ELDERS
TEACHING
RESOURCE

ETR Curriculum

Course Descriptions

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ETR Curriculum Purpose Statement

Purpose:

The purpose of the ETR Curriculum is to equip our ministry with holistic and rigorous learning in a community that honors our lay-ministry model through accessible, scripturally accurate, unifying, and pastorally fruitful research and coursework.

Pastoral service to our brotherhood compels active participation in rich Bible Study, Core Doctrinal understanding, applied History lessons, Church and Community outreach, and the faithful pursuit of Spiritual Maturity. We seek to serve both brothers and sisters in all teaching capacities for the welfare of our church body and for the glory of God!

Branch Descriptions:

1. **Core Doctrine** courses foster critical thinking and unity in our brotherhood, affirming deep theological foundations while providing cautionary perspectives on contemporary concerns.
   a. Theme verse: Titus 1:9

2. **Bible Study** courses promote Scripture as the final authority in doctrine and offer instruction in methods of biblical interpretation.
   a. Theme verse: Psalm 1:1-3

3. **History** courses encourage our ministry to faithfully evaluate and respond to our common heritage as well as the wisdom of the global Church, addressing culturally conditioned assumptions of our time.
   a. Theme verse: Psalm 145:4

4. **Church and Community** courses equip servant brothers and sisters for apostolic planting, prophetic discourse, evangelistic outreach, pastoral discipleship, and effective teaching.
   a. Theme verse: Ephesians 4:11-12

5. **Spiritual Maturity** courses cultivate a vision of vibrant personal discipline, leading to humble, holy service to our families and fellow humans, following the example of Jesus Christ.
   a. Theme verse: Ephesians 4:13-15

TABLE OF COURSES

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INTRO TO MINISTRY

Short description	Encourages newer ministers through Paul's letters to Timothy, fostering sound doctrine, godly leadership, integrity, and practical ministry growth.
Long description - topical	This introductory course is designed to equip and encourage those newer to the ministry within the Apostolic Christian Church. Through guided study of Paul's letters to Timothy, participants will explore key principles of ministry, such as teaching sound doctrine, fostering godly leadership, and living with integrity in the calling of a minister. As we dive into these biblical texts, we will also reflect on how these timeless principles are actively lived out in the context of the Apostolic Christian Church today. Elders and newer ministers will study together, creating a collaborative learning environment where experience and fresh perspectives intersect. This course provides practical guidance, spiritual insight, and the opportunity to build relationships with those who share a common calling. This course will help you grow into your various roles as a faithful minister.
Format description	This course uses minimal assignments with special emphasis on reading the Bible, mentoring, and relationship building.
Time commitment	
Course length:	4 weeks
Class time:	1.5-hour class discussion once per week remotely as well as an in-person half-day meeting in the Midwest during the 3rd week of class.
Work outside of class:	2-3 hours per week of reading, homework, and discussions with others
Registration	
Scheduling notes:	If you were put in the pulpit ministry in the past 12 months, you will be invited to join one of the new minister sessions.
Prerequisite:	None
Class size:	4-12 participants
Registration link:	
Special Course notes:	Wives are encouraged to attend the in-person meeting if possible. A remote option is available for this in-person meeting.

ESSENTIALS OF CORE DOCTRINE

Short description	Covers the basic, most critical content from the ten Doctrinal courses in a way that tightly follows the "What We Believe" section of our Statement of Faith.
Long description - topical	This course builds a strong foundation in the Statement of Faith of the Apostolic Christian Church of America, showing its biblical basis and significance. It covers the ten Doctrinal courses - Trinity, Sin & Grace, Salvation, Providence, Discipline, Scripture, Church, Last Things, Baptism, and Communion – and explains how they shape our beliefs. Elder-led video teachings, guided study, and group discussion help participants grasp these essential truths and apply them in ministry and daily life. Participants will grow in their confidence to teach and disciple congregants and live out their beliefs with clarity and conviction.
Format description	This course includes elder-led videos, some supplemental content, and group discussions focused on theological insight and pastoral application.
Time commitment	
Course length:	3 weeks OR 6 weeks
Class time:	1.5-hour class discussion once per week OR every other week (if taking the 6-week option) remotely
Work outside of class:	2-3 hours of prep work for each class discussion
Registration	
Scheduling notes:	This class is strongly encouraged for all ACCA ministers. Your elder will work with ETR to schedule your pulpit participation.
Prerequisite:	None
Class size:	4-12 participants
Registration link:	
Special Course notes:	You will be assigned an ETR facilitator or local elder for the course.

