



Ministry
Training Institute

MTI Prospective Student Handbook

Ministry Training Institute

Mike Alix, Leadership Dev. Director
malix@acgc.us
mtiprogram.com

Advent Christian General Conference

P.O. Box 690848
Charlotte, NC 28227
www.acgc.us

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Welcome Prospective Student

We are excited that you are considering joining the Ministry Training Institute (MTI) to prepare you for ministry. MTI is designed to serve those who sense a calling to church leadership for the Lord and his church. Our goal is simple - to see students become fully-qualified Christian leaders; equipping them in all aspects of Christian growth and development.

Our training approach is a little different than other academic pursuits. Students will engage in college-level courses while also receiving mentorship in ministry and the cultivation of Christian character. Our goal is to develop the whole person and our program reflects that every step of the way. Once again, we're excited about your interest in joining us on this new journey, and we look forward to working with you to determine if MTI aligns with your goals for ministry preparation.

In Christ,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Mike Alix". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Rev. Mike Alix, ACGC Leadership Development Director

The MTI Mission

Empowering God's Church to Fulfill God's Mission.

Empowering

The church has already been commanded, commissioned, and sent by Christ to make disciples (Matt.28:16-20) and energized by his Spirit to wrestle dark hearts free from the grip of satanic schemes and bring them into the light of his love. Therefore MTI's role is simply to remove modern roadblocks slowing down that process by implementing a leadership development program that will empower the local church and be of greatest benefit to the work of God's kingdom in and through the local church.

God's Church

The church is the body of Christ, the household of faith, the bride of Jesus, the apple of his eye, and God's plan to carry the torch of the gospel to every tribe, language, and nation. Each church planted is meant to be a flourishing edenic community seeking to regain spiritual dominion in the lost wilderness of the world. Charles Spurgeon said, "The church is the world's hope. As Christ is the hope of the church, so the church is the hope of the world." Because of this MTI does not see itself as a para-church ministry

so much as part of church ministry, based in the local church, serving the local church, and gathering resources from the local church to re-invest in the larger network of churches so that all benefit.

To Fulfill God's Mission

MTI does not believe the church has a mission, but that God's mission has a church. Theory and praxis meet when we join the Missio Dei (Mission of God) with equipping the saints to chase after God's mission of making, maturing, and multiplying discipleship communities to the ends of the earth. God uses us and invites us to join him, his work, his ambition, his dream, of a world at peace under the authority of Jesus Christ.

The MTI Vision

To equip and send out wise and theologically formed Christian leaders who serve their families, ministries and communities in obedience to the mission of God.

MTI's three-and-a-half-year, college level, Leadership in Ministry program is framed by seven core goals describing the kind of delight driven, glory to God honoring student that MTI prays the Holy Spirit will form as they struggle with all of God's grace to surrender to his will (Col. 1:29). These learning outcomes are integrated into the individual years and courses outlined in the Scope and Sequence to insure a strong connection between the micro and macro levels of the program.

MTI patterns itself after the Jerusalem Model. Jerusalem was the main hub church in the book of Acts providing training through the local church communities (Acts 2:42-47; 4:32-37) that resulted in the very first church planters going out. It is vital to note that this first wave of transforming leaders were not apostles but "laymen" who were filled with the zeal and Spirit of Jesus (Acts 8:1; 4:11:19-21). As this new church plant in the bustling city of Antioch took root, the Jerusalem church sent other leaders like Barnabas and Silas to encourage them in their faith.

Barnabas in turn found other leaders to bring into the church to strengthen it and love it (namely the apostle Paul; Acts 11:22-26) and later even more leaders flooded in from Jerusalem to provide spiritual nourishment (Acts 11:27; 13:1; 15:22; 32). Similarly, when a new gospel work began in Samaria the church of Jerusalem sent notable leaders (Peter and John) to pray, preach, teach, and encourage the saints in the work of ministry (Acts 8:14-17). Paul himself functioned as a one-man resource hub by taking Timothy, Titus, likely Luke, possibly Onesimus and others out of their own local church context, training them under his tutelage, and then placing them where they were needed most for the strengthening of the church (Ephesus, Crete, Philippi, and Ephesus respectively).

Although MTI is not an exact parallel to the Jerusalem church—it is neither apostolic, authoritative, nor a church itself—it shares a similar mission of providing nurture, care and biblical support to local churches. MTI helps these churches raise up their own leaders by providing an educational solution. MTI offers online courses paired with real-life mentorship as students serve their local church.

