



Scriptural Foundations for Our Ministry Work with God

Yet you, LORD, are our Father.
We are the clay, You are the potter;
We are all the work of Your hand. (Isaiah 64:8)

“For even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give His life a ransom for many.” (Mark 10:45)

“For I gave you an example, so that you also would do just as I did for you.” (John 13:15)

But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for God’s own possession, so that you may proclaim the excellencies of Him who has called you out of darkness into His marvellous light. (1 Peter 2:9)

For you have been called for this purpose, because Christ also suffered for you, leaving you an example, so that you would follow in His steps. (1 Peter 2:21)

For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand so that we would walk in them. (Ephesians 2:10)

He gave some as apostles, and some as prophets, and some as evangelists, and some as shepherds and teachers, 12 for the equipping of the saints for the work of service, to the building up of the body of Christ. (Ephesians 4:10–11)

All Scripture is inspired by God and adequate for teaching, for rebuke, for correction, for training in righteousness; ¹⁷ so that the man of God may be fully capable, equipped for every good work. (2 Timothy 3:16–17)

Our people must also learn to engage in good deeds to meet pressing needs, so that they will not be unfruitful. (Titus 3:14)

Faculty Contacts

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Please contact me anytime you have comments, suggestions, questions or you would like to talk about ministry formation or your overall learning and ministry goals.

Nathan Brown nathanbrown@glbc.ca

Description

Our ministry is participation in the ongoing ministry of Jesus. All Christians are in ministry.

God works in us and through us to accomplish His purposes while simultaneously transforming us into the image of His Son as we work with Him.

Jesus' diverse earthly ministry included the dimensions of prayer, gospel preaching, teaching, healing and making disciples and leaders. His ongoing heavenly ministry continues His intercession, leadership of His body, advocacy to His Father, judgment, and ministry with the Spirit. He worked with individuals, small and medium sized groups and large public crowds. Ministry is service to God and people: one person serving another for their benefit and edification. Ministry Formation builds upon these primary works with God.

Scripture reading, theological reflection and prayer are foundations of ministry formation. One of the dangers that arise while we engage in ministry is the failure to stop and reflect on and pray about what God is doing in our life and the lives of those around us. By reflecting and seeking God's will through His Word and prayer, we are better prepared to renew and focus our energies and skills to engage in ministry to others.

This Ministry Formation work is a combination of learning in three arenas of our lives: our congregations and their communities, peer group learning through our online posts and monthly seminars and your own personal study, reflection, prayer and writing.

Weekly posts will keep your peers up to date on your progress. The monthly seminars will facilitate spontaneous dialogue on your ministry experiences. We learn from one another's experiences and God, the one who is ultimately shaping and forming us and guiding us in our service with Him.

Pandemic Provisions

Due to the pandemic, the normal congregational involvement area of ministry formation is not fully possible. Due to these special circumstances we will work together to define as many of the assignments and outcomes discussed below that you can safely fulfill. Students having some ongoing ministry contact with their congregations may integrate that into their ministry formation work to the extent it is safely possible.

Please see the school website for the Covid 19 policy for visiting the GLBC campus. Please register your proof of vaccination with Judy at info@glbc.ca three days in advance of going to campus for the first time and then on the day of each subsequent visit. This is necessary for the school's weekly report to the Province of Ontario. For any of you within reasonable driving distance of the GLBC campus you are welcome to use the library and can generally have safe individual access. Contact me for access instructions including access to the Waterloo church of Christ facilities (washrooms, etc.).

Time

Ministry formation gives you 1 hour of credit per term. The total time you invest over the term for your ministry formation credit will be at least 45 hours including your weekly progress posts

and our monthly seminars. This is in keeping with the general guidelines of 2 hours of study and production time for every hour of time in class per week.

Full-load students complete 6 credits of ministry formation in their first 6 semesters. Part-time students complete 1 credit for every 15 hours of course credit.

