Catalog

CHURCH OF GOD
SCHOOL OF MINISTRY

2017
Right to Change
The School of Ministry catalog contains current announcements and information. However, we reserve the right to make changes affecting policies, fees, curricula, or any other matters announced in this catalog.
Dear Prospective Student,

Thanks for your interest in the Church of God School of Ministry. In this catalog, you will find almost everything you need to know about the CIMS opportunity. We are here to serve you in every way we can.

By requesting this catalog, you have taken the first step in preparing yourself to help the church fulfill its purpose in meeting the spiritual needs of the 21st century. We must be fully prepared to step out as the Lord goes before us. It is our desire to make this preparation available to all who desire it.

The education you receive through the Church of God School of Ministry is not just a goal; it is a tool that can help you change the world for Christ. Through the use of modern technology and innovative methods, we seek to provide quality training for men and women who will go to the ends of the earth in answer to the call of God on their lives. We reach out to those who need further training for church leadership and practical ministry skills with all levels of education. We are committed to excellence in training men and women to become servant-leaders for Jesus Christ. We welcome you as you pursue God’s best for your life and ministry through the Church of God School of Ministry!

Church of God School of Ministry
The Church of God School of Ministry is authorized by the Tennessee Higher Education Commission. This authorization must be renewed each year and is based on an evaluation by minimum standards concerning the quality of education, ethical business practices, and fiscal responsibility.

### ABBREVIATIONS IN THIS CATALOG

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Mission Statement

The School of Ministry provides education and training for enrichment and service in a contemporary society.
Objectives

When students complete the School of Ministry studies, they should be able to . . .

• Express their personal commitment to the ministry of Jesus Christ as outlined in the Scriptures.

• Exemplify both a knowledge and a consuming love for the Word of God.

• Demonstrate a knowledge of practical skills in ministerial leadership.

• Demonstrate a knowledge of ability to lead people in worship.

• Show an improved understanding of human personality and have a sensitivity to the needs of people.

• Communicate effectively to an audience of one or many.

• Make a total life commitment to the study of the Word of God as a basis for ministry.
Declaration of Faith

We believe . . .

1. In the verbal inspiration of the Bible.
2. In one God eternally existing in three persons; namely, the Father, Son and Holy Ghost.
3. That Jesus Christ is the only begotten Son of the Father, conceived of the Holy Ghost and born of the Virgin Mary. That Jesus was crucified, buried, and raised from the dead. That He ascended to heaven and is today at the right hand of the Father as the Intercessor.
4. That all have sinned and come short of the glory of God and that repentance is commanded of God for all and necessary for forgiveness of sins.
5. That justification, regeneration, and the new birth are wrought by faith in the blood of Jesus Christ.
6. In sanctification subsequent to the new birth, through faith in the blood of Christ: through the Word, and by the Holy Ghost.
7. Holiness to be God’s standard of living for His people.
8. In the baptism with the Holy Ghost subsequent to a clean heart.
9. In speaking with other tongues as the Spirit gives utterance, and that it is the initial evidence of the baptism in the Holy Ghost.
10. In water baptism by immersion, and all who repent should be baptized in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost.
11. Divine healing is provided for all in the Atonement.
12. In the Lord’s Supper and washing of the saints’ feet.
13. In the premillennial second coming of Jesus. First, to resurrect the righteous dead and to catch away the living saints to Him in the air. Second, to reign on the earth a thousand years.
14. In the bodily resurrection, eternal life for the righteous, and eternal punishment for the wicked.
The School of Ministry was first visualized by Dr. Paul L. Walker. It was his vision for every Church of God minister to have the opportunity for ministerial training and education whether or not he/she could leave the pastorate and travel to Cleveland or whether or not he/she could afford the studies. This vision became reality in 1998 when the Church of God Executive Committee and the Council of Eighteen created the School of Ministry as the vehicle to provide this ministerial training, regardless of educational background or ability to pay. Dr. Donald S. Aultman, an experienced educator, was selected to guide the creation and development of the School of Ministry.

The School of Ministry began its work in September 1998. After acquiring a staff and finding a place to work, the school began concentrating its efforts on developing the curriculum, which is now a certificate program on the college level—Certificate In Ministerial Studies (CIMS).

Courses consist of 30-minute video-taped lessons (now available in DVD format). Study guides and textbooks accompany the DVDs. These were developed as a cohesive method of study. For example, the students (1) view the DVD lessons, (2) read the corresponding chapters in the textbook, (3) complete the discussion questions and practical applications in the study guide, and (4) demonstrate their knowledge of the material by passing the examinations in each course.

CIMS courses are varying lengths. The two survey courses (Old Testament and New Testament) consist of four exams and three CIMS credits. Other courses consist of 28 lessons and two exams for two CIMS
credits. Finally, some courses consist of only 14 lessons and one exam for one CIMS credit. These courses were designed by a curriculum team and developed by college and seminary professors, as well as senior pastors and master teachers.

In late 1999, the first course offerings were available. The first DLCs began in the state of Florida. The School of Ministry began with only a few DLCs, and every year more DLCs were added. The development team worked hard to stay ahead of the DLCs with new course offerings. The CIMS program now consists of 20 courses offering 35 CIMS credits. These courses are divided into three areas of study: (1) doctrinal, (2) pastoral, and (3) biblical.

The CIMS curriculum is also available on the Internet to any student who wishes to enroll in this venue. Students may also opt for the DVD study. However, the DLC is still the venue of choice. The interaction with other students and a facilitator is extremely valuable to the person training for ministry.

The CIMS curriculum is also offered to anyone who would like to take one or all of the courses for personal enrichment. The courses do not have to be taken for CIMS credit. Many individuals have availed themselves of these courses. Reports come in to the Cleveland office of people even outside the Church of God denomination who are also benefitting from the CIMS curriculum. Thus, ministers and laity alike are training to do the work of the church in this 21st century.

The entire CIMS curriculum is now being translated into Spanish, and portions of the curriculum are being translated into French, German, Portuguese, Arabic, Russian, Serbian, Italian, and several African dialects. The International Learning Centers function in many countries under the auspices of the international studies coordinator.