The Seven Program Goals

Goal 1: An Increased Knowledge of the Holy

In this goal we aim for an awareness of one's own insufficiency and dependence upon God, habitual practices of spiritual disciplines, humility expressed in rapid repentance and a confident conviction in the way of Christ.

Scripture: Prov. 1:7; 2:1-22; Jer. 9:23-24; Hosea 6:6; Ex. 33:18-23; John 17:3; Phil 3:7-10; Rom. 8:36; Acts 20:24; 2 Cor. 3:18.

Goal 2: Commitment to and passion for God's Mission in the World (Missio Dei)

This goal places all theology on a trajectory and defines the right and proper context of the church which is not called to pursue her own agenda but to follow hard after God so that in the end analysis it is not that the church has a mission but that the mission has a church.

Scripture: Gen. 1:28; 3:16; 18:18; 22:18; Lk. 19:10; Is. 49:6; Matt. 16:18; 24:14; 28:18-20; Acts 2:42-47; 4:32-35; 6:7; 12:24; 13:47; 19:20; Rom. 10:11-15; 15:20; 2 Tim. 2:10; Rev. 7:9-10.

Goal 3: Growth in character/virtue

This goal identifies the transformative nature of discipleship rather than merely cognitive accumulation. MTI expects students

to get to spiritual maturity as fast as they can and grow in maturity as long as they can.

Scripture: Prov. 11:3; 17:3; Rom 5:3-4; 2 Pet. 1:5-8; Eph. 4:20-24; Col. 1:9-12; 1 Tim. 3:14-15; Titus 2:7-8.

Goal 4: A wise steward-leader of all God's resources

Ministry is challenging and leaders must know what they have not what they wish they had in order to get the job done. They must be solution oriented people in order to face and overcome the challenges that will come their way. MTI graduates will be able to identify tangible resources (e.g. finances, skills, talents) and intangible resources (experiences, personality, motivations) both personally and corporately in order to design an effective ministry model around them. With wisdom from the Holy Spirit, they will also be capable of identifying leadership and ministry deficiencies and actively seek counsel to address them.

Scripture: Prov 22:29; Matthew 25:14–30; Lk. 16:9-10; Rom. 12:3-8; Eph. 2:10; 1 Cor. 12:4-31; James 1:17; 1 Peter 4:10-11.

Goal 5: Develop a holistic biblical worldview that receives, reflects, and responds to the world around it with discernment

MTI seeks to create students who slow down to reflect, contemplate, and offer a reasoned response to their environment. More than that, the true cultivation of a biblical worldview is more than what we think but also includes how we think as well. MTI graduates will be able to communicate one's belief and convictions clearly in speech and writing.

Scripture: Prov. 15:28; 16:32; 17:27; 18:17; Jn. 7:24; Rom. 12:2; Eph. 4:29; Col. 4:5-6; 2 Tim. 2:25; 1 Pet. 3:15-16; Jam 1:19

Goal 6: Master Core Content

This goal relates to the standard of academic attentiveness maintained throughout the MTI program for all course work, seminars, and independent research in the track emphasis.

Scripture: Prov. 18:15; Ezra 7:10; 2 Tim. 3:16-17; Col. 3:17; 1 Cor. 10:31.

Goal 7: A love for lifelong learning of the Word of God

By the end of the MTI program a graduate may be competent to lead but that does not mean their journey has come to an end.

Graduates must continue to be tested and approved by their church plying their trade in the trenches of ministry for many years in the Lord's school of discipleship and pursuing healthy habits of continued education.

Scripture: Prov. 15:14; Ps. 119:89-176; Col. 1:9-11; 2 Pet. 1:5-8.

Program History

This training program was birthed through the vision of denominational leadership and emerged from ACGC's Strategic Plan. The need for more capable and called leaders that can take the baton and lead our churches into the future is the driving force behind this effort to identify and cultivate emerging pastors, church planters, missionaries and chaplains to benefit the local church in partnership with our regions, conferences and educational institutions.

Doctrinal Statement

We believe the Bible to be the inspired, the only infallible, authoritative Word of God.

