



MT ZION

SCHOOL OF MINISTRY
& LEADERSHIP

2020 – 2021 Catalog

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TABLE OF CONTENTS

Overview of Mt. Zion School of Ministry & Leadership.....	3
Theology of Education.....	4
Philosophy of Ministry.....	4
Mission, Motto, Goals and Objectives.....	5
Statement of Faith.....	7
Why Mt. Zion School of Ministry & Leadership?	8
Admissions Information.....	10
Other Relevant Information.....	11
Institute Program Requirements Information.....	12
Course Descriptions.....	14

OVERVIEW OF MT. ZION SCHOOL OF MINISTRY & LEADERSHIP

“The great aim of the Christian Church in its relation to the present life is not only to renew the individual man, but also to reform human society.”

— Lyman Beecher

The School of Ministry & Leadership was born out of the decades-old educational tradition of Mt. Zion Church. For almost thirty years Mt. Zion has offered educational training through its Ministry Training (Candidate) School and Counselors Training programs. The School of Ministry & Leadership was the result of Pastor Loren Covarrubias’ vision to take spiritual education and training to the next level, while also equipping students with practical skills necessary to be successful in all areas of life.

Lyman Beecher lived in a time much like our own. Sin seemed rampant and church attendance was in decline. The 2nd amendment established the separation of church and state on a federal level, but many states still supported an established church. (It was later that the Supreme Court decided the due process clause of the 14th amendment made the Bill of Rights applicable to the states as well.) When Connecticut disestablished religion, Beecher fell into depression. It seemed as though a lack of government support would hinder the church. However, this eventually led to the “voluntary establishment” of religion. This turned out to be a blessing in disguise and led to a great revival in the nation. Today many Christians also feel “threatened” by the government and societal changes.

The philosophy of Mt. Zion School of Ministry & Leadership is that Christians can change society from the inside out by following God’s Word – the Bible – and living their lives according to its principles. Lyman Beecher was a leader in America’s Second “Great Awakening” – which changed the course of American history. He was a prominent figure in the anti-slavery movement and a co-founder of the American Temperance Society, which vowed to abstain from intoxicating beverages (seen to be increasing poverty and illiteracy, among other things). Lyman Beecher has been commonly referred to as the “father of more brains than any other man in America.” His children include Henry Ward Beecher, Edward Beecher, Harriet Beecher Stowe, Isabella Beecher Hooker, and Catharine Beecher who fought for such causes as the abolition of slavery and women’s suffrage.

There have been three “Great Awakenings” in the U.S. that are even recognized by secular historians: 1730 – 1750, 1800 – 1850, and 1870 – 1910¹. These are times when the American Church has had a profound impact on the nation. The Charismatic renewal has *not* produced a similar “Awakening.” While having an immense influence on the church, it has not affected the world outside of the church as in the past. In fact, since the time of the Charismatic renewal, the nation seems to be drifting further away from God. At Mt. Zion we believe that emphasizing the principles of God’s Word can once again change the direction of our nation and the world.

Jesus said that believers are the salt and light of the world (Matt. 5:13-16). Salt was (and is) used both to preserve and to flavor food. Likewise, Christians should both resist spiritual decline and favorably influence society. God called us to let our lights so shine before men that they should see our good works and glorify Him (Matt. 5:16). With these thoughts in mind, the key message for Mt. Zion is that one person can change the world. Our vision is to train, prepare, and disciple students to be that person who is equipped to make a difference in their world.

¹ The Exact dates of America’s Great Awakenings often differ according to various sources.

THEOLOGY OF EDUCATION

Jesus said, “Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, *teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you...*” (Matt. 28:19, italics added). God’s people are destroyed for a lack of knowledge (Hosea 4:6), which is why teaching is an important aspect of ministry.

The prophet Isaiah said, “Wisdom and knowledge will be the stability of your times, and the strength of salvation” (33:6). Religious syncretism (combining different beliefs) is common today, often making it difficult to separate fact from fiction. Believers should not be carried away by every wind of doctrine (Eph. 4:14). It is those that have built their “house” on the “rock” (Christ and His Word) that will not fall *when* the rain and the floods come (Matt. 7:26, 16:18 & Luke 6:48).

