

# **Bethany Community Church**

## **Mathetes Ministry Overview**

The purpose of the Mathetes is to help those who are trying to discern whether or not they should pursue full-time vocational ministry. There are three internships that are part of the Mathetes ministry: the Pastoral Internship, the Priscilla Internship, and the Exploration Internship. Each is outlined in the document at hand.

### **Pastoral Internship**

**Design:** To serve men who are considering entering full-time pastoral ministry or missions within approximately the next five years.

1. **Application Process:** Participants are asked to complete a Pastoral Internship application and return to the BCC office.
2. **Internship Overview:** The Pastoral Internship is designed to provide opportunities for growth and development for the one anticipating a life of service through pastoral ministry in the local church.
3. **Internship Plan:** At the beginning of the internship, the senior pastor and the intern will map out a course describing how the four components of the internship (outlined below) will be accomplished for that intern. That plan will be reviewed and approved by the elders. The elders may modify this plan at any time during the internship.
4. **Feedback:** The elders will offer regular feedback. Other pastoral interns and elders will also offer feedback during teaching times.
5. **Completion of the Internship:** Each intern's Internship Plan will be unique. However, in addition to the components listed below, the following elements will be a part of the plan:
  - a. Complete relevant courses through the Gospel Institute, if applicable.
  - b. Attend Internship Care Group for 1 year.
  - c. Gain experience in counseling, visitations, teaching, and other pastoral duties.
6. **Ministry Placement:** By entering the internship program, participants are committing themselves to the observance of the caring direction of the elders and are encouraged to consistently seek the guidance of this pastoral team. The desire of the elders is to joyfully lay hands of blessing on those who have completed their internship, sending them into vocational ministry.

**Components:** There are four key components of a Pastoral Internship.

1. **The Discipleship Component.** This is the more formal aspect of the Pastoral Internship. As one meets with the pastoral staff, he will select several books that may help prepare him for ministry (see suggested reading list below). Interns will have the opportunity to read these books and discuss with the staff and elders what they are learning.

2. **The Relational Component.** The elders believe it is important to develop personal relationships with those whom they will be ordaining for ministry. The staff will work with an intern's schedule to provide opportunities for him to attend staff meetings on a regular basis. He will be invited to participate in elder meetings at certain points and will be expected to welcome input and direction from this leadership group throughout his involvement in this ministry.
3. **The Ministry Component.** The third component of the Pastoral Internship involves giving one ownership of a ministry at Bethany Community Church. This allows him to exercise his spiritual gifts in the context of a local church while receiving helpful and encouraging feedback from the elders.
4. **The Formal Training Component:** To equip pastors to rightly handle God's Word as they shepherd the flock, in conjunction with the elders, interns will determine an educational strategy to prepare them for their future ministry. Bethany is committed to helping its pastoral interns complete their education as the Lord allows.

Potential Reading List:

*Going Public: Why Baptism is Required for Church Membership*, Bobby Jamieson  
*Nine Marks of a Healthy Church*, Mark Dever  
*What's Best Next*, Matt Per-man  
*Worship Matters*, Bob Kauflin  
*The Spectrum of Evangelicalism*, Gundry, ed.  
*A Call to Spiritual Reformation*, D.A. Carson  
*Five Views on Law and Gospel*  
*40 Questions about Christians and Biblical Law*, Schreiner  
*Biblical Critique of Infant Baptism*, Matt Waymeyer  
*The Church and the Surprising Offense of God's Love*, Jonathan Leeman  
*Going Public: Why Baptism is Required for Church Membership*, Bobby Jamieson  
*Systematic Theology*, Wayne Grudem  
*Let the Nations Be Glad*, John Piper  
*Nine Marks of a Healthy Church*, Mark Dever  
*What's Best Next*, Matt Perman  
*Worship Matters*, Bob Kauflin  
*Biblical Eldership*, Alexander Strauch  
*The Spectrum of Evangelicalism*, Gundry, ed.  
*Holiness*, J.C. Ryle  
*Divine Sovereignty and Human Responsibility*, D.A. Carson  
*The Hermeneutical Spiral*, Grant R. Osborne  
*Preaching and Preachers*, D. Martyn Lloyd-Jones  
*Lectures to My Students*, Charles Spurgeon

## Priscilla Internship

Design: To serve women who are considering entrance into full-time ministry or missions within approximately the next five years.

1. **Application Process:** Participants are asked to complete and return the Priscilla Internship application to the BCC office.
2. **Internship Overview:** The Priscilla Internship is designed to provide opportunities for growth and development for the one anticipating a life of service through vocational ministry in the local church.
3. **Internship Plan:** At the beginning of the internship, the senior pastor and the intern will map out a course describing how the four components of the internship (outlined below) will be accomplished for that intern. That plan will be reviewed and approved by the elders. The elders may modify this plan at any time during the internship.
4. **Feedback:** The elders will offer quarterly feedback. Other Priscilla interns and elder delegates will also offer feedback during teaching times.
5. **Completion of the Internship:** Each intern's Internship Plan will be somewhat unique. However, in addition to the components listed below, the following elements will be a part of the plan:
  - a. Complete assigned courses through the Gospel Institute.
  - b. Attend Internship Care Group for 1 year.
  - c. Gain experience in counseling, visitations, teaching, and other ministry duties.
6. **Ministry placement:** By entering the internship program, participants are committing themselves to the observance of the caring direction of the elders and are encouraged to consistently seek the guidance of this pastoral team. The desire of the elders is to joyfully lay hands of blessing on those who have completed their internship, sending them into vocational ministry if that is how God directs.

Components: There are four key components of the Priscilla Internship.

1. **The Discipleship Component.** This is the more formal aspect of the Priscilla Internship. As one meets with the pastoral staff, she will select several books that you believe may help prepare her for ministry (see suggested reading list below). She will have the opportunity to read these books and discuss what she is learning with the staff and elders.
2. **The Relational Component.** The elders believe it is important and are committed to developing personal relationships with those whom they will be ordaining for ministry. The staff will work with her schedule to provide opportunities for her to attend staff meetings on a regular basis. She will be invited to participate in a portion of elder meetings at certain points and will be expected to welcome input and direction from this leadership group throughout her involvement in this ministry.

3. **The Ministry Component.** The third component of the Priscilla Internship involves giving her ownership of a ministry at Bethany Community Church. This allows her to exercise her spiritual gifts in the context of a local church while receiving helpful and encouraging feedback from the elders.
4. **The Formal Training Component:** At Bethany, we believe those entering full-time ministry need to be equipped to rightly handle God's Word as they minister to others. This requires some type of formal education. For many, this is going to mean spending time taking seminary courses. In conjunction with the elders, interns will determine an educational strategy to prepare them for their future ministry. Bethany is committed to helping its Priscilla interns complete their education as the Lord allows.

Potential Reading List:

*Women's Ministry in the Local Church*, Ligon Duncan and Susan Hunt  
*The Church and the Surprising Offense of God's Love*, Jonathan Leeman  
*Systematic Theology*, Wayne Grudem  
*Let the Nations Be Glad*, John Piper  
*Nine Marks of a Healthy Church*, Mark Dever  
*What's Best Next*, Matt Perman  
*Worship Matters*, Bob Kauflin  
*Biblical Eldership*, Alexander Strauch  
*The Spectrum of Evangelicalism*, Gundry, ed.  
*Holiness*, J.C. Ryle  
*Divine Sovereignty and Human Responsibility*, D.A. Carson  
*The Hermeneutical Spiral*, Grant R. Osborne  
*Preaching and Preachers*, D. Martyn Lloyd-Jones  
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