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TRINITY

Short description	Equips ministers to understand the foundational doctrine of the Trinity with clarity, addressing its biblical roots, complexities, and practical communication.
Long description - topical	The concept of the Trinity has long been explored—its biblical roots, its significance, and the best ways to preach it. Understanding and teaching this doctrine requires careful thought, especially in light of the variety of viewpoints held within our congregations. This course equips ministers to navigate these complexities with clarity and confidence. Together, we will explore the biblical foundations of the Trinity, engage with the wisdom of our elders, and discuss how to communicate this profound truth effectively. Topics include the three-in-one essence of God, the two natures of Christ, the distinct persons of Father, Son, and Spirit, and ways to speak—and not speak—about the Trinity. Strong Trinitarian doctrine shapes our understanding of God, salvation, and worship. Join us in studying, sharpening, and strengthening our preaching on this central truth of the Christian faith.
Format description	This course includes elder-led videos, technical reading or listening, and group discussions focused on theological insight and pastoral application.
Time commitment	
Course length:	4 weeks
Class time:	1.5-hour class discussion once per week remotely
Work outside of class:	3-4 hours per week
Registration	
Scheduling notes:	This class is open to any minister or minister's wife. Once we have enough interest in this course, we will reach out for further scheduling coordination.
Prerequisite:	None
Class size:	4-12 participants
Registration link:	
Special Course notes:	This course can also be taken by a pre-arranged group of ministers/wives (i.e. a church pulpit can choose to take it together on their own timeframe). If you have a group of ministers/wives with whom you would like to take the course, please indicate your group details on the registration form. You will be assigned an ETR facilitator for the course.

SALVATION

Short description	Deepens understanding of atonement, justification, and sanctification, equipping ministers to preach with a focus on worshiping God for His salvation.
Long description - topical	This course aims to deepen our understanding and appreciation of familiar concepts: atonement, justification, and sanctification. While little will be completely new, we'll introduce new terminology and clarify phrases that can be easily misunderstood. Designed to equip ministers, the course helps preach these concepts more accurately and clearly, with a unified voice. Elders discuss various atonement theories, views on justification, and sanctification in teaching videos, with an intentional focus on how these concepts are connected. Our prayer is that this course enriches our preaching of the Gospel to the unconverted, strengthens our counsel to converts, and leads our congregations in worship. The ultimate goal is to worship God for His great love in providing the plan of salvation.
Format description	This course includes elder-led videos, technical reading or listening, and group discussions focused on theological insight and pastoral application.
Time commitment	
Course length:	4 weeks
Class time:	1.5-hour class discussion once per week remotely
Work outside of class:	3-4 hours per week
Registration	
Scheduling notes:	This class is open to any minister or minister's wife. Once we have enough interest in this course, we will reach out for further scheduling coordination.
Prerequisite:	None
Class size:	4-12 participants
Registration link:	
Special Course notes:	This course can also be taken by a pre-arranged group of ministers/wives (i.e. a church pulpit can choose to take it together on their own timeframe). If you have a group of ministers/wives with whom you would like to take the course, please indicate your group details on the registration form. You will be assigned an ETR facilitator for the course.

PROVIDENCE

Short description	Enhances biblically based confidence in teaching, counseling, and discussing God's sovereignty, free will, election, and assurance with clarity.
Long description - topical	Does God control everything, or do our choices truly matter? The Bible affirms both God's sovereign rule and human responsibility, but balancing these truths can be challenging, especially in the face of suffering and unanswered prayers. This course explores God's providence, predestination, free will, and assurance, equipping you to teach and preach with clarity and confidence. Through in-depth biblical study, historical perspectives, and practical discussions, you'll gain wisdom in handling difficult doctrines and learn to engage with other Christians on these topics with humility. Join us as we seek to understand God's hand in history—and in our lives.
Format description	This course includes elder-led videos, technical reading or listening, and group discussions focused on theological insight and pastoral application.
Time commitment	
Course length:	4 weeks *OR 1 weekend*
Class time:	1.5-hour class discussion once per week remotely *OR 1 weekend*
Work outside of class:	3-4 hours per week *OR 3-4 hours of preparatory reading / listening.*
Registration	
Scheduling notes:	This class is open to any minister or minister's wife. Once we have enough interest in this course, we will reach out for further scheduling coordination.
Prerequisite:	None
Class size:	4-12 participants
Registration link:	
Special Course notes:	This course can also be taken by a pre-arranged group of ministers/wives (i.e. a church pulpit can choose to take it together on their own timeframe). If you have a group of ministers/wives with whom you would like to take the course, please indicate your group details on the registration form. You will be assigned an ETR facilitator for the course.
	This Core Doctrine class is available in weekend format. Please note your interest in the Scheduling notes.

