



Master of Theological Studies

The Master of Theological Studies (MTS) is granted for demonstration of advanced competencies associated with doing ministry according to the Way of Christ and His Apostles, particularly through critical interaction with the contributions of scholars and substantial implementation in, reflection on, and/or preparation for actual ministry experience.

Specific Program Objectives:

- Master Scriptures relevant to church leadership development, particularly through study of the biblical theology of Acts and the Pauline Epistles.
- Reflect on contributions of leading scholars regarding church and leadership development.
- Address pertinent issues related to church and leadership development and analyze Scripture and other contributions related to those issues.
- Formulate conclusions and personal applications regarding those issues.
- Obtain advanced mastery through substantial implementation in, reflection on, and/or preparation for real ministry situations.

The Master of Theological Studies degree program is offered by distance education to existing and emerging leaders rooted in local churches, church networks, and other ministry organizations in order to help them be trained and recognized as part of a ministry leadership team that is one-minded in ministry, vision, and philosophy. Out of this team would come those who commit themselves long term to local church leadership or those who desire to train to be part of a missionary team involved in planting or establishing churches in other areas.

Master of Theological Studies

The program focuses on historical, systemic, and biblical theology. The program consists of 12 courses of 3 semester credit hours each, for a total of 36 credit hours.

Leadership Studies

CE 501 Church Administration and Leadership for the Church (3 Credit Hours)

A course designed to develop leadership potential in students and to give them a familiarity with the various elements of the administrative process, including: goal setting and achieving, organization, delegation, human relations, group dynamics, supervision, and the training of other leaders. Though the principles are universal, the focus of the course is the local church.

Examples in the lives of Moses, Nehemiah, Jesus and Paul and others will be studied in relation to leadership qualities, challenges and competencies and development. Biblical texts will also be studied in relation to standards for leadership, how spiritual gifts align with how one leads, and how Biblical leadership differs from other styles of leadership.

Church History

CH 505 Survey of Church History (3 Credit Hours)

Church History is the heart of His story, God's kingdom work on earth. This course explores the development of the Christian church from Pentecost to the present day. It covers key people and events that God used throughout history to bolster His church and also those negative influences that infected her. The goal of the course is to use lessons from church history to advance the kingdom of God in life and ministry.

CH 510 History of the Charismatic Movements (3 Credit Hours)

Charismatic theology is more than just a theology of spiritual gifts; worship, Bibliology, sanctification, and ecclesiology are also central. Learners will complete an historical and theological study of the origins and developments of Classical Pentecostalism, Charismatic Renewalism, and Restoration Movements, with emphasis given to theological backgrounds and trends. Lectures also analyze other related movements, including the "Jesus Only" Movement, the Vineyard Movement, and the Toronto Revival Movement. Throughout the course, the pros and cons of the various charismatic movements are presented so that students can make informed decisions on what a "victorious Christian life" entails.

Ministry Studies

MT 504 Evangelism and the Local Church (3 Credit Hours)

This course is unique in several ways. It is a training tool to equip Christian leaders to train other Christians for evangelistic outreach. This material also challenges and inspires leaders to personally reach their fullest potential. We will study how to bring family and friends into a relationship with Jesus in a relaxed, relational way. An emphasis is placed on learning to rely on the Holy Spirit for direction and empowerment in the evangelism process, while allowing Christians to discover their individual gifts.

This training assumes the initial setting for most evangelism takes place outside of a church environment in the typical places where non-Christians live, work, and socialize.

The object of this course is to help ministry leaders equip Christians for more effective relational evangelism by utilizing a three-dimensional approach to share the gospel:

- **WORD:** Participants will learn how to share a simple Gospel message.
- **POWER:** Participants will learn how to rely on the Holy Spirit for direction and empowerment.
- **LIFESTYLE:** Participants will learn how to live a lifestyle that draws people to Christ.

New Testament

NT 502 The Pastoral Epistles (3 Credit Hours)

The overall objective of this course is to bring leadership back to the center of the local church in a way that will empower churches to participate in the expansion of the Gospel with the same vision and effectiveness as the first church at Antioch. Specifically, this means that each person studying the course will do the following:

- Develop a basic understanding of leadership in the early Church with all of its complexities, focusing specifically on the work of ministers of the Gospel and that of elders and deacons and how their work is complementary in nature.
- Rediscover the Antioch tradition of the Early Church, which lasted over five centuries, and design a model for how to build this tradition back into our churches, as we seek to have similar impact globally for the expansion of the Gospel in the 21st century.
- Design an effective multi-level leadership development strategy for our churches, which is truly built upon the foundation of the New Testament, and which will carry the Antioch vision of turning the world upside down.