2 Timothy 3:16; 2 Peter 1:20-21

We believe that there is one God, eternally existent in three persons: Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

Deuteronomy 6:4; Matthew 28:19

We believe in the deity of our Lord Jesus Christ, in his virgin birth, in his sinless life, in his miracles, in his vicarious and atoning death through his shed blood, in his bodily resurrection, in his ascension to the right hand of the Father, and in his personal return in power and glory.

Philippians 2:6-11; 1 Peter 3:18; Romans 5:9; Matthew 26:64

We believe that for the salvation of lost and sinful people, regeneration by the Holy Spirit is absolutely essential.

Titus 3:4-7

We believe in the present ministry of the Holy Spirit by whose indwelling the Christian is enabled to live a godly life.

John 14:15-18; John 16:13; John 16:7-11

MTI STUDENT HANDBOOK 2024: DOCTRINAL STATEMENT

We believe in the resurrection of both the saved and the lost; they that are saved unto the resurrection of life and they that are lost unto the resurrection of damnation.

1 Corinthians 15:10-23; John 5:28-29

We believe in the spiritual unity of believers in our Lord Jesus Christ.

Ephesians 1:22-23; Acts 2:41-47

Accreditation & Commendation

MTI does not currently hold accreditation status and therefore is not recognized by either the United States Department of Education or the Council for Higher Education Accreditation. ACGC and MTI are working toward developing relationships and partnerships with institutions of higher learning. The goal in these relationships and partnerships is to help facilitate the continued growth of MTI Students. MTI is commended by the Advent Christian General Conference and is a recommended program of study for ministry preparation in the Advent Christian church. Individuals pursuing the Leadership in Ministry Certificate will be recommended to Advent Christian conferences for ministry credentials required to serve in local Advent Christian churches.

Program Administration

MTI is a distance learning, cohort based theological training program. Traditional colleges and seminaries have required that students move away from home to obtain their education. MTI prepares students for ministry while keeping them in their local church. Courses range from eight to 12 weeks, which include coursework on our online learning platform, regular Zoom meetings and bi-annual training sessions called seminars.

Rev. Michael Alix is the Director of Leadership Development for the Advent Christian General Conference of America headquartered in Charlotte, NC. Mike oversees MTI as well as other leadership recruitment and development within the Advent Christian denomination. He served as pastor in central Maine for 13 years and has held varying positions within Advent Christian ministries. He holds a B.S. in Youth Ministry from Nyack College and an M.Div. from Gordon-Conwell Theological Seminary.

Rev. Jesse Stevens is the first year coordinator. He is responsible for first year success and coordinating between first year students and their facilitators while providing student mentorship. Jesse has over two decades of ministry experience along with an M.Div. from Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary.

Rev. Matt Rice is the second year coordinator. He is responsible for second year success and coordinating between second year students and their facilitators while providing student mentorship. Matt has spent most of his life serving the church. He has held positions as associate pastor, interim pastor, worship leader, youth leader and is now a senior pastor in Charlotte, NC. He's achieved Masters degrees at Clark University and Gordon-Conwell Theological Seminary.

Rev. Dr. Erik Reynolds is the third year coordinator. He is responsible for third year success and coordinating between students and facilitators while providing student mentorship. He is a United States military veteran and has served as a pastor, interim pastor and as a teacher for Berkshire Institute for Christian Studies. He's holds a B.A. from Liberty University, M.T.S from Liberty Baptist Theological Seminary and a D.Min from Liberty Baptist Theological Seminary.

In the first year students will take courses including: Missio Dei, The Story of God's People, and Scripture: Authority and Canon. In the second year students will take courses including: Biblical Theology, Systematic Theology and The Theology of the Gospel of John. In the third year students move from their cohort to individual tracts. While taking ministry courses third year students will also take courses that relate to their specific chosen tract: pastoral ministry, missions or church planting.

Enrollment Requirements

Admission to MTI is open to those who confess Jesus Christ as Savior and are called to serve the Lord in ministry through the local church. Special emphasis is given for those pursuing pastoral, church planting, and/or missionary service. Applicants must have a high school diploma or a General Equivalency Diploma (GED) or are in the process of completing the requirements for one. Applicants must have the commendation of a pastor/Christian leader. Students are also asked to agree to take assessments (character/personality tests) and to identify the name of local mentor(s) who may assist with personal development during the program.

Additionally, students must provide background information, such as name and location of church membership; past and current ministry positions, roles, and responsibilities; explanation of why they desire study through MTI and how their ministry will be enhanced by it; secondary and post-secondary educational experiences that have shaped your academic ability for this program; and summary of your present/past vocational history.

