

The Shepherd's Internship

Acts 20:28 Be on guard for yourselves and for all the flock, among whom the Holy Spirit has appointed you as overseers, to shepherd the church of God, which He purchased with His own blood.

Purpose:

The call of God to the shepherding ministry is a holy calling (Ephesians 4:11-13). It is the local church which identifies, equips, and encourages men to fulfill this calling. Pastors in local churches in this generation must follow the example of the Apostle Paul in coaching and mentoring Timothy as a minister of the Gospel of Jesus Christ for the advancement of the kingdom of God and for the glory of God. Therefore, this Shepherding Internship process is implemented through a one on one coaching and mentoring process.

Benefits:

- Identifies men who are being called by God to serve in Shepherding Ministry and affirms their gifting.
- Provides a foundational understanding of Shepherding Ministry biblically.
- Provides a practical way to train and implement men in the church context.
- Provides an avenue for licensing and ordination to the Gospel Ministry, at the appropriate time.
- Assists the Intern in gaining a ministry position in a church.

Length of Internship:

- Flexible depending on Intern's level of experience, life circumstances, and ministry objectives. Length of program could be as brief as 3 months, or as long as 3 years.

Compensation:

- There is no compensation for the Shepherding Internship.

Time Requirements:

- Flexible depending on the Intern's needs and availability.

General Objectives:

The goal of this is not to replace formal theological study, but to supplement it. Only those who are pursuing, plan to pursue, or have completed formal theological study will be accepted into this program.

Three areas of Shepherding Ministry will be focused on:

Preaching, Pastoral Care, and Church Administration

- **Reading:** Appropriate reading will be assigned and discussed: This will be directed according to the Intern's level of theological understanding and practice.
- **Observing:** Intern's will have opportunities to observe all levels of Shepherding Ministry.
- **Opportunities:** Will be given to actively implement Shepherding Ministry.
- **A Plan of Action:** Will be formulated by the Lead Pastor, and agreed upon with the Intern prior to the start of the program, as an Internship Covenant.

Application for Shepherding Internship:

It is expected that a prospective Intern meet the biblical requirements in I Timothy 3. A written application must be submitted. A personal interview will also be conducted to determine compatibility of Intern with the program. Acceptance into the Shepherding Internship is at the sole discretion of the Lead Pastor.