NT 504 The Gospels/Life of Christ (3 Credit Hours)

This course is designed to situate the Gospels in their historical context as well as in their canonical context – how they fit into and with the other writings of the New Testament, as delivered to the churches. This is critical because their historical and canonical context has been almost completely lost in Western theology and traditions, and their intention has been almost completely ignored by massive, modern-day, Western parachurch discipleship organizations. Specifically, the student studying this course would:

- Develop an understanding of when the Gospels were written and how they fit into both the historical and canonical context, and why that is important.
- Determine the intent of each Gospel writer in relation to how they each sought to solidify their kerygmatic communities.
- Develop a conviction for discipleship of how the Gospels should be studied by our church communities in light of how they were initially unfolded to the early church.
- Design a discipleship training model incorporating the leading ideas and new understanding developed through this course.

NT 508 New Testament Survey: The Epistles and Revelation (3 Credit Hours)

The overall objective of this course is to determine the fundamental biblical principles for growing and strengthening (establishing) a church to maturity and developing a strategy for implementing the biblical forms and functions of a church necessary for making and keeping it strong. Specifically, this means that each person studying the course would:

- Develop a biblical understanding of Paul's concept of establishing local churches, while discerning the difference between what Paul understood to be normative for all churches in every culture and generation and what he intended to be merely cultural for his time and situation.
- Develop a biblical understanding of how the church fits into the overall plan and eternal purposes of God.
- Develop a biblical understanding of the philosophy of what is to drive the ministry of the church and the guidelines (i.e. "house order") by which each local church is to abide.
- Bring all of this biblical understanding together into a contemporary model for establishing local churches in the twenty-first century, including general procedures consistent with Paul's establishing model and normative "house order instructions."

Old Testament

OT 505 The Book of Psalms (3 Credit Hours)

The overall objective of this course is to develop the ability to preach and teach with the five sermonic forms of the Early Church: evangelic, catechetical, expository, prophetic, and festal. These forms will be examined in light of the paradigm of the Early Church meeting, which was far more participatory than our single preacher-event approach that has dominated Western protestant churches ever since the Reformation. Specifically, this means that each person studying the course would:

- Develop a basic understanding of the teaching forms of the Early Church: evangelistic, catechetical, expository, prophetic, and festal, and the importance of each of the forms for the contemporary expansion and establishing of churches worldwide. Special attention will be given to the importance of the reading of Scripture and to a fresh understanding of Paul's idea of rhetoric.
- Gain a comprehensive understanding of the five preaching forms of the Early Church and a basic approach to preparing sermons around the five forms, with special attention given to the methods needed to employ the five forms in contemporary preaching and teaching.
- Introduce the student to the importance of psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs, to the integration of these forms into the life of the church in appropriate cultural forms of worship, designed to enhance the effectiveness and application of these forms to the everyday life of the believers in these churches.
- Guide the student into the intention of both the preaching forms and worship in the Lord's Supper, giving shape to the church gathering as delivered by the Apostles and as observed by almost all churches of the first 300 years of the Early Church.
- Integrate culturally appropriate forms of both preaching/teaching and worship into a contemporary meeting of the churches in a culture, with a view to create "civilization" expression of music, drama, and the arts.

OT 509 The Christian & Old Testament Theology (3 Credit Hours)

Imagine listening to the conversation that Jesus had with two of His disciples on the road to Emmaus just after the resurrection. What did He say to them? Why is it key that all Christians listen to that conversation? Jesus opened the minds of His disciples to the truth about His death and resurrection. Beginning with Moses and all the prophets, He interpreted to them the things about Himself in all the Scriptures. In another conversation with His disciples before His resurrection, Jesus said how everything He had taught them about Himself that was in the Law of Moses, the Prophets, and the Psalms needed to be fulfilled. In other words, He opened their minds to understand the Old Testament Scriptures.

In this study, we are going to walk along with Jesus. You will enter into the same conversation. You will know what Jesus told these disciples that opened their entire understanding of the

Scriptures. You will discover the key to understanding the Scriptures, as explained by Jesus Himself.

What will this do for you? You will understand the Story of the Bible – the entire plan of God for the world. Not only will you understand the plan itself and how it explains all of history and even man’s purpose, but it will lead you to an understanding of how your life fits into that plan.