The School of Ministry has made huge strides during these past years. Not only has the curriculum been developed and the DLCs established, but now the curriculum is reaching many countries and cultures around the world.
Purpose

The School of Ministry (SOM) is a nontraditional educational initiative, created to serve ministers and other individuals who may not have had an opportunity to attend college or seminary, but who have a strong desire, based on a call of God, to minister within the church and larger community. The initial offering of the School of Ministry is the course of study leading to the Certificate In Ministerial Studies (CIMS). The study material is available to everyone regardless of denominational affiliation.

Study Options

1. Distance Learning Center (DLC)
2. Distance Learning Seminar (DLS)
3. DVD Study
4. Internet Study
5. Personal Enrichment (non-CIMS-credit study)
6. Local Church Use—Laity (non-CIMS-credit study)
Study Venues

The School of Ministry offers several different venues for completing classes in the CIMS curriculum; namely, attending a Distance Learning Center (DLC), Distance Learning Seminars (DLS), DVD study, Internet study, and non-CIMS-credit studies.

1. **Distance Learning Center (DLC)**
   A Distance Learning Center makes it possible to study under the guidance of a DLC coordinator. The coordinator leads the class meetings, using a combination of the video teaching series, the study guide, textbook, and class interaction. The calendar for the course is set by the state CIMS administrator with the approval of the administrative bishop/state overseer. Class attendance is required.

   Students are encouraged to complete their courses in a DLC setting. A DLC combines the video presentations with the presence of the DLC coordinator, which assures that students are exposed to both a master teacher on the video and a teaching resource person who is present for each class session.

2. **Distance Learning Seminar (DLS)**
   The DLS is an option where a state School of Ministry decides that a DLC could not be fully functional because of distance and driving time. Meeting times are decided on the date of the first meeting; DVDs, study guides, and textbooks are distributed at this first meeting as well. If a student spends 14 hours of personal study in a month—seven hours of viewing and seven hours of study guide and textbook—one CIMS credit could be completed each month at the DLS.

   A DLS uses the flexible quality of the CIMS curriculum to integrate DVD and/or Internet study with less frequent group meetings, allowing the advantages of all three venues to be merged.
3. **DVD Study**
   DVD study allows the student to study independently by enrolling in DVD study, viewing the DVD series, completing the study guide and reading assignments in the convenience of the student’s own home. Students must secure a qualified proctor to administer the examinations.

   Students may complete a course as quickly as desired, but they must complete the course in 12 months from the time of enrollment.

4. **Internet Study**
   Internet study allows the student to take CIMS courses by enrolling and registering for course work online. The successful completion of a course requires the student to view each streaming-video lesson (each lesson may be viewed as many as three times), complete the reading assignments in the textbook, complete the study guide (downloaded from the Internet), and pass the examinations. Examinations will be graded automatically by the Internet system and grades emailed instantly to the student and to the SOM. Upon completion of an Internet course, the student will be emailed a numerical grade and a letter grade of P (pass) or C (continue). The student may continue to take the examinations until achieving a passing grade of 70 percent.

   The student must have access to a computer with at least a 56K modem and an Internet connection. All materials are included in the Internet courses with the exception of textbooks, which must be purchased from the SOM.

   Any student in Internet study may complete a course as quickly as desired, but must complete the course in 12 months from the time of registration.

5. **Personal Enrichment (non-CIMS-credit study)**
   Noncredit students are not required to enroll in the SOM or sit for the examinations. They may complete any portion of studies by purchasing DVDs, study guides, and textbooks. They may acquire an entire course or one or more lessons that cover a subject of interest to them.

6. **Local Church Use—Laity (non-CIMS-credit study)**
   The pastor can use the material for the local church under the same condition as described for “Personal Enrichment.” Laity may acquire
study materials for their personal enrichment or ministers may use the DVD library for any local church need, including Bible classes, elder training, teacher training, Family Training Hour, or a Wednesday night series.

**NOTE: DLC/DLS**

Distance Learning Centers (DLCs) should be as centrally located as possible to the prospective students within the state. Possible sites are a church with an education center, a state office, a campground facility, or other desirable locations with a room equipped to provide a classroom environment. The classroom should have a chalkboard or marker board, a DVD player and a monitor, desks/tables and chairs.

Distance Learning Seminars (DLS) may be held wherever is convenient for the coordinator and students, since the seminars are held periodically. Possible sites are a church with an education center, a state office, a campground facility, or other desirable locations with a room equipped to provide a classroom environment. The classroom should have a chalkboard or marker board, a DVD player and a monitor, desks/tables and chairs.
Enrollment and Registration

Applying to the School of Ministry is a simple process. There are two steps—enrollment in the School of Ministry and registration for a course. A student desiring CIMS credit for any course must have enrolled in the School of Ministry. Enrollment is required only one time. A student enrolls by completing a one-page application which is sent to the registrar of the School of Ministry. The purpose of enrolling is so the School of Ministry registrar can create a permanent folder to keep a record of a student’s course work. At enrollment the student, who is a Church of God minister, may apply for a grant. The grant request, with signed approval forms, is also sent to the School of Ministry registrar.

Each enrolled applicant is accepted to do work in the School of Ministry and is eligible to complete the Certificate In Ministerial Studies. At the option of Church of God institutions of higher education, CIMS credit may be converted to college credit by that institution when the student meets the entrance requirements, is accepted, and enrolls. Meeting entrance requirements of a particular college applies to the transfer of CIMS credit to that institution and in no way affects the student’s eligibility to receive CIMS credit and the Certificate In Ministerial Studies.

Step two is to register for a course. A student is required to register for each course or set of courses taken concurrently. Registering for a course in a DLC or DLS occurs by attending the first class meeting, with payment for tuition and materials and/or a grant letter received from the School of Ministry authorizing funds for all or a portion of tuition and materials. Students without a grant letter also may be placed on a partial payment plan with approval of the DLC or DLS coordinator.
Registration for a course at a DLC or DLS is complete when one is placed on the Class Roll and Attendance Report and a copy is received by the School of Ministry registrar. At the end of the course, a final Class Roll and Attendance Report with the students’ grades will be sent to the registrar.

The CIMS curriculum and related materials are available to all ministers and all churches. One can simply secure the materials and use them for personal enrichment or in the local church as needed. But if CIMS credit for a course is desired, it is necessary to enroll in the School of Ministry and register for the course.

CIMS is simple and flexible, but there are five important regulations that must be observed to receive CIMS credit for a course.