MTI does not discriminate on the basis of race, sex, color or national origin. See “Admission Process” for additional instructions and notes.

Admission Process

1. Obtain the commendation of a pastor/Christian leader.
2. Complete and submit this application form along with the application fee.
3. Undergo interview with a year coordinator and/or the program director.
4. Upon acceptance receive an admission packet that includes the following:
 - a. Admission letter, enrollment checklist and a handbook (with current policies and procedures).
 - b. Instruction for tuition deposit and payment schedule.

Registration and Enrollment

Once students have been admitted to the program, they are automatically enrolled for the entire program. There is no need for individual registration for courses. Students are expected to maintain continuous enrollment by making timely payments of tuition and fees (throughout the program). All students are given the same period of time to complete assignments and course requirements. If additional time is needed, students may request an extension, which is handled on a case by case basis between the student and year coordinator.

Grades & Transfer Credits

Character development and competency for ministry is at the core of the MTI program. It is also the goal of MTI to maintain the highest academic standards in a wide range of areas. MTI uses traditional transcripts along with a Ministry Portfolio to provide a more detailed and accurate description of competencies.

Transfer Credit

Transfer of Ministry Training Institute credits into other academic institutions and recognition of the MTI Certificate for admission into advanced programs of other institutions is always at the discretion of the other institution. MTI may develop agreements with various academic institutions (Bible colleges, seminaries, etc.) regarding the acceptance of its transfer credit and for admission to advanced degree programs. Transfer of credit from other institutions will be assessed at the discretion of MTI administration. Credits will be assessed upon the student's provision of appropriate transcripts and course work samples. It should be understood, however, that because of the unique approach of MTI, the student may still need to complete the associated mentored ministry requirements for each course to receive full credit.

Financial Information

Tuition

MTI is intentionally a low-cost alternative to traditional Bible college and seminary tuition. The three-and-a-half-year Leadership in Ministry + track cost is \$4,200 for all courses, symposiums, seminars, apprenticeships, and ministry resource binders in total. The three-year Leadership in Ministry track cost is \$3,600 for all courses, symposiums, seminars, apprenticeships, and ministry resource binders in total. The two-year Ministry Endorsement track cost is \$2,400 for all courses, symposiums, seminars, apprenticeships, and ministry resource binders in total. Additional fees above and beyond this cost are for related books and materials.

Materials

The cost of related books and materials for courses is borne by the student. These costs are based on the reading requirements of each course and are in addition to the monthly tuition costs.

Payment Schedule

Tuition is paid on a yearly or monthly basis, based on the balance after the initial deposit. Tuition may be paid in full with a 5% discount provided for those who choose this option. Tuition is due

by the 30th of each month. No more than one month's payment may be carried over to the next month without affecting the student's continuation in the program.

Financial Agreement

Upon admission, students will be expected to fill out and sign a financial agreement and submit first payment before their first class begins. The financial agreement will be given with the enrollment checklist.

Financial Aid

MTI's low tuition is made possible by partnership with the Advent Christian General Conference and local churches. In addition, MTI does not maintain a campus, facilities, or other related infrastructure, keeping expenses very low. Scholarship assistance may be secured through local churches, church networks and ministry organizations that want to invest in students.

Courses & Competencies

Mentoring and Action Plan

As part of participating in this program with a mentor, students will enter into a Mentoring Agreement and Action Plan (MAAP). This is a written agreement between a mentor and the student as a way of outlining intentional time together. This document is used to help establish expectations, focus, and structure of the learning experience.

Library

MTI provides students access to the Digital Theological Library. Each student will be assigned an access code and instructions from their year coordinator.

Ministry Training Institute Library Page

<https://mti.libguides.com/Library>

Scope & Sequence

YEAR 1: BIBLE & HISTORY

36 Academic Weeks

Scripture, Authority, & Canon (3 cr.)

Missio Dei (3 cr.)

Story of God's People (3 cr.)

Independent Study (2 cr.)

YEAR 2: THEOLOGY

36 Academic Weeks

Biblical Theology (3 cr.)

Systematic Theology (3 cr.)

Theology of John's Gospel (3 cr.)

Independent Study (2 cr.)

YEAR 3: MINISTRY

36 Academic Weeks

Biblical Interpretation (2 cr.)

Ethics, Faith & Culture (2 cr.)