How do we know the Story as told and unfolded is accurate? We follow a very simple process that follows the process of Jesus and His disciples. We start on the road to Emmaus, where Jesus set the storyline, walking His disciples through the Scriptures – the Law, the Prophets, and the Writings. We recreate the Story by how the Apostles told and defended it, beginning with Peter’s five sermons in Acts. From their use of the Scriptures, we recreate the key passages they used again and again to tell the Story.

We invite you to join us, with Jesus, on the road to Emmaus. We invite you into a process that will open your mind to understand the Scriptures, to understanding God’s plan for building His Church and His kingdom, to understanding the meaning and purpose of your life, and to laying foundations for being a true, lifelong follower of Jesus.

We will examine the following areas:

- The Storyline
- Understanding the Scriptures
- The Overall Plan
- The Nation of Israel
- The Davidic Covenant
- The Kingdom Arrives
- The Kingdom Launched
- The Church as Christ’s Grand Strategy
- The Kingdom Fully Realized

Philosophical & Systematic Theology

PT 501 Christian Ethics (3 Credit Hours)

The overall objective of this course is to understand the biblical idea of qualified leadership and to determine the fundamental biblical guidelines for character formation in leaders and in the household of God. Specifically, this means that each person studying this course would:

- Develop a conviction as to the reason for and the benefit of mature character as motivation for pursuing these character qualities personally, as a family, and as a church.
- Gain a clear understanding into the character qualities required of mature leaders and of mature men and women within the church and how these qualities relate to the roles and functions of men and women within the church.

- Perform personal evaluations and design plans for developing and/or strengthening character qualities, which would enhance overall growth and character development.
- Be able to help other leaders and/or members of the church design a plan for long-term spiritual growth and character development, as they pursue their responsibilities within the church community.

PT 504 Christian Worldview (3 Credit Hours)

The overall objective of this course is to build a contemporary *didache* – an early church manual to establish believers in the essentials of the apostles’ teaching. This contemporary *didache* must be founded solidly upon the faith delivered by the apostles; seasoned by the historical effort of the church; and be eminently relevant to our present cultural situations. Specifically, this means that each person studying the course would do the following:

- Gain an understanding of the preaching (kerygma) and the teaching (*didache*) of the apostles – the core doctrines – and their importance to the churches of every generation, summarizing the doctrines in statement form, which will be used as a foundation for all contemporary theological formulations.
- Write a modern kerygma/*didache* type doctrinal statement that can be used by churches as a guide for establishing believers in their faith, for doing theology as a community of believers, and for aiding all believers in beginning their own practical theology for everyday life.
- Gain an appreciation for the historical effort of the church as it has sought, through the centuries to provide the church of its generation with a relevant understanding and defense of the faith delivered by the apostles.
- Lay out a strategy for establishing everyone in a local church in both the Gospel (kerygma) and the essential teaching of the Apostles (the *didache*), as well as understand how a “First Principles” curriculum can grow out of the *didache*.

World Missions

WM 501 Introduction to World Missions (3 Credit Hours)

The overall objective of this course is to determine the fundamental biblical principles regarding the mission of the Church and its role in missions, developing guidelines and strategies from these principles for a local church’s involvement. Specifically, this means that each person studying the course would do the following:

- Develop a basic understanding of biblical keys to the establishment and expansion of the first-century Church and how to use these keys in the establishment and expansion of the global Church.

- Design a model to use as a guide in planting and establishing churches today from the core elements of Paul's strategy used on his missionary journeys.
- Determine a biblical definition for missionary and missionary work.
- Develop convictions on the role of the local church in missions today and design a model for how a local church could be central and vitally involved in missions while networking with other churches and missions agencies.

Financial Information:

Master of Theological Studies – 36 Semester Credit Hours:

- Registration Fee: \$100.00 (to be submitted with application)
- Tuition Fee: \$125/Credit Hour (36 credits) = \$4,500.00
- Graduation Fee: \$ 200.00
- **TOTAL:** **\$4800.00**

The total tuition and Fees will be payable through a schedule of payments for 30 months.
For example: \$4800.00 / 30 months = \$160/month

Ready to Enroll?

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7941 SW 82ND DRIVE, GAINESVILLE, FL 32608

(508) 677-5584

RLBERNIER@MBMINISTRIES.ORG

WWW.MBCIU.ORG