You cannot build unless you have a proper foundation. Christians should not stop there, however, but should seek to move on to the fullness of what God has for them. God has called His people to go on to maturity. The author of Hebrews encouraged believers to leave the discussion of the elementary principles of Christ and go on to perfection (completeness, maturity), not laying *again* the foundation (6:1). Mt. Zion School of Ministry & Leadership is committed to helping students move to a higher place in the things of God through education and training.

PHILOSOPHY OF MINISTRY

As Jesus was going into cities and villages ministering to people, “He was moved with compassion for them, because they were weary and scattered, like sheep having no shepherd” (Matt. 9:36). We live in a nation that is seriously lacking in leadership, where the people are spiritually “scattered,” like sheep with no shepherd. God is calling His people to be leaders in their world.

“And the Lord will make you the head and not the tail; you shall be above only, and not be beneath, if you heed the commandments of the Lord your God...and are careful to observe them” (Deut. 28:13). After Jesus said the people were like sheep with no shepherd, “He said to His disciples, ‘The harvest truly is plentiful, but the laborers are few’” (Matt. 9:37). It is time for the church to take the place of authority that God has called her to. This can only happen when believers begin to mature and truly walk as sons, and heirs, of God in the earth. “For the earnest expectation of the creation eagerly waits for the revealing of the sons of God” (Rom. 8:19).

The philosophy of Mt. Zion is that the world will be changed when Christians begin to live up to their full potential in God. Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every *Word* that proceeds from the mouth of God (Deut. 8:3, Matt. 4:4, & Luke 4:4). Jesus Christ is that *Word* made flesh (John 1:1). He is the *bread of life* and those that come to Him will never hunger or thirst (John 6:35). The apostle Peter said, “...His divine power has given to us all things that pertain to life and godliness...that through these you may *be partakers of the divine nature...*” (2 Peter 1:2-4).

How do we partake of God? We partake first and foremost through His Word (the Bible), and also having a relationship with that Word, which is the revelation of God Himself. As we partake, we will be changed and *transformed into the image of Christ* (2 Cor. 3:18). Jesus Christ was God’s Word in the flesh and humanity will be truly changed when His people start being that Word made flesh to the world!

MISSION & GOALS

Mission Statement

Mt. Zion's mission is to use Bible-based, people-oriented education in order to cultivate Christian leaders, preparing them to excel in diverse capacities, being able to represent Christ in and beyond the church.

Expanded Mission Statement

Mt. Zion School of Ministry & Leadership is committed to the development of the whole person – intellectually, socially, and spiritually.

Our burden is to instruct students in principles of leadership, stewardship, and integrity, providing an educational atmosphere that stimulates them to strive for excellence.

We aim to educate and develop Christians as individuals, members of the church, and participants in society, so they can prosper in diverse capacities and represent Christ in every realm of culture!

Motto – “Knowledge. Wisdom. Understanding.”

Paul told the Colossians, “...we also...ask that you may be filled with the *knowledge* of His will in all *wisdom* and spiritual *understanding*; that you may walk worthy of the Lord, fully pleasing to Him, being fruitful in every good work...” (1:9-10, summarized, italics added).

Knowledge has to do with an acquaintance with facts. The word for knowledge in this verse refers to precise and correct knowledge, which we know to be knowledge based on God's Word. *Wisdom* is similar to knowledge, but also is coupled with judgment to action. The word used in this verse involves a broad and full intelligence. *Understanding* has to do with superior power of discernment. Here, it means a running, or flowing together, being the culmination of the others.

Knowledge, wisdom, and understanding show the progressive manner in which God desires to work in the lives of His people. The Bible says, “...He [the Lord] will heal us... After two days He will revive us; on the third day He will raise us up that we may walk in His sight” (Hos. 6:1-2). First Corinthians 14:20 says not to be children in understanding, but to be mature. God does not desire a people that are like children and have a legalistic mindset, trying to figure out what they can and cannot do. He wants mature sons who “have their senses exercised to discern both good and evil” (Heb. 5:14).

Mt. Zion believes that Christians should be the head and not the tail, above only and not beneath (Deut. 28:13). Christians can and should participate in and influence all areas of society. We want to engage students in ways that prepare them for opportunities within and beyond the Christian church. The author of Hebrews challenges believers to leave the discussion of elementary principles and go on to perfection, which speaks of spiritual maturity (6:1). We have the conviction that greater spiritual maturity is what will bring greater societal influence.