Ministry Focus

Following the lead of Jesus' diverse ministry as mentioned above, in combination with the need to complete 2 to 6 ministry formation credits over the course of your certificate, diploma or degree(s), for each ministry formation credit hour choose one specific area of ministry to work on over each term from the following, or a project of your choosing in dialogue with me, developing a plan to engage in at least one from each major area over the course of your diploma or degree (one year certificates require only two credits):

Gospel Ministry (Proclamation of the Word & Worship)

preaching
evangelism 1:1, 1:2, small groups, large groups, Bible schools, virtually
apologetics
missions
local outreach (events+)
worship

Teaching (Ministry of the Word)

age cohorts:
 children
 youth
 young adult
 young families
 adults
 seniors
in other areas of ministry:
 discipleship
 evangelism
 missions
 local outreach
 counselling

Healing ministry

visitation
counselling
poor and marginalised (e.g. street ministry)
support & recovery (spiritual, individual and small group)
material support (meals, clothing, shelter, etc.)
referral

Discipleship and Leadership Ministry

congregational leadership
encouraging and recruiting
training
mentoring
interpersonal skills
congregational communications
ministry integration
personal spiritual discipline and growth:
 prayer
 ministry of study of the Word
 memorization and meditation
 organisation and planning
 rest and balance
 journal

Ministry Formation Work and Outcomes

Schedule

Fridays January 28 to April 22 at 5:00 p.m. ET **Weekly journal posts on Populi**
(12 posts in total; no post on spring break Friday)

Tuesdays February 1 to April 26 at 5:00 p.m. ET **Weekly brief response to 1 peer**
(12 responses in total)

Friday January 28 by 5:00 p.m. ET **Post your project description on Populi**

Friday April 22 5:00 p.m. ET **Post your project final report on Populi**

Monthly seminars Dates and time to be confirmed with everyone at the start of term.

Brief Overview

See details in next section.

1. Weekly Journal Posts and Responses

Keep your peers up to date on your progress, research and reflections on your learning experiences. Your posts form your journal of progress over the term.

2. Project

Ministry project description, development, fulfilment, report.

Consider the Biblical foundation, ministry goals and Biblical worldview development in

your project formulation.

3. **Monthly Seminar**

Open forum discussion on everyone's ministry projects.

4. **Final Report**

Ministry Formation Work Details

1. Weekly Journal Posts

1. Write a 200–300 word post on the Populi discussion board highlighting your progress, research and learning experiences over the past week.
2. Post your entires each week by Friday at 5:00 p.m. ET (dates above).

Post your brief response to one of your peer's journal posts by the following Tuesday at 5:00 p.m. (dates above).
3. Read your peer's responses.

2. Project

From the list of four ministry areas above on pages 3–4 or developed in dialogue with me.

1. Planning: goals and strategies organized into an action plan.
2. Project description 2 pages.
3. Post your project description as a pdf file attachment on the appropriate Populi discussion portal with your peers by 5:00 p.m. on Friday of the date above.
4. Read your peers' project descriptions.
5. Keep a record of your project time to make sure you are fulfilling the ministry formation goals. Life balance is important. Keeping track of your time will make sure you are investing enough time, on one hand, without going overboard, on the other hand, and impinging on other important dimensions of your life, study, service and rest and renewal.

3. Monthly Seminars

1. As a supplement to your weekly posts on Populi, the purpose of the monthly seminars is to provide a place for group reflection, to learn from each other's experiences and benefit from the value added by collective thinking. The seminars help develop reflective ministry practitioners.
2. Discussion will include the progress of each project, any challenges faced by each, prayer and reflection on what God is doing through this process.
3. Participation is important. Provide as much advanced notice as possible for unavoidable absences. We may be able to reschedule with everyone's concurrence.

4. Final Report

1. Post your final report to the Populi discussion portal by Friday December 10, 2021, at 5:00 p.m. ET.
2. Read your peers final reports by Sunday, April 24 at 7:30 p.m. ET.
3. Format: 7-10 pages in length containing:

Review:

- Summarise your ministry activities / experiences.

Analysis:

- Personal insights gained.
- Personal growth that has taken place.
- The effectiveness of the ministry rendered.
- Where was God in this process?
- What have I learned about God, His Word and myself?
- Which strategies proved effective and which did not? Why?
- What would you do differently, or do same?
- Where were you challenged most throughout this process?
- What led you to rejoice?
- How did your experience help you further define your Biblical worldview?
- How did this ministry work honour God?

Self Evaluation:

- Have original goals and objectives been met?
- Identify areas for improvement.

In-person Feedback in our final seminar:

- In our final seminar, answer questions about your project and learning experiences and provide encouraging feedback to your peers.

Grading

Weekly posts and peer responses on Populi	15%
Project proposal	5%
Project fulfilment and final report	75%
Monthly seminar participation	5%

God bless you as you grow in your ministry with Him over this term.

Great Lakes Bible College
January 5, 2022