SIN & GRACE

Short description	Explores the biblical implications of the depths of sin that we might better see the triumphant heights of grace and its transformative power.
Long description - topical	Sin and grace are both central to the Christian faith. One revealing humanity's desperate need, the other displaying God's triumphant provision. This four-week course delves deep into biblical teaching on sin, exploring its nature, consequences, and impact on human life. We will examine key theological concepts, including original sin, personal responsibility, and the age of accountability. In the final lesson, we will rejoice in the surpassing greatness of God's grace, how it not only justifies but transforms. With Scripture, video teachings, and guided discussions, you will gain a richer understanding of how grace conquers sin and calls us to holiness. Join us as we confront the darkness of sin and behold the glory of God's grace, deepening our appreciation for Christ's redemptive work.
Format description	This course includes elder-led videos, technical reading or listening, and group discussions focused on theological insight and pastoral application.
Time commitment	
Course length:	4 weeks
Class time:	1.5-hour class discussion once per week remotely
Work outside of class:	3-4 hours per week
Registration	
Scheduling notes:	This class is open to any minister or minister's wife. Once we have enough interest in this course, we will reach out for further scheduling coordination.
Prerequisite:	None
Class size:	4-12 participants
Registration link:	
Special Course notes:	This course can also be taken by a pre-arranged group of ministers/wives (i.e. a church pulpit can choose to take it together on their own timeframe). If you have a group of ministers/wives with whom you would like to take the course, please indicate your group details on the registration form. You will be assigned an ETR facilitator for the course.

DISCIPLINE

Short description	Casts a vision of biblical discipline as an act of love, guiding believers to approach discipline with grace, empathy, and a heart for holiness.
Long description - topical	When you think of "discipline," what comes to mind? We've come to see biblical discipline as an act of love. God disciplines those He loves, and as Christians, we are called to discipline ourselves and each other out of love for God and one another. This course explores discipline throughout the Old and New Testaments as a demonstration of God's consistent love and desire for holiness. It covers both instructive and corrective disciplines for our personal lives, one-on-one interactions, and congregational fellowship. The course emphasizes the seriousness of sin and God's loving call to repentance and reconciliation. It also stresses empathy, grace, love, patience, and sensitivity to individual circumstances in public discipline. Above all, the course encourages a proactive approach to discipline, rather than a merely punitive one. We pray this course blesses you with understanding and inspires you to engage in biblical discipline with grace, love, and fruitfulness.
Format description	This course includes elder-led videos, technical reading or listening, and group discussions focused on theological insight and pastoral application.
Time commitment	
Course length:	4 weeks
Class time:	1.5-hour class discussion once per week remotely
Work outside of class:	3-4 hours per week
Registration	
Scheduling notes:	This class is open to any minister or minister's wife. Once we have enough interest in this course, we will reach out for further scheduling coordination.
Prerequisite:	None
Class size:	4-12 participants
Registration link:	
Special Course notes:	This course can also be taken by a pre-arranged group of ministers/wives (i.e. a church pulpit can choose to take it together on their own timeframe). If you have a group of ministers/wives with whom you would like to take the course, please indicate your group details on the registration form. You will be assigned an ETR facilitator for the course.