Paul said, “...when we were children, we were in bondage... But when the fullness of the time had come, God sent forth His Son...to redeem those who were under the law, that we might receive the adoption as sons” (Gal. 4:3-5). When a person is mature, it is no longer an issue of obedience, but of responsibility. The church's full inheritance will come when she can be trusted with responsibility. This is the day when God is telling the church to rise up, walk before Him, and take her place of authority!

Goals and Objectives

As previously mentioned, Mt. Zion is committed to the development of the whole person – intellectually, socially, and spiritually. Our goal is to instruct students in principles of leadership, stewardship, and integrity.

To meet this goal, students will be challenged not only in their thought processes but also in their character. They will be challenged to develop and grow as individuals with talents and abilities that need to be brought to maturity not just for themselves, but for the good of the church and society.

While all Christians are called by God to contribute to the life of the church in some way, most will not end up serving in full-time ministry positions. While building the church is the heart of what God is doing, many of his servants will be sent into the “highways” to compel people to come in, so the Master’s house may be filled (Luke 14:23). For this reason, training students not only in biblical principles, but also in practical skills necessary to succeed, is essential.

Discipleship is an important aspect of the program. Students will, therefore, be required to participate in a *Ministry Formation* plan. This will be somewhat like an internship, but basically guided ministry participation in order to help equip each student for what he or she feels God is calling them to do.

Our vision is to train leaders who will make a difference in the world and to send out those we train to all areas of society in order to have a positive impact on the world. We will encourage those we train to use their knowledge to achieve a greater good for mankind and to extend themselves beyond what is easy, to achieve that which is honorable. This will be done by:

- a. Developing students’ relationship with God and positive relationships with other people
- b. Developing students’ knowledge, influenced by the Word so they can think from a spiritual perspective
- c. Developing students’ Christian walk – living worthy of the calling of God (learning to operate in love, abstaining from sin, and submitting to God)
- d. Developing students’ practical abilities that can be used in diverse environments
- e. Developing leadership capabilities so students can become people of influence and impact
- f. Developing and improving Mt. Zion School of Ministry & Leadership’s curricula through regular assessment, making sure that students’ educational needs are being met

A Mt. Zion School of Ministry & Leadership alumna should exhibit an aptitude in biblical doctrine as well as their target area of study. They will have also developed their character in such a way that they will be able to exemplify a Christ-centered life to those around them. They will be able to function appropriately and according to biblical principles in a wide range of contexts, whether in or outside of the church.

STATEMENT OF FAITH

- 1) We believe in one God, as revealed through the Holy Bible, which is His divinely inspired and infallible Word. God has revealed Himself as Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.
- 2) Through God's Son, Jesus Christ, we gain access to the Creator of heaven and earth through repentance, which is a turning away from sin. This allows us to be made alive through faith in Christ, which is a gracious gift from God.
- 3) In the waters of baptism, God accomplishes an inward work in our hearts as we enter into a covenant relationship with Him. Water baptism is more than a declaration of our faith. The death, burial, and resurrection of our old self is experienced in the waters (Rom. 6:4; Col. 2:12); we rise out of the waters as a new creation in Christ (Gal. 3:27), free from the sins of our past (Col. 2:11-13; 1 Peter 3:21).
- 4) Through the infilling of the Holy Spirit, we are empowered to be a visible demonstration of Christ to the world around us. The Holy Spirit (now living inside us) directs, convicts, counsels, and intercedes on our behalf; giving us added power in our Christian walk. This inward work will ultimately lead us into maturity, as we become true "sons of God."
- 5) Holy Communion is a sacred ordinance of the church, instituted by Jesus Christ. Partaking of the elements on a regular basis, with an attitude of self-examination, allowing the inward work of the Holy Spirit, keeps us in right standing with God and protects us in our Christian walk, purging and purifying anything hindering us from experiencing the best of life (1 Cor. 11:27-32).
- 6) The manifold wisdom of God will be made known to the rulers and authorities in heavenly realms through His church (Eph. 3:10). The mission of the church is to spread the good news of God's kingdom, disciple believers, and equip the saints (Eph. 4:11-13) bringing God glory, honor, and praise.

God has granted authority to His church. The universal church (the worldwide community of believers) is called to have influence in the earth. God said He would make His people the head and not the tail if they would keep His commandments (Deut. 28:13). He put Christ over all things and gave Him as the head of the church, "which is His body, the fullness of Him who fills all in all" (Eph. 1:22-23).

