesus Christ. In order to be saved, sinners must be regenerated, or born again, and we believe that this regeneration consists in God giving a holy disposition to a person's mind and heart, in connection with divine truth, so as to secure that individual's voluntary obedience to the gospel. The evidence of this regeneration appears in the inseparable and holy fruits of repentance, faith and newness of life. All who are born again become children of God and heirs of eternal life. This is a relationship which provides eternal security (Matt. 7:16-23; John 3:5-8; Eph. 2:8-10; 1 John 5:13).

All true believers endure to the end. Those whom God has accepted in Christ, and sanctified by His Spirit, will never fall away from the state of grace, but shall persevere to the end. Believers may fall into sin through neglect and temptation, whereby they grieve the Spirit, impair their graces and comforts, and bring reproach on the cause of Christ and temporal judgments on themselves; yet they shall be kept by the power of God through faith unto salvation (Phil. 1:6, 2:12-13; Heb. 11:39-12:2; James 1:12; 1 Peter 1:2-5, 1 John 1:7-9; 2:19).

Election is the gracious purpose of God, according to which He regenerates, justifies, sanctifies, and glorifies sinners. It is consistent with the free agency of man, and comprehends all the means in connection with the end. It is the glorious display of God's sovereign goodness, and is infinitely wise, holy, and unchangeable. It excludes boasting and promotes humility (Eph. 1:3-14, 2:1-10; 2 Thess. 2:13-14; 2 Tim. 2:10,19; 1 Pet. 1:2).

We believe that sinners are justified before God by faith alone, forgiven, and declared righteous in God's sight as God imputes the righteousness of Christ to the believer. The sole ground of our justification is the merit of Jesus, which is given to us, not in consideration of any works of righteousness which we have done, but solely through faith in the Redeemer's blood. Though good works flow necessarily from all justified persons, these works are not the meritorious grounds of our justification (Rom. 3:21-31, 5:1-2; Eph. 2:4-10; Titus 3:4-7; James 2:14-26).

F. The Holy Spirit and Sanctification

We believe that sanctification is the process by which, according to the will of God, the Holy Spirit makes us partakers of His holiness. We believe that it is a progressive work begun in regeneration and, though distinct from justification, is ultimately inseparable from justification. It is carried on in the hearts of believers by the presence and power of the Holy Spirit, the Sealer, Counselor and Comforter, through the continual use of the appointed means of grace, especially, the Word of God, the sacraments, prayer, and self-denial, all expressed in love among the Spirit-filled community of saints. Glorification is the culmination of salvation and is the final blessed and abiding state of the redeemed (Rom. 8:9-17, 12:1-2; 1 Peter 1:13-16; 2 Peter 1:3-11).

G. Last Things

God, in His own time and in His own way, will bring the world to its appropriate end.

According to His promise, Jesus Christ will return personally and visibly in glory to the earth; the dead will be raised; and Christ will judge all men in righteousness. The unrighteous will be consigned to Hell, the place of everlasting punishment. The righteous in their resurrected and glorified bodies will receive their reward and will dwell forever in Heaven with the Lord (Acts 10:42-57; 1 Cor. 15:42-57; Heb. 9:27).

H. The Church and the Sacraments/Ordinances

A local church is a community of baptized believers, associated by covenant in the faith and fellowship of the Gospel, who faithfully observe the sacraments/ordinances of Christ, are governed by His laws, and enjoy and exercise the gifts, rights, responsibilities and privileges invested in them by God's Word. Baptism and the Lord's Table demonstrate this unity in the Christian church (Acts 2:38-47; Eph. 2:11-22, 4:3-6).

We believe baptism is a sign and seal of God's grace, of the individual's engrafting into Christ, of regeneration, of remission of sins, and of his or her commitment, through Jesus Christ, to walk in newness of life. In baptism, we not only fulfill the Lord's command, but we outwardly demonstrate the inner reality of God's grace in our lives as we come to Christ in repentance and faith. We practice baptism of a believer in the name of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit, believing that the New Testament teaches by both precept and example that baptism follows conversion. Accordingly, Christ Covenant Church does not baptize infants. Baptism is by immersion except in cases where immersion is not possible (Matt. 28:19; Acts 2:38; Rom. 6:1-4; Titus 3:4-7; 1 Peter 3:18-22).

We believe that the Lord's Table is the regular remembrance of Christ's life, death and resurrection on our behalf and that it encourages, nourishes, and sustains the community of believers. We further believe that Christ is present with us as we participate in the Lord's Table in faith. Through this sacrament our covenant relationship with God is affirmed and renewed in forgiveness and love, and we are strengthened by His grace to share this love and forgiveness with one another and as witnesses to the world (Luke 22:14-20; 1 Cor. 10:16-17, 11:23-34).

I. Family

God has ordained the family as the foundational institution of human society. It is composed of persons related to one another by marriage, blood, or adoption (Gen. 1:26-28; 1 Tim. 5:8).

Marriage is the uniting of one man and one woman in covenant commitment for a lifetime. It is God's unique gift to reveal the union between Christ and His church and to provide for the man and the woman in marriage the framework for intimate companionship, the channel of sexual expression according to biblical standards, and the means for procreation of the human race (Gen. 2:20-25; Exod. 20:14; Matt. 5:31-32, 19:3-9; Mark 10:6-12; Rom. 1:18-32; 1 Cor. 7:1-16; Heb. 13:4).

The husband and wife are of equal worth before God, since both are created in God's image. The marriage relationship models the way God relates to His people. A husband is to love his wife as Christ loved the church. He has the God-given responsibility to provide for, to protect, and to lead his family. A wife is to submit herself graciously to the servant leadership of her husband even as the church willingly submits to the headship of Christ. She has the God-given responsibility to respect her husband and to serve as his helper in managing the household and nurturing the next generation (Gen. 1:26-28; Eph. 5:21-33; Col. 3:18-19; 1 Tim. 5:14; Tit. 2:3-5; 1 Pet. 3:1-7).

Children, from the moment of conception, are a blessing and heritage from the Lord. Parents are to teach their children the Christian faith and lead them, through consistent lifestyle example and loving discipline, to follow Christ in all their ways. Children are to honor and obey their parents in the Lord (Exod. 20:12; Deut. 6:4-9; Psalm 78:1-8; Eph. 6:1-4; Col. 3:20-21).