CHURCH

Short description	Exalts biblical metaphors for the church, expanding its identity, mission, and divine design as we faithfully carry our heritage into today's world.
Long description - topical	Though we often focus on the physical aspects of the church, the Bible consistently presents the church as a community of believers—an ecclesia of divine design. Church buildings are secondary, while the church as a people is richly described by Jesus, Paul, Peter, and others in profound ways. The church is a temple, a broken yet beautiful body, a close-knit family, a home of the Spirit, and a radiant bride. This course meditates on these metaphors, exploring what they reveal about the nature and mission of the church today. Led by our elders, we will reflect on how these images shape our understanding of community, worship, and service. As we celebrate the church's identity and calling, we will be encouraged to embody its biblical essence in our lives and ministries, deepening our appreciation for the divine design that unites us in God's unfolding story.
Format description	This course includes elder-led videos, technical reading or listening, and group discussions focused on theological insight and pastoral application.
Time commitment	
Course length:	4 weeks
Class time:	1.5-hour class discussion once per week remotely
Work outside of class:	3-4 hours per week
Registration	
Scheduling notes:	This class is open to any minister or minister's wife. Once we have enough interest in this course, we will reach out for further scheduling coordination.
Prerequisite:	None
Class size:	4-12 participants
Registration link:	
Special Course notes:	This course can also be taken by a pre-arranged group of ministers/wives (i.e. a church pulpit can choose to take it together on their own timeframe). If you have a group of ministers/wives with whom you would like to take the course, please indicate your group details on the registration form. You will be assigned an ETR facilitator for the course.

Core Doctrine

SCRIPTURE

Short description	Strengthens concepts of Scripture's formation, authority, and credibility, highlighting Sola Scriptura and the power of biblical preaching.
Long description - topical	Scripture is the foundation of our faith. This course equips ministers with a foundational understanding of how we got the Bible and what we believe about it. It explores how the Bible was formed and translated, examine its divine and human authorship. The class will learn to articulate and defend the Bible's credibility and authority. Special emphasis is placed on the doctrine of *Sola Scriptura*, the relationship between Scripture and Christian Tradition, and the transformative power of biblical preaching. Each lesson includes elder presentations, reading assignments, and reflection questions designed to foster deep engagement and discussion. By the end of the course the class will be prepared to confidently teach and uphold the doctrine of Scripture in their ministry.
Format description	This course includes elder-led videos, technical reading or listening, and group discussions focused on theological insight and pastoral application.
Time commitment	
Course length:	4 weeks
Class time:	1.5-hour class discussion once per week remotely
Work outside of class:	3-4 hours per week
Registration	
Scheduling notes:	This class is open to any minister or minister's wife. Once we have enough interest in this course, we will reach out for further scheduling coordination.
Prerequisite:	None
Class size:	4-12 participants
Registration link:	
Special Course notes:	This course can also be taken by a pre-arranged group of ministers/wives (i.e. a church pulpit can choose to take it together on their own timeframe). If you have a group of ministers/wives with whom you would like to take the course, please indicate your group details on the registration form. You will be assigned an ETR facilitator for the course.

Core Doctrine
Course Descriptions

LAST THINGS

Short description	Forthcoming
Long description - topical	Forthcoming
Format description	This course includes elder-led videos, technical reading or listening, and group discussions focused on theological insight and pastoral application.
Time commitment	
Course length:	4 weeks
Class time:	1.5-hour class discussion once per week remotely
Work outside of class:	3-4 hours per week
Registration	
Scheduling notes:	This class is open to any minister or minister's wife. Once we have enough interest in this course, we will reach out for further scheduling coordination.
Prerequisite:	None
Class size:	4-12 participants
Registration link:	
Special Course notes:	This course can also be taken by a pre-arranged group of ministers/wives (i.e. a church pulpit can choose to take it together on their own timeframe). If you have a group of ministers/wives with whom you would like to take the course, please indicate your group details on the registration form. You will be assigned an ETR facilitator for the course.

BAPTISM

Short description	Forthcoming
Long description - topical	Forthcoming
Format description	This course includes elder-led videos, technical reading or listening, and group discussions focused on theological insight and pastoral application.
Time commitment	
Course length:	4 weeks
Class time:	1.5-hour class discussion once per week remotely
Work outside of class:	3-4 hours per week
Registration	
Scheduling notes:	This class is open to any minister or minister's wife. Once we have enough interest in this course, we will reach out for further scheduling coordination.
Prerequisite:	None
Class size:	4-12 participants
Registration link:	
Special Course notes:	This course can also be taken by a pre-arranged group of ministers/wives (i.e. a church pulpit can choose to take it together on their own timeframe). If you have a group of ministers/wives with whom you would like to take the course, please indicate your group details on the registration form. You will be assigned an ETR facilitator for the course.