The local church has also been given authority by God. Authority was given by Jesus to the church to resolve conflict (Matt. 18:15-18). "Do you not know that we shall judge angels? How much more, things that pertain to this life?" (1 Cor. 6:3).

- 7) Jesus Christ will one day return and judge all people, issuing eternal rewards and punishments. Believers should always be preparing for His return with an expectation that He could arrive at any moment. Yet Jesus said the kingdom was like a man who went into a far country to receive a kingdom and gave his servants minas and said, "Do business until I come" (Luke 19:13). Jesus will return when we do not expect (Matt. 24:44; Luke 12:40). While preparing for His return, we should also commit to doing His work until He does.

The Apostle Paul said that Jesus loved the church and "gave Himself for her, that He might sanctify and cleanse her...by the word, that He might present her to Himself a glorious church, not having spot or wrinkle...but that she should be holy and without blemish" (Eph. 5:25-27). Jesus is coming for a bride that is ready (Rev. 19:7). The state of the church is the best sign of the end times and believers should not be distracted by the events of the world.

WHY MT. ZION SCHOOL OF MINISTRY & LEADERSHP?

Who should attend?

The *Parable of the Ten Virgins* (Matthew 25) teaches that Christians need to be a prepared people. Mt. Zion is committing to helping believers prepare themselves for the work that God has called them to do. Jesus told His disciples to be ready (Luke 12:40). The immediate context is for His return, but we must also be ready and prepared to take advantage of opportunities that God gives us in life. “Blessed is that servant whom his master will find so doing when he comes... He will make him ruler over all that he has” (Luke 12:43-44).

Mt. Zion School of Ministry & Leadership is for those Christians who want to play a leading role in what God is doing in the Earth today and are willing to commit themselves to training and preparation. It is for those who want to answer the call of God to “Go into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature.” (Mark 16:15). It is for those who feel they are called to “equip the saints for the work of ministry” (Eph. 4:12) and it is for those who want to be a laborer in the harvest of God (Luke 10:2).

What is required in the program?

Those who enroll in the program should understand that there are three aspects to the program that will determine your successful completion of the program:

- 1) The program is about being willing to take a step up in your commitment to becoming conformed to the image of God. An expectation will be placed upon you to work on your growth and maturity in God by:
 - a. Developing a strong relationship with God
 - b. Developing knowledge influenced by the Word so you can think from a spiritual perspective
 - c. Developing a walk worthy of the calling of God (learn to operate in love, abstain from sin, and submit to God)
- 2) You will be required to complete a program of courses designed to give you the knowledge and discipline that you will need to prepare you for the work of the kingdom. Each class will have specific goals and objectives that must be completed in order to receive credit for that class. You will be responsible for knowing the requirements and satisfying them.
- 3) Completion of the program will involve a *Ministry Formation* element – a volunteer internship to supplement each student’s area of study.

How does the program work?

The combination of academic work and practical ministry experience in the area the student feels called, will provide students with a well-rounded learning experience that will help them grow as Christians and to develop the skills necessary to reach their calling. Students will also be observed and evaluated by leaders that are dedicated to helping them progress spiritually.

As mentioned earlier in the catalog, God wants His people to become mature. One of the major signs of maturity is our ability for self-judgment and evaluation. The Scriptures teach us that the power to exempt ourselves from the judgments of the world comes when we accept responsibility to judge ourselves. First Corinthians 11:27-32 says, "But let a man examine himself... For if we would judge ourselves, we would not be judged." Each student will learn to evaluate their own development from a mind / spirit perspective, as well as develop relationships that will enhance this development.

What is the evaluation process?

Each person will be evaluated on their willingness to allow God to work on them. It is important that you realize that God deals with us directly, but God also deals with us through spiritual authority. We believe that a person can sacrifice or hinder their spiritual call by not bringing the natural man under subjection (1 Cor. 9:27). Therefore, we will monitor your spiritual growth and also the way that you conduct yourself in the natural. We feel that in preparing you for leadership, it is our responsibility to speak correction into the areas that need improvement.

You will be evaluated in each of the classes you take so that you understand the importance of being a prepared vessel fit for the Master's use (2 Tim 2:21). We expect you to give serious consideration to the assignments and the course of study and to give your time of preparation your full effort. This means that fulfilling the course requirements must include an evaluation from the instructor concerning your level of commitment to personal growth and development.