1. Students must enroll in the School of Ministry and register for each course they wish to take. Students enroll one time, but they must register for each course or set of courses they take.
2. Students must pay for tuition and materials on an approved plan or have a grant letter confirming a set amount of grant funds from the School of Ministry.
3. Students must view course video lessons in the sequence they are presented, complete the study guide, and read the textbook.
4. Students must pass the examinations with a grade of 70. The final grade is an average of all examinations in a course.
5. A course must be completed in one year from the time of registration.

If students want to study only for personal improvement or use the material for a noncredit program in their church, these five rules do not apply. They pay no fees. They need to purchase only DVDs and other materials such as study guides and textbooks. Students can never get CIMS credit for a course unless they enroll in the School of Ministry and register for the course, or pass a proficiency examination and pay the tuition and other fees, or receive a grant.
The CIMS curriculum was designed as targeted studies for all ministerial functions—pastors, evangelists, music ministers, children/youth pastors, directors of Christian education, church planters, and ministerial applicants. While CIMS was developed for ministers, laity are invited to enroll in any of the CIMS courses. Since the CIMS curriculum can be completed in several different venues, registration for CIMS courses is accomplished in different ways.

**DLC.** Students may begin the admissions process by submitting a CIMS application to the DLC coordinator. Registration will be on the first day of class for students enrolling in a course offered in a DLC. Tuition, fees, cost of materials, or a grant letter are due at registration. In some instances, a payment plan may be arranged with the DLC coordinator.

**DLS.** An initial meeting will be called by the DLS coordinator to register for the course, distribute DVDs or set-up for viewing the course by Internet, study guides, and textbooks, and set the DLS schedule. Tuition, fees, cost of materials, or a grant letter are due at registration. In some instances, a payment plan may be arranged with the DLS coordinator.

**DVD Study.** Students may begin the admissions process by submitting a CIMS application to the School of Ministry (SOM). The applicant
will receive a letter of response. Then, registration for a student will be completed with the student’s payment of tuition, fees, cost of materials, or a grant letter, and the receipt of the materials for the course in which the student is registered. In some instances, a payment plan may be arranged.

**Internet Study.** Registration for a student enrolling for Internet Study will be completed with the student’s submission of the online registration form and the payment of tuition, fees, cost of materials, or a grant letter for the course (s) in which the student registers.
The SOM Internet location, where the CIMS curriculum may be found, is [www.ministerialtraining.org](http://www.ministerialtraining.org). For those unfamiliar with computer use and Internet browsing, the following instructions may be followed to access this site.

1. From the desktop, click the icon for your Internet Browser (Internet Explorer, Firefox, Safari, Chrome, etc.) or for your Internet Service Provider (e.g., AOL). Or, you may click the executable (.exe) file from either of the above from Windows Explorer.

2. At the URL address window on the browser screen, type in the Internet address for the School of Ministry ([www.ministerialtraining.org](http://www.ministerialtraining.org)).

3. When the SOM screen appears, click the “SIGN UP” icon on the left side of the screen. You will be prompted to fill out an application and enter a username and password for your studies. PLEASE MAKE A NOTE OF THE USERNAME AND PASSWORD YOU CHOOSE. Click “Submit” and you will be taken to a personal page prepared for you at enrollment. (On subsequent visits to the site, you will need only to click on the LOGIN icon and you will be prompted for your username and password.)

4. On your first visit to your personal home page, you will need to enroll in the courses you wish to study. To do this, simply click the link that says “Click here to view the course list and register” or the “AVAILABLE COURSES” link. You will be taken to a
screen listing SOM courses. The courses currently available for
Internet study will be visibly marked with an “Enroll Now” box
following the title. Click on this box to register in the course.
You will be taken to a checkout page where you may add another
course or complete payment for the course (s) for which you have
registered.

5. Upon subsequent visits, you will begin by clicking on the
“LOGIN” icon. You will be prompted for your username and
password and taken to your personal home page. Click on the
link to the courses page, if you are not logged in to that page
automatically. At the top of the screen, you will be given a list
of the courses for which you are currently registered. Click on
the course you wish to study at this session.

6. On the course page, click on the lesson you wish to study during
this session. The syllabus shows an icon that will permit you to
download the study guide for this lesson. After downloading the
study guide, you may click on the lesson link to view the video
for that lesson.

7. The video will now appear on the current Web page.

8. After viewing the video, you may click “Log Out” or simply exit
the program. If you click your browser’s back button to return
to your syllabus, you will have to refresh the Web page in order
to unlock the next lesson.

If you need any further assistance with our website, please visit the
“Contact Us” page of our website for a list of email addresses or call us
toll free at 877-344-0488.
CIMS Video Learning Systems

CIMS is the most important teaching tool to be created by the School of Ministry. One needs to acquire a working knowledge of the following three aspects of the CIMS program.

1. The CIMS curriculum
2. How to enroll in the School of Ministry to take courses for CIMS credit
3. How to register for a CIMS course

The curriculum consists of 20 courses, offering 35 CIMS credits (34 required) leading to a Certificate In Ministerial Studies. The CIMS credits are in three areas. Biblical Studies consists of four courses with 10 CIMS credits. Doctrinal Studies has four courses with seven CIMS credits. Pastoral studies has 12 courses with 18 CIMS credits. An achievement award is given upon the completion of course work in each of the biblical, doctrinal, and pastoral courses. Since there are no prerequisites, courses may be taken in any sequence. For example, if students want an achievement award in doctrinal studies, they can concentrate on courses in that area. (An achievement award is presented whenever the doctrinal, biblical, or pastoral section is completed.)

At the option of Church of God institutions of higher education, CIMS credit may be converted to college credit by that institution when the student meets the entrance requirements, is accepted, and enrolls. Furthermore, the student must request a transcript of CIMS work from the School of Ministry and indicate the college to which the transcript is to be mailed.

The CIMS curriculum is presented in a library of DVD lessons approximately 30 minutes in length. A course with one CIMS credit has 14 lessons and one examination. A course with two CIMS credits has 28
lessons and two examinations. Courses with three CIMS credits have 42 lessons and four examinations.

The video lessons are taught by pastors, college professors, seminary professors, and church leaders. Each course has a study guide and textbook designed for that course. Each chapter in a study guide or textbook corresponds to the same lesson on the video.