COMMUNION

Short description	Forthcoming
Long description - topical	Forthcoming
Format description	This course includes elder-led videos, technical reading or listening, and group discussions focused on theological insight and pastoral application.
Time commitment	
Course length:	4 weeks
Class time:	1.5-hour class discussion once per week remotely
Work outside of class:	3-4 hours per week
Registration	
Scheduling notes:	This class is open to any minister or minister's wife. Once we have enough interest in this course, we will reach out for further scheduling coordination.
Prerequisite:	None
Class size:	4-12 participants
Registration link:	
Special Course notes:	This course can also be taken by a pre-arranged group of ministers/wives (i.e. a church pulpit can choose to take it together on their own timeframe). If you have a group of ministers/wives with whom you would like to take the course, please indicate your group details on the registration form. You will be assigned an ETR facilitator for the course.

ESSENTIALS OF BIBLE STUDY

Short description	Underscores the Bible's origins, authority, and interpretation, equipping students to defend its reliability and deepen engagement with God's Word.
Long description - topical	This course provides essential teaching on the Bible, exploring its origins, authority, and interpretation. Students will examine how the Bible was compiled, what we believe about its inspiration and trustworthiness, and how to study it effectively with a focus on application for our faith and practice. Through this journey of guided study and discussion, participants will gain the knowledge and tools necessary to defend the reliability of Scripture, apply its truth in ministry and daily life, and deepen their engagement with God's Word.
Format description	Course content includes reading, videos, Bible study projects based on study concepts, and group discussion.
Time commitment	
Course length:	3 weeks
Class time:	1.5-hour class discussion once per week remotely
Work outside of class:	3-4 hours per week
Registration	
Scheduling notes:	This class is open to any minister or minister's wife. Once we have enough interest in this course, we will reach out for further scheduling.
Prerequisite:	None
Class size:	4-12 participants
Registration link:	
Special Course notes:	This course can also be taken by a pre-arranged group of ministers/wives (i.e. a church pulpit can choose to take it together on their own timeframe). If you have a group of ministers/wives with whom you would like to take the course, please indicate your group details on the registration form. You will be assigned an ETR facilitator for the course.

BIBLICAL TEXT TO TEACHING

Short description	Establishes a small group of ministers, equipping them with proven biblical interpretation methods and resources for preaching and teaching Scripture.
Long description - topical	This course is designed to establish a supportive group of lay ministers who can encourage one another in Bible study for the purpose of teaching. Participants will be introduced to effective methods and resources for biblical interpretation, helping them better understand Scripture and apply it in their ministry. The course aims to build confidence in preaching and teaching, both with extemporaneous and prepared messages. Through practical exercises, discussion, and group study, participants will learn how to interpret Scripture accurately and communicate its message clearly to others. The goal is to foster a community of ministers who are well-equipped to preach, teach, and support one another as they grow in their understanding of God's Word in service to their congregations.
Format description	Course content includes reading, videos, Bible study projects based on study concepts, and group discussion. The last half of the course is set up as a lab where students create and critique work amongst their classmates.
Time commitment	
Course length:	8 weeks
Class time:	1.5-hour class discussion once per week remotely
Work outside of class:	2-3 hours per week
Registration	
Scheduling notes:	This class is open to any minister. Once we have enough interest in this course, we will reach out for further scheduling.
Prerequisite:	Intro to Bible
Class size:	4-12 participants
Registration link:	
Special Course notes:	This course can also be taken by a pre-arranged group of ministers (ie a church pulpit can choose to take it together on their own timeframe). If you have a group of ministers with whom you would like to take the course, please indicate your group details on the registration form. You will be assigned an ETR facilitator for the course.