It is important that you give enrollment in this program serious consideration. It is more important that you give yourself the time needed to gain all you can from each class than that you finish quickly. You will be evaluated in your internship according to your training track, based on the way you operate in ministry and the way that you handle the people you are ministering to.

ADMISSIONS

Mt. Zion is committed to the development of the whole person: academically, socially, and spiritually. It is this commitment that future students should consider when weighing their educational decisions. Our approach, spiritual truths demonstrated in the natural, allows our students to gain experience that will give them appropriate intellectual understanding with a spiritual emphasis. Our students will become those that will effectively impact the world in the areas of business, home, and church.

Intake Interview

The student must start by meeting with a member of the school staff for an intake interview. The goal of this interview is to determine the student's desired goals and direction of ministry in order to establish a proper path of instruction.

Admission Decisions

Mt. Zion School of Ministry & Leadership seeks students who desire to apply their spiritual training to the natural world and to excel academically, socially, and spiritually. Additional consideration is given to students who lead or participate in school, community, and church activities. Approval is granted on a rolling basis once all required credentials are received.

Tuition & Fees

Tuition is currently free. Some classes may require handbook or materials fees.

Institute Ethics

Statement of Faith Required by Student

At Mt. Zion School of Ministry & Leadership students are expected to be committed Christians. Therefore, they are expected to acknowledge belief in the following, very basic, confession of Christian doctrine:

“I believe in one God: revealed as Father, Son, and Holy Spirit as portrayed in the Bible, which is God’s divinely inspired Word. Through God’s Son, Jesus Christ, I gain access to the Creator of heaven and earth through repentance. This allows me to be made alive through faith in Christ.”

Mt. Zion also expects students to attend and be actively involved in a local church.

Code of Conduct

As previously mentioned, Mt. Zion holds the position that spiritual truths should be demonstrated in the natural. Students should demonstrate that they are attempting to live a life complementary to their calling and that they are submitting to the process of sanctification that God is working in their lives.

The Fruit of the Spirit– love, joy, peace, longsuffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control, righteousness and truth (Gal. 5:22-26 and Eph. 5:9) – should be evident in their lives; or they should show that they are *at least* attempting to achieve them.

This is contrasted against the Lusts of the Flesh – sexual immorality (see 1 Cor. 6:9-11, 18-20), impurity, lust, lewdness, idolatry, sorcery, hatred, discord, jealousy, fits of anger, selfishness, dissension, division, heresy, envy, murder, drunkenness, wild parties, filthiness, greed, obscenity, foolish talk, and vulgar joking (Gal. 5:19-21 and Eph. 5:3-5) – which students should recognize as against the will of God and *at least* be attempting to abstain from.

Unrepentantly living in the lusts of the flesh, or against those of the Spirit could result in dismissal from Mt. Zion School of Ministry & Leadership.

Diversity Statement

“Galatians 3:28 says, There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free, there is neither male nor female; for you are all one in Christ Jesus.’ The American church has long been a leading force in equality and civil rights. Mt. Zion School of Ministry & Leadership is committed to fostering an environment that accommodates the diverse composition of its constituencies and the greater society it seeks to serve. *With Scripture as its guide*, Mt. Zion will not discriminate based on age, gender, race, ethnicity, or national origin.”

GRADING SYSTEM

Grade	Percent	GPA Grade
A	100 – 92.5%	4.0
A-	92.4 – 89.5%	3.7
B+	89.4 – 86.5%	3.4
B	86.4 – 82.5%	3.0
B-	82.4 – 79.5%	2.7
C+	79.4 – 76.5%	2.4
C	76.4 – 72.5%	2.0
C-	72.4 – 69.5%	1.7
D+	69.4 – 66.5%	1.4
D	66.4 – 62.5%	1.0
D-	62.4 – 59.5%	0.6
E	Below 59.5%	0.0
WP	Withdraw Passing	0.0
WF	Withdraw Failing	0.0
INC	Incomplete	0.0

LEAVES OF ABSENCE AND MAKE-UP WORK

If a student is required to take a temporary leave of absence for circumstances beyond his or her control, their circumstance will be reviewed by the instructor. Students will receive an “INC” in the course. Students will be required to complete any and all make-up work to receive a final grade. All work must be completed within 30 days after the “INC”; if not, an “E” will be recorded.

