Master/Bachelor of Divinity: Pastoral Mentoring

The primary goal of CBTS is the training of future pastors. This training involves a partnership between Covenant Baptist Theological Seminary and local churches. In addition to the 94 hours of academic instruction, the program mandates a minimum of 500 hours of pastoral mentoring and practical experience, overseen by one or more of the student’s pastors. This character-molding, hands-on aspect of training is structured around the biblical qualifications of 1 Timothy 3 and Titus 1 and includes a quarterly assessment of the student regarding his progress in godliness and service.

This pastoral mentoring should expose the student to the full range of pastoral responsibilities and provide opportunity for practical experience and assessment from the mentor. Each semester, the mentor and student should develop an agreed upon plan concerning specific responsibilities and opportunities (see examples below). The student is responsible to record the dates/hours, have them verified by their mentor, and submit them to the registrar at the end of each semester.

**Spiritual Maturity and Character**

- **Quarterly Meetings:** Student will meet with pastors at least once a quarter for assessment in spiritual maturity and character. Includes personal spiritual health, marriage, family, and witness to outsiders.

**Preaching and Teaching**

- **Preaching:** Student will be given opportunities to preach in some venue, preferably a worship service. Pastors will provide encouragement in strengths as well as constructive criticism for improvements for each sermon. (See sample sermon evaluation forms below).
- **Weekly Teaching:** Student will be given opportunities for regular teaching (for example, during a 13-week Sunday School class). If possible, feedback from class members is encouraged.
- **Evangelism:** Student will regularly engage unconverted people with a view to sharing the gospel outside of the church. These opportunities will be assessed by the mentor at their quarterly meetings.

**Other Pastoral Responsibilities**

- **Worship Service Planning:** Student will be given several opportunities to coordinate all aspects of a worship service including music, prayer, Scripture reading, and preaching.
- **Pastoral Counseling:** Student will sit in on pastoral counseling sessions when able. This should include different types of counseling, and include pre-marital counseling.
- **Weddings:** Student will help his pastor as he prepares for a wedding. This should cover all aspects of a gospel-centered wedding.
- **Funeral:** Student will help his pastor as he prepares for a funeral. This should cover all aspects of a gospel-centered funeral.
- **Ordinances:** Student will assist in the preparation and performance a baptism and of the Lord’s Supper. This should include all aspects of the ordinances.
- **Visitation:** Student will go with pastor to visit church members and others. This should include hospital visits, visiting shut-ins, and family visits.
- **Hospitality:** Student will open up his home to host members in the church and those outside of the church for the purpose of evangelism and edification. These opportunities will be discussed with the pastors at their quarterly meetings.
- **Meetings:** Student will attend pastor meetings and deacon meetings. He should also learn how to lead in these meetings.
Pastoral Mentoring Agreement

Training future pastors involves a partnership between Covenant Baptist Theological Seminary and local churches. In addition to the 94 hours of academic instruction, the program mandates a minimum of 500 hours of pastoral mentoring and practical experience, overseen by one or more of the student’s pastors. This character-molding, hands on aspect of training is structured around the biblical qualifications of 1 Timothy 3 and Titus 1 and includes a quarterly assessment of the student regarding his progress in godliness and service.

As a pastor of ______________________________________________, I have read through the pastoral mentoring expectations from Covenant Baptist Theological Seminary and agree to oversee the completion of these ministry requirements. I will submit an annual report to CBTS summarizing my assessment of this student regarding his progress in godliness and service. If I can no longer serve as a pastoral mentor, I promise to find a suitable replacement and to let CBTS know of this change.

___________________________________________
(Pastor’s Name)

___________________________________________
(Name of Church)

___________________________________________
(Date Signed)