There are five ways to complete a course for CIMS credit.
1. A DLC (Distance Learning Center)
2. A DLS (Distance Learning Seminar)
3. DVD study
4. Internet study
5. Proficiency

While CIMS was created primarily for individuals whose call to ministry came before they had an opportunity for formal training, CIMS is appropriate for all ministers and is open to everyone who desires to be better equipped for ministry. The lesson content is adaptable for classroom use in the DLC, for DVD study, and for Internet study. In either case, the student is required to view the course video lessons in sequence and to complete reading assignments and the study guide examinations.

One CIMS credit requires a minimum of 15, fifty-minute segments: 14 for video viewing and studying and one for testing. Normally, video presentations are 30 minutes long, allowing 20 minutes for students to discuss the questions in the study guide. The textbook may be read on an individual basis.
Course Time Limits:
1. DLC: When taking courses through the DLC, students will follow the schedule set by the coordinator and class.
2. DLS: When taking courses through the DLS, students will follow the schedule set by the coordinator and class.
3. DVD Study: Students may complete a course as quickly as desired, but they must complete the course in 12 months from the time of enrollment.
4. Internet Study: Students in Internet study may complete a course as quickly as desired, but must complete the course in 12 months from the time of registration.

Examinations:
All tuition and fees must be paid before students will be allowed to take the final examination. Students must score at least 70 percent on the examination in order to pass. If they do not, they may reschedule the examination until they score at least a 70 percent.

Progress:
Students are notified of their progress by receiving their test scores upon completing exams.
Transcripts:
All numerical grades are sent to the School of Ministry’s office in Cleveland, Tennessee, where they are recorded on the student’s transcript.

To request an official transcript to be sent to a college or university, please submit a completed transcript request form and the $5.00 per copy fee.

A transcript request can be completed in one of the following ways:
• Complete the transcript request form (see Coordinator for a Transcript Request form) and send the form with the $5.00 payment to the Office of the Registrar at the School of Ministry, P.O. Box 2430, Cleveland, TN 37320-2430.
• Complete the transcript request form and make a payment at the following website: http://www.cogdoe.org/school-of-ministry.

Transfer of CIMS Credits
At the option of Church of God institutions of higher education, CIMS credit may be converted to college credit by that institution when the student meets the entrance requirements, is accepted, and enrolls.

The Church of God School of Ministry is a special purpose institution. That purpose is to provide education and training for enrichment and service in a contemporary society. This purpose does not include preparing students for further college study. Students should be aware that transfer of credit is always the responsibility of the receiving institution. Whether or not credits transfer is solely up to the receiving institution. Any student interested in transferring credit hours should check with the receiving institution directly to determine to what extent, if any, credit hours can be transferred.

Achievement Award
An achievement award is given upon the completion of course work in each of the biblical, doctrinal, and pastoral areas. Since there are no prerequisites, courses may be taken in any sequence. For example, if students want an achievement award in doctrinal studies, they can concentrate on courses in that area. Of the 35 credits available, 34 are required for the CIMS certificate.
Grievance Policy
If students have a grievance about enrollment, they may contact the CIMS registrar at Church of God School of Ministry, P.O. Box 2430, Cleveland, TN 37320-2430. Telephone: 1-877-344-0488 or 423-478-7011.

If a complaint is not settled at the institutional level, the student may contact the Tennessee Higher Education Commission, 404 James Robertson Parkway, Nashville, TN 37243-0830. Telephone: 615-741-5293. Any person claiming damage or loss as a result of any act or practice of this institution that may be a violation of the Title 49, Chapter 7, Part 20 or Rule Chapter 1540-01-02 may file a complaint with the Tennessee Higher Education Commission, Division of Postsecondary State Authorization.

Placement Policy
The Church of God School of Ministry does not attempt to place students in secular employment or ministry service.

Policy Regarding Conduct
The ideals of Christian character should be foremost in private deportment and all social relationships. Scripture condemns such attitudes as greed, jealousy, pride, lust, needless anger, an unforgiving spirit, harmful discrimination, and prejudice. Furthermore, certain behaviors are expressly prohibited by Scriptures. These include theft, lying, cheating, plagiarism, gossip, slander, profanity, vulgarity, adultery, homosexual behavior, premarital or extramarital sex, sexual promiscuity, pornography, drunkenness, gluttony, immodesty, and occult practices (Galatians 5:19-21; 1 Corinthians 6:9-10). Since the body of the Christian is the temple of the Holy Spirit, it deserves respect and preservation of its well-being. Therefore, the use of alcohol, illegal drugs, tobacco in any form, and the abuse of prescriptions and over-the-counter drugs violate our community standard.

NOTE: If it is determined that a student cheats on an examination in the CIMS program, the student will be dismissed from the course and will need to reapply in order to enroll in another CIMS course. The Church of God School of Ministry Coordinator will determine if the student should be readmitted into the CIMS program.
Institutional Calendar

The Church of God School of Ministry (COGSOM) does not operate on a set schedule. Since DLCs and DLS’s determine their own enrollment periods, beginning and ending dates and courses, the home office for the COGSOM does not state these times and offerings for each DLC or DLS in the CIMS Catalog. The local DLC coordinator and DLS coordinator list the information for the students. DVD study and Internet study students set their own calendar, because they study individually.

The Church of God School of Ministry at the Church of God International Offices observes the following holiday schedule:

**Holiday Schedule 2017**

- January 16: Martin Luther King Day
- April 14: Good Friday
- May 29: Memorial Day
- July 4: Independence Day
- September 4: Labor Day
- November 23-24: Thanksgiving
- December 18 – January 1, 2018: Christmas and New Year’s

**Holiday Schedule 2018**

- January 15: Martin Luther King Day
- March 30: Good Friday
- May 28: Memorial Day
- July 4: Independence Day
- September 3: Labor Day
- November 22-23: Thanksgiving
- December 19 – January 1, 2019: Christmas and New Year’s

However, Distance Learning Centers, Distance Learning Seminars, and individuals will determine the holidays that each respective location or individual will recognize.

Institutional Attendance Policy

The COGSOM has not set an official attendance policy that states the number of absences allowed. Communication has been made to the DLC coordinators and DLS coordinators that a student can make up an absence from a class. Since the curriculum is presented by DVD, if a student misses a class, the student could watch the DVD lesson individually and answer questions in the study guide for the course, which would constitute making up the missed class.
Financial Information

Tuition, fees, cost of materials, or a grant letter are due at registration. In some instances, a payment plan may be arranged with the DLC coordinator, or for the individual student, with the SOM. Accounts must be paid in full before final examinations are taken.