Apologetics & Evangelism (2 cr.)

Ministry Elective I (2 cr.)

Independent Study (2 cr.)

Ongoing Apprenticeship (6 cr.)*

**Includes mentored ministry, character development, course guidance (6 cr. per year)*

YEAR 3.5: MINISTRY FOCUS

Pastoral/Church Planting/Missions

18 Academic Weeks

Ministry Elective II (2 cr.)

Ministry Elective III (2 cr.)

Ministry Resource Binder (3 cr.)

ELECTIVES (Partial Listing)

Cross-Cultural Ministry

Leadership & Administration

Homiletics

Biblical Worldview

Worship in the Church

Practical Shepherding

Student Mentorship

Ministry Apprenticeship

The apprenticeship is an opportunity to serve the local church for at least 150 hours a year in various ministries and under the leadership, direction, and authority of an appointed mentor and local church leadership team. It is desired that all students be commended to MTI with a letter of affirmation by their church's leadership, stating the students quality of character, level of fitness for ministry, and goals/aspirations/outcomes they hope to see. MTI will work with the pastors/elders/board in the local church to perform regular character and competency evaluations during this time.

Student Assessments

Character Formation

Character is the moral foundation of who we are in the image of God (we recognize right from wrong, good from evil only in relation to who God is and the Law he has given) and the continued moral formation of who we ought to be in Christ Jesus (we grow in spiritual maturity). While many models for character formation may be used, we believe St. Augustine's analysis of the four cardinal virtues and three heavenly virtues ranks supreme among them as a guide. There are dozens upon dozens of character traits that are naturally developed in the pursuit of his explication of the classic seven virtues (wisdom, courage, temperance, justice, faith, hope, love). Every course, seminar, and the overall apprenticeship take this into account through personal reflection and evaluations of spiritual growth in these areas in order to prayerfully and powerfully bring about spiritual maturity.

Ministry Competency

Competency is a developed sufficiency to meet the demands of a particular task, job, or career. Competency is developed over time, through practice, and always with dependency on the Lord

(e.g. Rom. 12:2, 6-8; Col. 1:29). MTI's emphasis on competency for ministry means that papers and projects are not simply turned back to the student with a poor grade and everyone moves on, but that they are turned back as insufficient with advice on how to improve. Only when competencies are completed at a satisfactory level can students graduate from the three-year program. Each year the competencies increase in difficulty keeping step with the students expected learning outcomes.

Syllabus Snapshot

I. Week 1

- A. General Overview and Syllabus Review
- B. Cohort and Zoom Course Introductions

II. Week 2

- A. Watch Week 2 Reading Snippet
- B. Read: Glasser, "Announcing the Kingdom," pg. 17-56

III. Week 3

- A. Watch Week 3 Reading Snippet & Bible Project OT Overview Video
- B. Read: Glasser, pg. 71-105
- C. Review Covenant Crash Course Handout
- D. Participate in Symposium #1

IV. Week 4

- A. Watch Week 4 Reading Snippet
- B. Read: Glasser, pg. 127-163
- C. Complete OT Summary Assignment

V. Week 5

- A. Watch Week 5 Reading Snippet
- B. Read: Stewart, "The Life and Teaching of Jesus Christ," pg. 7-71; Newbigin, "The Open Secret," pg. 40-55

VI. Week 6

- A. Watch Week 6 Reading Snippet
- B. Read: Stewart, pg. 124-188

VII. Week 7

- A. Watch Week 7 Reading Snippet & Bible Project NT Overview Video
- B. Read: Glasser, pg. 259-312; Newbigin, pg. 56-65
- C. Complete NT Summary Assignment
- D. Participate in Symposium #2

VIII. Week 8

- A. Watch Week 8 Reading Snippet
- B. Read: Glasser, pg. 329-359

IX. Week 9

- A. Watch Week 9 Reading Snippet
- B. Read: Newbigin, pg. 66-90
- C. Complete the Life of Christ Paper

X. Week 10

- A. Watch Week 10 Reading Snippet
- B. Read: Newbigin, pg. 91-120
- C. Participate in Symposium #3

XI. Week 11

- A. Watch Week 11 Reading Snippet
- B. Read: Newbigin, pg. 121-159

XII. Week 12

- A. Complete Missie Dei Theological Concepts Paper
- B. Participate in Wrap Up/Closing Thoughts Discussion Forum