



# MINISTRY

Leadership Certificate



# Program Overview

“And he gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists,  
the shepherds, and teachers, to equip the saints for the work of  
ministry, for building up the body of Christ.”

Ephesians 4:11-12 [ESV]

The Ministry Leadership Certificate program is designed to help pastors and churches prepare their saints for the work of ministry for the building up of the body of Christ.

1. Bible Overview

In the first semester, the reading and video courses will provide you with a clear understanding of the scope and structure of the whole Bible. The goal is for every student to better grasp the Bible's genres, themes, and historic development.

2. Bible Study Methods

Also, in the first semester, there will be an emphasis on learning the basic steps required in a responsible study of passage of scripture. This includes word studies, contextual analysis, literary analysis, and application.

3. Theological Formation

During the second semester, the video courses and the reading will focus on understanding the core doctrines of the Christian faith. The goal is that students will understand the theological themes found in the Bible.

4. Sharing the Word

Finally, students will learn to create Bible study lessons and/or sermons. They will apply their understanding of the overview of scripture, their Bible study methods, and their theological knowledge to develop lesson plans that can be used to help communicate the word of God to others.

### Western Seminary Credit

Students who complete the MLC and later enroll in Western Seminary graduate certificate or degree program will receive up to two elective credits applied toward their selected program.

## **Program Coursework**

1. Online Classes - Each semester, you will watch about 40 hours of class instruction: 31 hours of core classes and 9 hours of elective classes. A viewing log will be handed out during the orientation.
2. Reading - You will be responsible for reading the assigned textbooks each semester. A reading log will be handed out during the orientation.
3. Written Assignments - Two written assignments will be due each semester. These assignments will be an application of the reading and the classes.
4. Mentor- Because this is primarily a self-guided course of study, you are asked to select a mentor. Your mentor should be someone on the pastoral staff or in a ministry leadership role at your church. Online classes, reading, and written assignments are all good, but the besWhat Else Do I Need to Know?

## **What Else Do I Need to Know?**

- Cost: \$300 plus the cost of books
- Start Date: August 29, 2023
- Orientation Meeting: August 28, 2023, | 10 am – 12 pm  
Calvary Baptist Church | 506 Cottonwood St, Woodland, CA 95695
- Register Online: <https://www.venturechurches-ncnv.com/mlc/>
- Questions? Email – Andy Flowers | Director of Leadership Education  
[andy@venturechurches-ncnv.com](mailto:andy@venturechurches-ncnv.com)

# First Semester

August 28 – November 19, 2023

Courses	Instructor	Hours
VCN MLC Orientation	Andy Flowers	5 Live
The Bible: Connecting the Pieces	Bert Downs	5 Online
Biblical Theology	Todd Miles	2.5 Online
Old Testament Overview	Carl Laney	10 Online
New Testament Overview	Todd Chipman	6 Online
How to Study Your Bible	Todd Miles	4 Online
VCN Fall Seminar	TBD	5 Live

## Track Courses (pick one of the following)

Staff Track	Instructor	Hours
Training Future Leaders	John Johnson	9 Online

  

Women's Track	Instructor	Hours
Women in Leadership	Beverly Hislop	7 Online
Shepherding Women in Pain	Beverly Hislop	2 Online

  

Lay Leader Track	Instructor	Hours
Theology of Work	Gerry Breshears	4 Online
Implementing a Theology of Work	Kent Humphries	5 Online

## Books

30 Days to Understand the Bible	Max Anders
Journey Into God's Word	Duvall & Hays

**First Assignment** - Using the information from the classes and the book "30 Days to Understand the Bible," explain how you would describe the big picture and broad themes of the Bible to someone unfamiliar with scripture. Feel free to use drawings, bullet points, images, or anything else that will help make it memorable.  
Due date: 10/20/23

**Second Assignment** - Select a passage of scripture from the New Testament and apply the Bible study steps found in "Journey into God's Word." Make sure to use study tools and commentaries and cite your sources.  
Due date: 11/30/23

# Second Semester

January 8 - June 7, 2024

Courses	Instructor	Hours
VCN MLC Meeting	Andy Flowers	5 Live
What is the Gospel?	Gerry Breshears	5 Online
Spiritual Formation	Gary Thomas	5 Online
Theology 1, 2, 3	Gerry Breshears	15 Online
VCN Spring Seminar	TBD	5 Live

## Track Courses (pick one of the following)

Staff Track	Instructor	Hours
Ministering for Maturity	Bert Downs	5 Online
Developing a Leadership Culture	Mark Olmos	1.5 Online
12 Marks of a Healthy Bord	Panel Discussion	1.5 Onlione
Women's Track	Instructor	Hours
Shepherding a Woman's Heart	Beverly Hislop	3.5 Online
Transitions: Lessons from Naomi	Beverly Hislop	3 Online
Shepherding Women Seminar	Beverly Hislop	1.5 Online
Lay Leader Track	Instructor	Hours
Job Shadowing Danile	Larry Peabody	6 Online
Marketplace Mentoring	Panel Discussion	2 Online

## Books

Why Velieve	Neil Senvi
Do you Believe?	Paul David Tripp
30 Days to Understanding the Bible	Max Andres

**First Assignment** - Using the book "Why Believe" as a guide, select one area of apologetics to write about. Supplement your research with at least three other sources (online articles, books, journal articles, etc.)

Due date: 4/12/24

**Second Assignment** - Using the book "Do You Believe" as a guide, select one doctrinal issue and create a four-week lesson plan or sermon series. The lesson plans can be in bullet point or outline format; they don't have to be full manuscripts. Make sure your lessons clearly explain the doctrinal issue and that they connect to the gospel message. Use at least three other sources in addition to the textbook.

Due date: 6/7

## **Online Access:**

1. Visit <http://cldwestern.pathwright.com>
2. Click “Sign In” in the top corner
3. Enter the username and password that you created when you set up your account using the registration link provided
4. To get to your courses, hover over “Menu” in the top left corner and select “path.” All courses you are enrolled in will show up there. (Note: if you have completed a course, it will be removed from your active dashboard). In the “Path” screen, to find completed courses, select the dropdown that says “In Progress” and select “Completed”

## **Technology Help**

If you do experience issues that you are not able to resolve, please contact the CLD team for assistance at [cld@westernseminary.edu](mailto:cld@westernseminary.edu).



We are delighted to offer the Ministry Leadership Certificate (MLC), which is a set of high-impact courses offered through Western Seminary's Center for Leadership Development. This unique program is curated by the leaders of VCN with a specific view toward "equipping the saints for the work of ministry" (Ephesians 4:12). Together with our partners of VCN, we pray that this course of study proves to be a catalyst and resource for spiritual transformation in your life personally and through your life, as you love others and extend the good news of Jesus Christ in both word and action.

Charles J. Conniry, Jr.  
President  
Western Seminary



There is power in the Word of God! As a pastor, I desire to be faithful to the biblical charge to equip the saints for the work of ministry. The Ministry Leadership Program is an amazing tool that helps pastors train their people for the work of ministry. Over the years, I have sent several people from my church through this program, and I have seen how it helps to deepen their knowledge of God's word and strengthen their confidence in sharing God's truth. I am thrilled to be leading this program!

Andy Flowers  
Director of Leadership Education





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