Refunds

DLC: Tuition for students enrolling in a DLC will be adjusted on the following scale:

After receiving a written request from the student, withdrawal within two weeks of beginning of class 100 %
Withdrawal within three weeks 50 %
After three weeks 0 %

The official date of termination will be the date of receipt of the letter of request from the student.

This policy is based on an average class completion time of 14 weeks.

DLS, DVD, and Internet Study: Tuition for students enrolling as a DVD student or for Internet study will be adjusted on the following scale:

After receiving a written request from the student, withdrawal within one month of registration 100 %
Withdrawal within two months 50 %
After two months 0 %

The official date of termination will be the date of receipt of the letter of request from the student.

This policy is based on an average class completion time of 14 weeks.
Refunds apply only to tuition. There will be no refunds for DVDs, textbooks, or study guides.

**Grants**

A grant may be awarded, based on need. The amount of the grant will be determined by the student’s financial situation. Grant request forms are included in each registration packet. Individuals desiring a grant should file the Application for a CIMS Grant with the School of Ministry. Grants are available only to Church of God credentialed ministers and individuals in the credentialing process. The purpose of the formal request for a grant to the SOM is to demonstrate financial need. This need has to be confirmed by the individual’s pastor and/or district bishop and administrative bishop/state overseer. Depending on the student’s demonstrated need, a grant may include partial tuition, full tuition, full tuition and DVDs or Internet fee, or full tuition, DVDs or Internet fee, study guides, and textbooks. Another grant request is required after one year and a minimum score of 70 percent will have to be maintained in each course.

**Proficiency CIMS credit**

CIMS credit for all courses is available by proficiency examination. Cost of proficiency examination is $60 per CIMS credit attempted, plus a one-time application fee of $25, if the student has not previously enrolled in the SOM (both fees are nonrefundable and payable at the time of application). The SOM will approve a proctor and schedule a time for the examination. The proficiency examination is the same one taken by CIMS students. With a grade of 70 percent, students are eligible for proficiency CIMS credit.

Students desiring to receive the CIMS certificate who can show that they have previously studied a selected course at an approved institution of learning, may take a proficiency test at the above cost ($60 per CIMS credit attempted plus a $25 one-time application fee, both non-refundable). Students desiring to receive the CIMS certificate who have not studied the selected course at an approved institution of learning must pay a one-time application fee ($25 nonrefundable) and the full tuition ($60 per CIMS credit) before taking the proficiency test. Ministers taking the proficiency test based on life equivalency must pay a one-time application fee ($25 nonrefundable) and the full tuition ($60 per CIMS credit). Both credentialed ministers and those in the credentialing process in the Church of God may apply for a grant to help cover these costs.
Summary of Expenses

Students in DLC classes:
- Enrollment and admission fee: $25 (nonrefundable)
- Tuition: $60 per CIMS credit

Study Guides:
- One CIMS credit: $8
- Two CIMS credits: $12
- Three CIMS credits: $18

Textbooks:
- One CIMS credit: $12
- Two CIMS credits: $20
- Three CIMS credits: $30

Students in DVD study:
- Enrollment and admission fee: $25 (nonrefundable)
- Tuition: $60 per CIMS credit

Study Guides:
- One CIMS credit: $8
- Two CIMS credits: $12
- Three CIMS credits: $18

Textbooks:
- One CIMS credit: $12
- Two CIMS credits: $20
- Three CIMS credits: $30

DVDs: $12.50 per DVD (3 or 4 lessons each)

Students using the Internet:
- Enrollment and admission fee: $25 (nonrefundable)
- Tuition: $60 per CIMS credit
Financial Information

Study Guides:
- One CIMS credit $8
- Two CIMS credits $12
- Three CIMS credits $18
(NOTE: Study Guides may be purchased or downloaded without charge.)

Textbooks:
- One CIMS credit $12
- Two CIMS credits $20
- Three CIMS credits $30

Internet Fee: $10 per CIMS credit

Students seeking proficiency CIMS credit:
- Proficiency CIMS credit $60 per CIMS credit attempted

All CIMS students who are Church of God ministers or ministerial candidates may apply for a grant.

There are no CIMS entrance requirements.
While the CIMS curriculum was created primarily for individuals whose call to ministry came before they had an opportunity for formal training, CIMS is appropriate for all ministers and is open to everyone who desires to be better equipped for ministry. Entrance requirements are a GED, high school diploma, or college entrance exams. If an applicant has none of these, the applicant will be accepted on a probationary period. The probationary period will be the enrollment and successful completion of one CIMS course. Upon successful completion of one CIMS course, the applicant will be recognized as a student in the Church of God School of Ministry.

The CIMS curriculum is presented in the following format:

1. A video lesson is presented by a master teacher. The video presentation is approximately 30 minutes in length.

2. A study guide based on the lesson presentation is designed for individual or group study in review of the video lessons. The study guide is available in hard copy. The study guide includes lesson objectives, highlights from the lesson, discussion questions, and practical applications.

3. A textbook with a chapter written from each video lesson is designed to give the student further clarification of the course material.

The lesson content is adaptable for classroom use in the DLC, DLS, DVD study, or Internet study. In either case, the student is required to view the lessons in sequence, complete the reading assignments and study guide requirements.

One CIMS credit requires a minimum of 15, fifty-minute segments: 14 for DVD viewing and studying and one for testing. Normally, video presentations are 30 minutes long, allowing 20 minutes for students to discuss the questions in the study guide. The textbook may be read on an individual basis.
## Curriculum

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<th>Areas</th>
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<td>Doctrinal</td>
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<td>Communicating Effectively</td>
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<td>Pastoral</td>
<td>Caring for People in Need: 21st-Century Benevolence</td>
<td>1</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

*Now available in Spanish
2009  Faith Foundations for Life and Ministry in the 21st Century

*

Faith Foundations

A historical overview of the postmodern world and the undermining of faith through the loss of absolutes and the relativity of morality. The course will examine ways to overcome the dangers ministers face in the loss of passion and resolve from secular attacks on the spiritual and its core truths and values. (1 CIMS credit)

Objectives

After students complete this course, they should be able to . . .
1. Describe the postmodern world in a historical overview.
2. Discuss the postmodern world and the Christian faith.
3. Identify the core values of the Christian faith.
4. Describe the moral dilemma.
5. Answer the question: “How then shall we live, individually, as disciples of Jesus Christ in a secular society?”