GREEK

Short description	Teaches you to read and interpret the Greek New Testament, building foundational skills for understanding and analyzing Scripture.
Long description - topical	This biblical language course is designed to help you learn to read the Greek New Testament and use various tools for interpretation. Through engaging lessons and practical exercises, you'll build a strong foundation in reading and analyzing the Greek text. By the end of the course, you will be equipped to read Greek passages with understanding, interpret their meaning, and apply insights from Greek grammar to your study of Scripture. The course focuses on developing skills in comprehending the language, analyzing grammatical structures, and understanding how the language informs interpretation. You will also learn how to use Greek texts alongside commentaries to deepen your engagement with Scripture. The key to success is consistent practice and a focus on comprehensible input, allowing you to gradually build your reading and analytical skills. Whether you're new to Greek or looking to refresh your knowledge, this course provides the tools to help you confidently approach the Greek New Testament.
Format description	Course content includes daily Greek reading and translation, vocabulary memorization, recorded video guides, and language analysis.
Time commitment	
Course length:	1 year
Class time:	45-minute class discussion twice per week remotely
Work outside of class:	3-5 hours per week
Registration	
Scheduling notes:	This class is open to anyone and begins each January.
Prerequisite:	Desire to enjoy learning a new language!
Class size:	4-12 participants
Registration link:	
Special Course notes:	The most important thing is to try to have fun. Anxiety is detrimental to learning languages. Lessons will advance at the pace of the group's progress.

HEBREW

Short description	Teaches you to read and interpret the Hebrew Bible (Old Testament), building foundational skills for understanding and analyzing Scripture.
Long description - topical	This biblical language course is designed to help you learn to read the Hebrew Bible (Old Testament) and use various tools for interpretation. Through engaging lessons and practical exercises, you'll build a strong foundation in reading and analyzing the Hebrew text. By the end of the course, you will be equipped to read Hebrew passages with understanding, interpret their meaning, and apply insights from Hebrew grammar to your study of Scripture. The course focuses on developing skills in comprehending the language, analyzing grammatical structures, and understanding how the language informs interpretation. You will also learn how to use Hebrew texts alongside commentaries to deepen your engagement with Scripture. The key to success is consistent practice and a focus on comprehensible input, allowing you to gradually build your reading and analytical skills. Whether you're new to Hebrew or looking to refresh your knowledge, this course provides the tools to help you confidently approach the Hebrew Bible.
Format description	Course content includes daily Hebrew reading and translation, vocabulary memorization, recorded video guides, and language analysis.
Time commitment	
Course length:	1 year
Class time:	45-minute class discussion twice per week remotely
Work outside of class:	3-5 hours per week
Registration	
Scheduling notes:	This class is open to anyone and begins each January.
Prerequisite:	Desire to enjoy learning a new language!
Class size:	4-12 participants
Registration link:	
Special Course notes:	The most important thing is to try to have fun. Anxiety is detrimental to learning languages. Lessons will advance at the pace of the group's progress.

ESSENTIALS OF HISTORY

Short description	Teaches ministers how biblical history, the Bible's development, and Church history shape preaching, teaching, and ministry.
Long description - topical	This course introduces key types of history in the "History and Christian Thought" theme: history in the Bible, the history of the Bible, and the history of the Church after the Bible. It aims to ground ministers in a healthy understanding of history's role in Scripture and how we can research and use history effectively in ministry. By examining the biblical narrative, the Bible's development, and the Church's history, participants will gain insights into how history shapes our faith and enhances preaching, teaching, and pastoral care. This course equips ministers to apply historical insights to their ministry, deepening their understanding of God's work through history.
Format description	Course content includes videos, Bible study, short history projects, and group discussion.
Time commitment	
Course length:	3 weeks
Class time:	1-hour class discussion once per week remotely
Work outside of class:	2-3 hours per week
Registration	
Scheduling notes:	This class is open to any minister or minister's wife. Once we have enough interest in this course, we will reach out for further scheduling.
Prerequisite:	None
Class size:	4-12 participants
Registration link:	
Special Course notes:	This course can also be taken by a pre-arranged group of ministers/wives (ie a church pulpit can choose to take it together on their own timeframe). If you have a group of ministers/wives with whom you would like to take the course, please indicate your group details on the registration form. You will be assigned an ETR facilitator for the course.