COURSE RETAKE POLICY

Students may retake a class to improve their grade in a course. Upon completion of the class their new grade will replace the old grade.

ACADEMIC PROBATION

Students must have a cumulative GPA of 2.0 to graduate. If the student’s cumulative GPA falls below the appropriate minimum GPA, the student will be placed on academic probation for the following semester. Students who are on academic probation are encouraged to seek additional help from faculty and faculty is expected to provide the help necessary, within reason, to help them succeed.

SUSPENSION / DISMISSAL

If a student is on academic probation for two consecutive semesters they may be suspended. Students may also be suspended for excessive tardiness or excessive absenteeism (see policy below). A student must be able to demonstrate academic, social, and spiritual development in accordance with our admissions objectives. Students unwilling or unable to demonstrate these objectives may be suspended. These include cheating, plagiarism, and other forms of academic dishonesty as well as lack of a Christian lifestyle.

ABSENTEE AND TARDY POLICY

Absenteeism and tardiness will affect a student’s evaluation and grade. In a course, more than 2 unexcused absences will result in failure to complete the course (3 tardies equals 1 absence, so 7 tardies will result in a failure to complete the course). An excused absence requires a doctor excuse or extenuating circumstances approved by the instructor. Any work missed must be completed or an appropriate substitute assignment may be given.

GRADUATION / GRADUATION CERTIFICATE

Upon successful completion of all coursework, along with the approval of the department head, students will receive a graduation certificate. Students will receive a graduation certificate denoting their specific area of study as outlined in the section on certificate requirements starting on page 14 of this catalog.

REQUIREMENTS FOR A MT. ZION SCHOOL OF MINISTRY & LEADERSHIP CERTIFICATE

In order to receive a certificate, students must complete the required coursework for all 3 schools – those of the Bible, Ministry, and of the Spirit. There are 20 total courses that each student must take at the Mt. Zion School of Ministry & Leadership. Students must also take *Foundations* and *Discipleship* at Mt. Zion Church and fulfill the *Ministry Formation* requirement.

General Program Goals and Objectives

Our vision is to train leaders who will make a difference in the world and to send out those we train to all areas of society in order to have a positive impact on the world. We will encourage those we train to use their knowledge to achieve a greater good for mankind and to extend themselves beyond what is easy to achieve that which is honorable. This will be done by:

- 1) Developing students’ relationship with God and positive relationships with other people
- 2) Developing students’ knowledge, influenced by the Word so they can think from a spiritual perspective
- 3) Developing students’ Christian walk – living worthy of the calling of God (learning to operate in love, abstaining from sin, and submitting to God)
- 4) Developing students’ practical abilities that can be used in diverse environments
- 5) Developing leadership capabilities so students can become people of influence and impact

An alumna should exhibit an aptitude in biblical doctrine as well as their target area of study. They will have also developed their character in such a way that they will be able to exemplify a Christ-centered life to those around them. They will be able to function appropriately and according to biblical principles in a wide range of contexts, whether in or outside of the church.

Mt. Zion School of Ministry & Leadership Schools and Program Requirements

School of the Bible	School of Ministry	School of the Spirit
Books of Moses	Church History	Semester 1
Early Israelite History		
The Divided Kingdom	Foundational Ministries (Apostles & Prophets)	Semester 2
The Exile to Christ	Ministry of an Evangelist	
	Ministry of a Pastor / Teacher	Semester 3
Introduction to the New Testament		
The Life of Jesus	The Heart of a Minister	Semester 4
The Life of Paul	Listening Skills	
Revelation	Counseling Skills	
	Group Dynamics	
Total = 8	Total = 8	Total = 4

TOTAL CLASSES FOR A LEADERSHIP CERTIFICATE = 20

(All 3 Programs are Required to Receive a Certificate)

ALL Students Must Also Take Foundations and Discipleship at Mt. Zion Church
There is also a Ministry Formation (Internship) Requirements for Students

Mt. Zion School of Ministry & Leadership Goals & Objectives

Upon Completion of Mt. Zion's School of Ministry & Leadership, graduates should be able to:

- 1) Demonstrate character traits based on God's Word – the Bible – and live a life influenced by its principles.
- 2) Demonstrate an intermediate knowledge in both the biblical text and Christian doctrine.
- 3) Demonstrate an ability to apply that knowledge to their everyday life.
- 4) Demonstrate an ability to communicate that knowledge to others in and outside of the church.
- 5) Demonstrate knowledge of the role, purpose, and responsibility of Christian ministers.
- 6) Demonstrate an ability to use ministry skills in and outside of the church to (1) equip saints for the work of the ministry, (2) edify the body of Christ, (3) bring unity to the body of Christ, and (4) ultimately help others reach higher levels of spiritual maturity.
- 7) Demonstrate knowledge of the role, purpose, and responsibility of Christian counselors.
- 8) Demonstrate the ability to counsel Christians and non-Christians alike from a biblical perspective in both one-on-one and group settings.
- 9) Demonstrate sensitivity to the Holy Spirit's teaching and leading.
- 10) Demonstrate an ability to apply God's voice to their lives, being able to discern truth within a Scripturally sound context.

COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

Ministry Formation Requirement

All Mt. Zion School of Ministry & Leadership students seeking to complete the entire program must also fulfill the School's Ministry Formation Requirement. All students are expected to both attend and be actively involved in their local church. However, they will also be required to participate in a formal Christian Service requirement *that compliments their area of study*. This is a kind of internship, or guided ministry participation.

Mt. Zion ministry staff will meet with each student prior to beginning their program to discuss what calling he or she feels God has placed on his or her life. Mt. Zion will then tailor a course of action to help each student be equipped to live out this calling.

The formation requirement must be pre-approved by the school as being relevant to the students' area of study. The service may be done at any approved Christian Church or organization. Students must also have a minister that is willing and able to coordinate with the Institute to make sure the student is fulfilling the requirements. Stewardship is an important aspect of this requirement and the student is expected to be consistent and on time when serving in their given area. Showing a lack of stewardship may result in the student *not* receiving credit.

Courses from the School of the Bible

B–BOM The Books of Moses

This course will cover the first 5 books of the Bible, written by Moses: Genesis, Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers, and Deuteronomy. Topics include historical context, textual background, and theological implications, among others.

B-EIH Early Israelite History

This class will cover the Old Testament period from Joshua through Solomon. This includes the following books of the Bible: Joshua, Judges, Ruth, 1 & 2 Samuel, 1 Kings 1 – 11, 1 Chronicles, 2 Chronicles 1 – 11, Job, Psalms, Proverbs, Ecclesiastes, and Song of Solomon.

B-KP The Kingdom Period

This course will provide a basic history of Old Testament times. It will cover the division of the Israelite kingdom to the Babylonian Captivity (ca. 930 – 580 BC). It will cover Kings and Chronicles and the prophetic books that call withing that timeframe. The course will cover the historical context in which the Scriptures were written, pertinent topics, and the application of doctrine to one's life.

B-ETC Exile to Christ

This class will provide a basic history of Old Testament times. It will cover the destruction of Jerusalem and Babylonian exile through the Inter-Testamental period, culminating in the birth of Jesus Christ. Literature will include exilic & post-exilic canonical writings, and apocryphal writings. Discussion will include the Scriptures' historical context, pertinent topics, and the application of doctrine to one's life.

B-INT Introduction to the New Testament

This course will discuss the historical background and context the New Testament. It will discuss cultural, political, and literary issues surrounding its composition. Discussions on the Gospels, Paul's epistles, and Revelation will be brief, as they will be discussed in other courses.

B-LOJ Life of Jesus

This course will provide detailed discussion on the Life of Jesus. It will go through the Gospels in chronological order, discussing the life, historical context, theological implications, and practical issues surrounding the life of Christ.

B-LOP Life of Paul

This course will explore the life of the apostle Paul in conjunction with the book of Acts and his epistles.

B-REV Revelation

Revelation is, and always has been, one of the most controversial and disputed books of the Bible. There are many ways that people choose to interpret this especially important piece of New Testament literature. The problem is that many people attempting their interpretation do not believe in prophecy themselves, and often do not understand how prophecy works. The class will explore the prophetic book of Revelation from a prophetic point of view, providing spiritual insight into what God was speaking back then, and how this applies to the church in the present day.

Courses from the School of Ministry

M-REV Revival History

This course is a brief overview of church history, focusing specifically on times of revival and awakening. This includes the Protestant Reformation, the 1st & 2nd Great Awakenings in the US, the Holiness Movement, the Pentecostal Movement, the Latter Rain Revival, and the Charismatic Renewal, all leading into what God is doing today.