2010  A Journey Through the Old Testament

Survey of the Old Testament

A review of the great themes of the Old Testament, including the life of Israel, the kings, the prophets, and the development of the kingdom of God in the Old Testament. This course includes a study of the origin of man as well as the origin and decline of the Jewish nation. Consideration is also given to the poetry, wisdom literature, and prophecy of the Old Testament. (3 CIMS credits)
Objectives

After completing this course, students will be able to . . .

1. Discuss creationism as described in the Old Testament and compare it to other theories of creation.

2. Identify and discuss the various major themes of the Old Testament, including the following: (a) Life of Israel; (b) Kings; (c) Prophets; and (d) Development of the kingdom of God.

3. Describe the following aspects of the Jewish nation: (a) Origin; (b) Periods of Judges and Kings; (c) Decline; (d) Exile of the Jewish people; (e) Restoration of the Jewish nation; and (f) Spiritual implications and relevance to Christianity today.

4. Identify and discuss the various genres of literature contained in the Old Testament, including the following: (a) Poetry; (b) Drama; (c) Wisdom literature; and (d) Prophecy.

2020 A Journey Through the New Testament

Survey of the New Testament

An overview of the New Testament with consideration of the great themes of the Scripture, including the life and ministry of Christ, grace, the origin of the church, and the missionary life of the church. This panoramic view of the New Testament discusses the uniqueness of each New Testament writer, while it shows the unity of their contributions to this section of the Bible. (3 CIMS credits)

Objectives

After completing this course, students will be able to . . .

1. Discuss the following aspects of the New Testament time period: (a) political world; (b) social/cultural world; and (c) religious world.

2. Describe the necessity and process of canonization, as well as the content of the New Testament canon.

3. Discuss each of the books of the New Testament in the following aspects: (a) writer; (b) date of writing; (c) setting of the book; and (d) themes of the book.

4. Describe the origin of the church and the missionary life of the church.
5. Describe the life and ministry of Christ.
6. Discuss the relevance of the New Testament for society today.

2030 Living the Faith
*Basic Christian Doctrines*

An introduction to the great doctrines of Scripture with emphasis on the doctrine of the living God, of man, of salvation, and of the church. This course includes a study of Church of God doctrine.

**(2 CIMS credits)**

**Objectives**

After completing this course, students will be able to . . .

1. Identify and discuss the great doctrines of Scripture, such as (a) The living God; (b) Man, (c) Salvation; (d) The Church; (e) Eschatology; and (f) Heaven and Hell.
2. Discuss the doctrine of the Church of God.
3. Identify and describe the ordinances of the Church.

2040 Knowing the Holy Spirit
*Doctrine of the Holy Spirit*

A study of the person and work of the Holy Spirit, with emphasis on the Pentecostal experience and spiritual gifts. The activity of the Spirit in the Old Testament, His ministry in and through believers, and the beautiful fruit He produces is covered in this course. He seals, fills, baptizes, anoints, and inspires the followers of Christ.

**(2 CIMS credits)**

**Objectives**

After completing this course, students will be able to . . .

1. Trace the doctrine of the Holy Spirit through the New Testament, the early church, and the Pentecostal Movement.
2. Discuss the person and work of the Holy Spirit.
3. Identify and describe the gifts of the Spirit.
4. Discuss the Holy Spirit baptism.
2050  **Walking in the Truth**  
*Christian Ethics and Practical Theology*

A study of core Christian values which should impact social and individual behavior, with consideration of the issues of practical theology and ethics theory. Christian values based on the teachings of Christ are at the center of this study. On the practical side, application of these values to everyday living is emphasized. (2 CIMS credits)

**Objectives**

After completing this course, students will be able to . . .

1. Discuss the core Christian values which impact social and individual behavior.
2. Identify and discuss ministerial ethics.
3. Identify and discuss the principles of Christian ethics.
4. Describe the nature of man and the meaning of Christian love.
5. Discuss Christian values based on the teachings of Christ.
6. Discuss the following practical topics and show how they are relevant to today’s society: (a) Marriage, divorce, and remarriage; (b) sexuality; (c) racism; (d) Economy; (e) War and pacifism; (f) Abortion and euthanasia; (g) Capital punishment; and (h) Reproduction and cloning.
7. Show how Christian ethics help to form Christian character.

2060  **Rightly Dividing the Word**  
*Biblical Interpretation*

A study of the methodology of scriptural interpretation. Special emphasis will be given to the role of context in the study and interpretation of biblical content. Knowing what a passage meant to the person or persons to whom it was written is essential to understanding how the same passage may be applied today. (2 CIMS credits)

**Objectives**

After completing this course, students will be able to . . .

1. Discuss the authority, integrity, and relevance of the Bible to today’s society.
2. Define biblical hermeneutics, as well as describing the methodology of Scriptural interpretation.
3. Utilize contextual interpretation of biblical content, as well as lexical-syntactical analysis.
5. Identify the special literary methods found in the Bible.
6. Know how to read the Bible from within our traditions.
7. Discuss how Pentecostals read the Bible theologically.

2070 **Introducing the Great Themes of Scripture**  
*Biblical Theology*

An introduction to principal streams of biblical theology. Emphasis is placed on the relationship of major themes in theology as they relate to ministry in today’s church. (2 CIMS credits)

**Objectives**

After students complete this course, they will be able to . . .
1. Identify the great themes of the Bible.
2. Trace these great themes through both the Old and New Testaments.
3. Exemplify how these major themes relate to ministry in the contemporary church.

2110 **Knowing Your Church**  
*Church of God History and Polity*

A study of the ministry of the Church of God with emphasis on the growth of the church from a small southeastern group to a global church of approximately 7 million members. This course will also examine the organizational structure of the Church of God. (1 CIMS credit)

**Objectives**

After completing this course, students will be able to . . .
1. Relate the history of the ministry and growth of the Church of God.
2. Discuss the organizational structure of the Church of God on the following levels: (a) National/International; (b) State; and (c) Local.
3. Trace the training and education of ministers in the Church of God from its earliest days to the present.
4. Describe the international expansion of the Church of God.