ESSENTIALS OF CHURCH AND COMMUNITY

Short description	Explores ministry areas beyond the pulpit, equipping ministers and their wives with practical tools for effective service. With ACCFS and HarvestCall.
Long description - topical	This course is designed to lay a strong foundation for ministers and their wives in understanding the vital work of ministry beyond the pulpit. The day begins with an ETR overview of the Narrative Arc of the church throughout Scripture, providing a biblical framework for the church's ongoing mission. Following this, HarvestCall and ACCFS will lead a series of teachings and discussions on key areas of ministry, including Evangelism, Church Establishment, Ethics, Discipleship, Counseling, and more. Participants will gain practical insights and tools for serving effectively in these crucial aspects of church life. This course is an opportunity to explore the many facets of ministry that support and strengthen the work of the church, equipping ministers and their wives to serve with wisdom, compassion, and integrity in a variety of settings. Join us for a day of learning, reflection, and fellowship, as we work together to strengthen our ministries beyond the pulpit.
Format description	Course content will focus on implications for ministers and wives in their roles. This event is meant to be conducted in-person with time built in for relationship building and growing together as pulpits.
Time commitment	
Course length:	1 day
Class time:	~8 hours of teaching, discussion, and interaction time set up to be attended in-person on a Saturday.
Work outside of class:	2-3 hours of pre-work in preparation for the weekend. In addition, optional, but encouraged follow-up discussion sessions will be conducted on key topics from the weekend.
Registration	
Scheduling notes:	As required – contact ETR for more information.
Prerequisite:	None
Class size:	As required
Registration link:	
Special Course notes:	These weekend courses are structured to be regional events for nearby pulpits to take together. The host church will be working with the ETR to send out invitations closer to the event.

CORE COUNSELING

Short description	Equips ministers and their wives with counseling skills, blending empathy, wisdom, and practical strategies to support spiritual and emotional healing.
Long description - topical	This course, facilitated with ACCFS, aims to motivate, inform, and equip ministers and their wives in the vital area of pastoral counseling. Participants will explore the counselor's mindset and skillset, learning how to approach counseling with empathy, wisdom, and clarity. The course also focuses on practical strategies for encouraging and helping people in their spiritual and emotional struggles. Through lessons that blend theory with real-world application, ministers and their wives will gain the tools necessary to support and guide individuals in need of pastoral care. This course provides a foundation for effective counseling in the church, fostering a deeper understanding of how to walk alongside others in their journey of healing and growth. Join us as we develop the skills and heart for ministry that truly makes a difference in the lives of those we serve.
Format description	The course includes individual learning from videos, podcasts, and articles, as well as facilitated group discussions over homework questions.
Time commitment	
Course length:	4 weeks
Class time:	1-hour class discussion once per week remotely
Work outside of class:	2 hours per week of self-paced instruction and personal reflection.
Registration	
Scheduling notes:	This class is open to any minister or minister's wife. Once we have enough interest in this course, we will reach out for further scheduling.
Prerequisite:	None
Class size:	4-12 participants
Registration link:	
Special Course notes:	This course can also be taken by a pre-arranged group of ministers/wives (ie a church pulpit can choose to take it together on their own timeframe). If you have a group of ministers/wives with whom you would like to take the course, please indicate your group details on the registration form. You will be assigned an ETR facilitator for the course.

ESSENTIALS OF SPIRITUAL MATURITY

Short description	Points to Scripture for its model of maturity, inspiring service from deep resilience, balancing faithful ministry with personal and family well-being.
Long description - topical	This course inspires ministers to serve with strength and joy, shaping a life of spiritual depth while faithfully meeting the demands of ministry and family. It explores how Jesus fulfills God's command to love others and how personal spiritual growth fuels effective service. Participants will gain a biblical vision for maturity, resilience, and the lifelong pursuit of a deep relationship with God. The course addresses challenges unique to church ministry, including spiritual fatigue, the weight of responsibility, and maintaining integrity in all areas of life. Through guided teaching and peer discussion, ministers will learn practical ways to cultivate spiritual disciplines, avoid burnout, and sustain a vibrant faith. With biblical foundations and shared wisdom, this course helps ministers embrace a path of growth that strengthens both their personal walk with God and their ability to serve others with wisdom, compassion, and endurance.
Format description	This course includes some reading or listening, group discussions focused on theological and pastoral insight, and optional practical application.

Time commitment	
Course length:	3 weeks
Class time:	1.5-hour class discussion once per week remotely
Work outside of class:	2-3 hours per week

Registration	
Scheduling notes:	This class is open to any minister or minister's wife. Once we have enough interest in this course, we will reach out for further scheduling coordination.
Prerequisite:	None
Class size:	4-12 participants
Registration link:	
Special Course notes:	This course can also be taken by a pre-arranged group of ministers/wives (i.e. a church pulpit can choose to take it together on their own timeframe). If you have a group of ministers/wives with whom you would like to take the course, please indicate your group details on the registration form. You will be assigned an ETR facilitator for the course.