M-FM Foundational Ministries: Apostles & Prophets

This course teaches the basic principles of apostolic and prophetic ministry and the vital role they both play in God's present move. This course will discuss the standard set by the Word of God that evaluates one's call. It will also discuss some contemporary views on these ministries that do not line up with God's Word.

M-EVA Ministry of an Evangelist

This course teaches the basic principles of evangelism. This course will discuss the standard set by the Word of God that evaluates the evangelist's role, message and responsibility.

M-PT Ministry of Pastors & Teachers

This course teaches the basic principles of pastoral care. This course will discuss the standard set by the Word of God that evaluates the shepherd's care over the sheep. Emphasis will be on the needs of the sheep and the responsibility of the shepherd to meet the needs. This course also teaches the importance of the Word of God, addressing how to handle, study, and teach it to others.

Life Enrichment Facilitation

As a part of the school of ministry, all Mt. Zion School of Ministry & Leadership students are required to facilitate a group in the Life Enrichment Program. Life Enrichment is a group-counseling program and takes place on Monday, Tuesday, and Thursday nights. It consists of 10-week classes that run throughout the year and address specific areas for those that attend. Anger Resolution, Healing for Women, Substance Abuse, and Grief are examples, although more are offered.

It is possible to fulfill this requirement in a different program. However, the program must be comparable and meet certain requirements. The student must get approval from the Institute before they do this at a different facility.

One clock-hour of credit will be given toward the program fulfillments. This includes the time spent actually facilitating the class, and the preparation that will be necessary for the class. One clock hour typically consists of approximately 37.5 hours designated to the activity in a given semester (see page 16). A Life Enrichment class consists of about 10 hours of class time. This gives students approximately 27.5 hours of preparation time, which should include things like prayer, becoming familiar with the material that will be taught, and building relationships with the students.

C-CT1 The Heart of a Minister

This course focuses on some of the heart issues that need to be addressed in preparation for ministry. Preparing the heart of the minister is a foundational step taken from 2 Timothy 2:21 – "Therefore, if anyone cleanses himself from the latter, he will be a vessel for honor, sanctified and useful for the Master, prepared for every good work." Using primarily the Biblical text, we will examine Scriptural principles for developing a heart of integrity for cultivating a heart conformed to the image of Christ. A workbook is required and costs \$25. Student must also take a Life Enrichment class.

C-CT2 Listening Skills

This course deals with the skills necessary to effectively counsel. A strong emphasis is placed on listening and observation skills. The student is taught the skills necessary to evaluate the client and the presenting problem. Decision-making and goal setting strategies are taught. Other topics addressed are: Identifying and challenging thought patterns and behavior patterns, reflecting meaning and feeling with the purpose of clarification for the client, and the effect of perception upon choice. Class requirements include a major test, small group class interaction for practice and demonstration purposes, a belief statement, and class attendance.

C-CT3 Counseling Skills

Prerequisite: C-CT2

This class focuses on four areas of counseling skills: Attending, Focusing, Influencing, and Confrontation. Each of these four skills is dealt with extensively. The students are taught how to use each of these skills for the benefit of their clients. They are also taught how to interpret the client's use of these skills as a means of avoiding issues or manipulating the session. Class requirements include small group class interaction for practice and demonstration purposes, a large group presentation to show mastery of material, class participation, and attendance.

C-CT4 Group Dynamics

Prerequisite: C-CT3

This course presents and demonstrates issues by way of class group dynamics. The student is taught how to facilitate a group, manage group dynamics, and inform and instruct clients through actual participation in groups. A component of the group dynamic is the presentation of key counseling issues. Instructor lecture will inform students of characteristics, behavior patterns, and issues surrounding each topic presented. Some of the presented topics include: physical and sexual abuse, domestic violence, stress, adultery, marriage, codependency, and growth development and the phases of life.

Class requirements include: Class participation in groups and a practice counseling session with a volunteer client for the purpose of evaluating their skills.

Courses from the School of the Spirit

There are not specific course offerings here. Pastor Loren will be teaching a class most fall semesters, and students will need to take 4 of them to earn a full leadership certificate. These courses will vary, and most will not be repeated.

Other courses

In order to receive a leadership certificate, students will also need to take Mt. Zion's foundations and discipleship courses. Please see the church calendar for information and offerings.