2120 Leading With Integrity

*Church Leadership and Administration*

A study of contemporary concepts of spiritual leadership with emphasis on scriptural models for varied administrative and leadership functions, including communication, decision making, conflict management, delegation, financial accountability, stewardship and operational procedures. Christ should be at the center of the leadership role. (2 CIMS credits)

**Objectives**

After completing this course, students will be able to . . .
1. Identify and discuss the contemporary concepts of spiritual leadership.
2. Describe the value of integrity for the minister in a contemporary world.
3. Identify the characteristics of a transformational leader.
4. Identify various types of conflict and know how to manage and/or resolve them.
5. Model a five-star church.

2130 Understanding Yourself and Others

*Understanding Human Behavior*

An introduction to the study of human personality and behavior from a Christian perspective. The goal of such a study is to help the student to attain a better self-understanding and to gain a knowledge of the personality attributes of the individuals with whom he or she interacts. (1 CIMS credit)

**Objectives**

After completing this course, students will be able to . . .
1. Describe human personality and behavior from a Christian perspective.
2. Identify and discuss Erikson’s psychosocial development stages.
3. Describe the issues of death and dying.
4. Utilize the rules of conflict resolution.
5. Identify and discuss the ten principles of productive ministry.

2140 Equipping People for Ministry

Biblical Discipleship

A comparison of historical and contemporary models of discipleship, with emphasis on the pastoral role of mentoring and helping to develop lay people for ministry. This course is designed to motivate and train lay leaders to live a distinctively Spirit-filled life and to promote greater ministry involvement on their part. (1 CIMS credit)

Objectives

After students complete this course, they will be able to . . .
1. Give a comparison of historical and contemporary models of discipleship.
2. Describe the concept and benefits of mentoring.
3. Discuss how Jesus mentored His disciples for future ministry.
4. Identify the laws of mentoring.
5. Develop and mentor the laity to do the ministry of the church.

2150 Learning the Practices of Ministry

The Ministry of Worship, Ceremonies, and Observances

A study of biblical models of worship, providing a context for learning specific aspects of ministry in the Pentecostal church. Observances and ceremonies to be surveyed include worship, marriage, Communion, footwashing, dedications, funerals, and visitation. (2 CIMS credits)

Objectives

After completing this course, students should be able to . . .
1. Complete a self-evaluation of their personality and discuss the dynamics of group interaction.
2. Describe how to conduct the following ceremonies: (a) Worship, (b) Communion, (c) Dedications, (d) Funerals, (e) Marriages, (f) Footwashing, and (g) visitation.

3. Discuss stewardship for a contemporary society based on biblical principles.

4. Manage the budgets and finances of a local church.

5. Identify and discuss the various aspects of a caring church.

2160 Ministering Through Music

*Music in Pentecostal Worship*

A review of current musical types, forms, and styles utilized in Pentecostal worship, with emphasis on understanding the Scriptural role of music in worship. Attention is given to the various aspects of worship and the role of music in accomplishing them. (1 CIMS credit)

**Objectives**

After completing this course, students will be able to . . .

1. Discuss the current musical types, forms, and styles utilized in Pentecostal worship.
2. Describe the Scriptural role of music in worship.
3. Organize a music department, emphasizing the ministry aspect.
4. Describe the power of music.

2170 Planting and Growing Churches

*Evangelism and Church Planting*

A study of practical strategies for church planting in the theological framework of the Church of God. Attention is given to major strategies for evangelism such as networking, small groups, home visitation, cross-cultural, and media usage. The course also examines the characteristics of healthy, growing churches, with an emphasis on evangelism and renewal. (2 CIMS credits)

**Objectives**

After completing this course, students will be able to . . .

1. Discuss several practical strategies for church planting, including the following: (a) Networking, (b) Small groups,
(c) Home visitation, (d) cross-cultural ministry, (e) media usage.
2. Describe the profile of a church planter.
3. Discuss the process of church growth, as well as the different kinds of growth.
4. Describe how to grow the smaller church.

2180 Helping People in Crisis
Pastoral Care and Counseling

A study of helping skills for pastors. This course reviews basic counseling principles, working with people in crisis situations, in times of grief, in times of death and dying. The course also reviews referral opportunities, community resources, and ethical guidelines, including confidentiality and reportable offenses. (2 CIMS credits)

Objectives

After completing this course, students will be able to . . .
1. Identify and use the helping skills outlined in this course.
2. Conduct basic counseling sessions for the following situations: (a) Personal crises; (b) Marital crises; (c) Family crises; and (d) Burnout.
3. Counsel and bring comfort to those who are experiencing grief, death, dying, and bereavement.
4. Identify pastoral ethics in counseling.

2190 Ministering to Culturally Diverse Populations
Multicultural Implications for Ministry

A study of ministry to diverse populations with emphasis on urban ministry settings. This course examines the responsibility of the church to embrace diversity and reach out to all people. It also considers the great potential for ministry in urban areas with the varied expectations and needs of a multicultural population. (1 CIMS credit)
Objectives

After students complete this course, they will be able to . . .
1. Discuss the theological basis for multicultural ministry.
2. Identify the strengths and weaknesses of multicultural ministry.
3. Discuss the importance of multicultural ministry in today’s society.
4. Identify the role of the church in multicultural ministry.
5. Embrace other cultures into their own churches or plant a cross-cultural church.

2210 Communicating Effectively

Speech and English Composition

A review of the fundamentals of English grammar, with emphasis on writing and composition. The course will review the basic principles of speaking, the different kinds of speeches, and the various forms of speech communication. How all of this interacts with modern methods of conveying one’s message is part of this study. (2 CIMS credits)

Objectives

After students complete this course, they will be able to . . .
1. Use the eight parts of speech correctly.
2. Conjugate regular and irregular verbs correctly.
3. Make subjects and verbs agree in special situations, as well as with collective nouns.
4. Make nouns and pronouns agree.
5. Outline reports, sermons, speeches, and any other documents.
6. Use punctuation correctly.
7. Write a composition correctly, including good opening and closing paragraphs.
8. Utilize the various forms of media communication.
9. Know and use the basic principles of public speaking.
10. Know how to present oneself in a public speaking arena.
2220  Preaching the Word Today
    Contemporary Preaching

An emphasis on the basic principles of preaching and teaching the Word of God, emphasizing homiletical preaching styles, message preparation, communication methods, and treatment of contemporary issues. Attention is given to those elements of craftsmanship and theological understanding basic to persuasive preaching. (2 CIMS credits)

Objectives

After completing this course, students will be able to . . .
1. Prepare an expository sermon.
2. Analyze a Scripture passage, analyze the content and structure of a book of the Bible, and trace a theme through a book of the Bible.
3. Describe the building blocks of therapeutic preaching.
4. Utilize modern technology while preparing sermons, as well as during the delivery of the sermon.
5. Select the type of sermon needed for any particular audience, prepare and deliver it, using the best methods for the occasion.

