

Lay Pastors Training Program



Helping Churches
through
Trained Lay Pastors

A Ministry of the
Board of Ministerial Standards and Education
and the
Atlantic Baptist Mission Board

Convention of Atlantic Baptist Churches

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LAY PASTORS TRAINING PROGRAM

Introduction

For a number of years the Board of Home Missions and the Board of Ministerial Standards and Education of our Convention have seen the need to train lay pastors to serve in our churches. It is our belief that many small churches would benefit from the ministry of lay pastors. Many such churches have an uncertain future, unless good leadership and pastoral care can be provided. These churches need, not 'palliative care', but vital and effective leadership and ministry. In cases where part-time lay pastoral leadership may be the only answer, we believe that such leadership should be adequately trained and recognized.

Mission Statement

The Lay Pastoral Training Program (LPTP) is designed for the encouragement, care and growth of churches in need of lay pastoral leadership, through the provision of approved lay persons, trained and equipped as lay pastors, thereby strengthening the life of our denomination and advancing the Kingdom of God.

Implementation

The LPTP is a three-year course of study resulting in achievement of the *Lay Pastor Diploma*. The program consists of twenty-three units of study. Each semester comprises three instruction/training weekends with assignments and practical applications to be accomplished in between the weekends under the tutelage of a mentor. Courses are normally taught at two sites in Atlantic Canada by instructors enlisted from the ranks of our pastors, qualified both in terms of academic ability and ministry experience to teach and train lay pastors. Mentors are assigned to work with the students during the period of their participation in the program.

Admission

The program is open to lay persons who feel called to serve God in a part-time pastoral and/or preaching ministry. Applicants must be in possession of a letter of commendation to the program from the Pastor or Board of Deacons of the church of which they are a part. Applicants can enroll as a Full-Time Credit Student, or as a Full or Part-Time Audit Student. All applications are reviewed by a Selection Committee.

Convention Recognition

Full-Time Credit Students wishing to become Recognized Lay Pastors in the Convention of Atlantic Baptist Churches must, within the first two years of study, meet with the Board of Ministerial Standards and Education. An Association Lay License must also be obtained at some point. Following completion of studies, an exit interview with the Board of Standards will be required before a person can be placed on the list of Recognized Lay Pastors.

Financial Cost

The cost of the program is \$1,800.00 per student - \$600.00 per year for three years payable in two installments - September and February. This fee covers instruction, overnight billets (including breakfast) as needed, plus the Saturday noon meal and coffee breaks, but does not cover the cost of textbooks and travel.

Lay Pastors Training Curriculum

Year One - First Semester

Hermeneutics

An introductory study on how to understand and interpret the Bible.

The Nature of Pastoral Leadership

An introductory course in pastoral leadership based on the biblical models of servanthood, equipping, and shepherding. This course will cover the pastoral leadership role in such areas as cooperation within the church, among churches, and with the community. It will also provide guidelines for conflict management.

The Call to and Cultivation of Pastoral Ministry

A study of the nature of God's call to ministry, and the spiritual life and disciplines of pastors.

Year One - Second Semester

The Early and Medieval Church

A survey of Church History from the Book of Acts to the 16th century.

Baptist Beginnings and Distinctives

A study of Baptist beginnings, historical development, and distinctive doctrines.

Worship and Its Conduct

An introduction to the biblical, historical, and theological foundations of worship with practical teaching on how to plan, prepare, and conduct worship services.

Methods and Varieties of Preaching

An introductory course on various methods of preaching in a variety of ways to communicate the gospel in today's culture, including expository, narrative, textual, and topical preaching.

Year Two - First Semester

Biblical and Systematic Theology

An introductory study of the nature, method, function, and concepts of biblical and systematic theology.

Major Theological Thinkers of the Church

An introductory survey of past and current contributors to the development of Christian theology.

Pastoral Ethics

An introductory study of ethical principles for pastoral ministry in areas such as crisis care, visitation, and family care, and personal relationships.

Biblical Preaching

An introductory study on how to prepare and deliver biblical sermons.

Year Two - Second Semester

The Modern Period of Church History

A survey of church history from the Reformation to the present century.

Baptists in a Changing World

A study of how the church can understand and effectively engage culture and community in an age of individualism, pluralism, and secularism.

The Old Testament

An introductory study of the background, growth and content of the Old Testament.

Church Administration

An introductory course on the administration of the church ministry. Included will be church planning, leadership training, goal setting, and evaluation.

Year Three - First Semester

The New Testament

An introductory study dealing with authorship, date, sources, purpose, and destination of the New Testament books.

Modern Missions

An introductory course on missions in the modern world.

A Biblical Theology of the Church

An introductory study of the nature and different functions of the church.

Evangelism and Discipleship in the Local Church

An introduction to evangelism and discipleship in the local church – how to develop strategies for communicating the Christian faith the community and cultivate devoted followers of Christ.

Year Three - Second Semester

Major Denominational Theologies

An introductory study of the Anglican, Pentecostal, Presbyterian, United Church of Canada, and Roman Catholic, and Charismatic Renewal theologies.

Congregational Care

An introductory course on conducting baptisms, the Lord's Supper, weddings and funerals, and preparing new believers for baptism and church membership. This course will also cover how to help people in times of loss, grief, and bereavement.

Church Growth

An introductory study to the basic causes of church growth and effective methods of achieving church growth.

Preaching Resources

Introduction to rich sources, available aids, planning, and evaluation methods.