

Doctor of Ministry Opportunity

Prepared for the member's meeting – October 25, 2020 by Pastor Dave

Background

In preparation for pastoral ministry, I obtained a Bachelor of Science Degree in Church Ministry from Maranatha Baptist Bible College (1994), and a Master of Divinity degree from Calvary Baptist Theological Seminary (1999).

Over the last 19 years of ministry, I have attended numerous conferences and workshops aimed to encourage and improve my pastoral skill and ministry.

Before I was hired at CBC – I shared (on Feb. 4, 2001 – Sunday PM of candidating):

The pastor must grow therefore, I will:

- *attend conferences occasionally*
- *get educated in areas I find I need it*
- *will pursue a D. Min. degree*
- *will subscribe to certain periodicals*
- *continue to build my library*

For 19 years, I have thought off and on of pursuing a doctor of ministry degree for advanced theological and leadership training; I even audited one doctor of ministry class at Northland (4 or 5 years ago).

What is a Doctor of Ministry degree?

- It is a modular program – I will continue my pastoral duties at CBC while pursuing this degree
- It is a 30 hour degree made up of 6 classes (four credit hours each) and a dissertation (six credit hours)
- Each class is structured in three phases: 1.) preliminary work 60 days before the week of classroom instruction; 2.) one week of classroom instruction; 3.) 6 weeks of work to complete the class
- This degree is doctoral level in instruction, research, and practice – intensive for the sake of our church
- The aim of this degree is to increase my competency in the leadership and pastoral work at Country Bible Church
- Part of the dissertation is a “ministry project” which will be a thorough, strategic initiative that I would develop and implement at CBC
- This degree has several “concentrations” to choose from; I would be concentrating on Biblical Counseling

Where?

- I've been accepted at Midwestern Baptist Theological Seminary in Kansas City, MO (www.mbts.edu)
- I chose this school for its doctrinal integrity, excellence in training, emphasis on the local church, caliber of professors, and because it is a hub of biblical counseling training

Why?

Personal and professional reasons:

- I would grow in my knowledge and competence as the senior pastor and primary biblical counselor at CBC
- I would thrive in a more intensive learning environment that will improve my remaining ministry years at CBC
- I would have greater opportunities for ministry (i.e. visiting professor at a college or seminary in Liberia or Thailand, or have credentials in our community for biblical counseling)

Benefits for the church:

- More intensive theological training and leadership development for the senior pastor
- the fruit of academic study for the senior pastor would show up in better/deeper teaching/preaching and leading
- more biblical counselors could be developed within our church
- better biblical counseling could be offered to our church
- evangelism and discipleship would have greater connections through biblical counseling
- The "ministry project" required for the course would be fruitful

Why now?

- There is a growing desire for biblical counseling in our church (many have been introduced to this and have had some training)
- The elders (led by Pastor Dave) are considering a more formal biblical counseling ministry at our church
- We have three elders who have been trained (and continue to learn) in church ministries who help balance the ministry opportunities in our church
- We have a group of deacons that continue to bless our church with excellence

When?

- The plan would be to start in the spring of 2021

How long?

- The degree can be finished in 3 years
- MBTS website: this program usually takes 5 years

How much?

The cost for tuition for this program is \$15,800 which is paid in monthly installments over 3 years (roughly, \$440 a month)¹.

Other expenses:

- \$200 per seminar for books and resources
- \$25 per semester – journal fee
- \$100 per semester – registration fee
- \$150 per semester – student services fee

Traveling down for the seminars:

- Lodging
- Meals
- Travel costs

¹ <https://www.mbts.edu/current-students/tuition-fees/>

How often?

- I will be "in school" several times a year (2-3 classes per year)
- My plan (right now) is to continue my normal 6 day work week, but apply one of those days to study for the degree.²
- If the pursuit of this degree begins to interfere with my walk with God, marriage, parenting, or ministry, I will, upon the counsel of the elders, either slow down the pursuit or withdraw completely

² Also, there will be some evenings and other free time that will need to be captured for study.