2230  Caring for People in Need: 21st-Century Benevolence
    Care and Benevolence

A study of the biblical and theological basis of benevolence and care. This course examines the practical aspects of developing a ministry of care. Benevolence in the marketplace features interviews and discussions with care givers working in a variety of urban and rural settings and introduces the ministry outreaches of the Church of God Division of Care. (1 CIMS credit)

Objectives

After students complete this course, they will be able to . . .
1. Trace the biblical and theological basis of benevolence through the Old Testament, the teachings of Jesus, and the New Testament church.
2. Discuss the role of the church in benevolence to the community of faith and outside the community of faith.
3. Identify practical ways for the Christian to care for people in need in the marketplace.
4. Develop a ministry of care and benevolence.
Administration

Division of Education Administration

David E. Ramirez, D.Min., Assistant General Overseer and
Divisional Director
Robin Cole, B.S., Executive Assistant
Diana Brinson, B.A., Executive Secretary

General Board of Education

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Paul Schmidgall, Ph.D.
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Phyllis Thompson, M.A.
Donald Roberts, D.Min.

Ministerial Development/School of Ministry Administration

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Dwain Pyeatt, Ph.D., International Coordinator
Daniel Vassell, D.Min., Multicultural Coordinator
Brett Deaton, B.S., Media Coordinator
Nellie Keasling, B.A., Editorial Coordinator
Connie Mercer, School of Ministry CIMS Registrar
Lonna Gattenby, Graphic Designer/Assistant Bookkeeper
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Jennifer Vassell, M.S., Receptionist and Secretary (part time)
Ali Dean, B.A., Inventory and Shipping Assistant (part time)
Delton Alford, Ph.D.
*Ministering Through Music*

Dwight Allen, B.S.
*Ministering to Culturally Diverse Populations*

Donald S. Aultman, Ed.D.
*Leading With Integrity, Walking in the Truth*

Raymond Aven
*Caring for People in Need: 21st-Century Benevolence*

Michael L. Baker, Ed.D.
*Communicating Effectively*

Patrick Ballington, M.A.
*Learning the Practices of Ministry*

Ken Bell, D.Min.
*Communicating Effectively*

Donald G. Bennett, D.Min.
*Learning the Practices of Ministry*

Esdras Betancourt, D.Min.
*Ministering to Culturally Diverse Populations*

R. Jerome Boone, D.Min.
*A Journey Through the Old Testament*

Donald N. Bowdle, Ph.D., Th.D.
*A Journey Through the New Testament; Faith Foundations for Life and Ministry in the 21st Century*

James Bowers, Ph.D.
*Introduction to Covenant Care Leadership*
Gerald Brooks  
*Leading With Integrity*

Erin Burleson, M.Div.  
*Learning the Practices of Ministry*

Sam Burleson, M.Div.  
*Learning the Practices of Ministry*

Fidencio Burgueño, D.Min.  
*Planting and Growing Churches*

Joe Byrd, Ph.D., J.D.  
*Knowing Your Church*

Mike Chapman, D.Min.  
*A Journey Through the Old Testament*

Charles Paul Conn, Ph.D.  
*Understanding Yourself and Others, Introduction to Covenant Care Leadership*

David C. Cooper, D.Min.  
*A Journey Through the Old Testament; A Journey Through the New Testament; Learning the Practices of Ministry, Knowing the Holy Spirit*

Dale M. Coulter, D.Phil.  
*Caring for People in Need: 21st-Century Benevolence*

Robert Crick, D.Min.  
*Helping People in Crisis*

Terry L. Cross, Ph.D.  
*Walking in the Truth; Faith Foundations for Life and Ministry in the 21st Century; Knowing the Holy Spirit; Caring for People in Need: 21st-Century Benevolence*

Raymond F. Culpepper, D.D.  
*Preaching the Word Today; Planting and Growing Churches; Knowing the Holy Spirit*

Bryan Cutshall, D.Min.  
*Planting and Growing Churches*

Jerald Daffee, D.Min.  
*Leading With Integrity*
Contributing Faculty

Carolyn Dirksen, Ph.D.
   *Communicating Effectively*

Robert W. Fisher, Ph.D.
   *Understanding Yourself and Others*

Fermin Garcia Jr., M.Min.
   *Planting and Growing Churches*

Fermin Garcia Sr.
   *Planting and Growing Churches*

Fred Garmon, Ph.D.
   *Leading With Integrity*

R. Hollis Gause, Ph.D.
   *Living the Faith; Introducing the Great Themes of Scripture*

Bill George, D.Min.
   *Knowing Your Church*

Tom George
   *Communicating Effectively*

Doyle Goff, Ph.D.
   *Understanding Yourself and Others*

John Gregory, D.P.S.
   *Caring for People in Need: 21st-Century Benevolence*

Orville Hagan, D.D.
   *Planting and Growing Churches*

Jerome Hammond, Ph.D.
   *Understanding Yourself and Others*

Hannah Harrington, Ph.D.
   *A Journey Through the Old Testament*

Larry G. Hess, Ph.D.
   *Ministerial Internship Program (MIP); Leading With Integrity*

Tim Hill, B.S., D.D.
   *Equipping People for Ministry*
Jeremy Isaacs, M.A.  
*Learning the Practices of Ministry*

Skip Jenkins, Ph.D.  
*Living th Faith*

Steven J. Land, Ph.D.  
*Living the Faith; Introducing the Great Themes of Scripture; Introduction to Covenant Care Leadership*

Gerald Lawson, B.S.  
*Caring for People in Need: 21st-Century Benevolence*

Loran Livingston, D.D.  
*Planting and Growing Churches; Equipping People for Ministry*

David Lorency  
*Caring for People in Need: 21st-Century Benevolence*

T.L. Lowery, Ph.D.  
*Ministering to Culturally Diverse Populations*

Lee Roy Martin, D.Th.  
*Rightly Dividing the Word*

John Maxwell, D.Min.  
*Leading With Integrity*

F.J. May, D.Min.  
*Preaching the Word Today*

L. Grant McClung, D.Miss.  
*Equipping People for Ministry*

Gerald McGinnis, D.D.  
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