

MISSISSIPPI

School of Ministry

2016-17
Academic Catalog



WELCOME

If you are reading this letter it is an indication that you feel God has placed a call on you to serve Him by serving others. We are here to assist you in responding to that call. Whether it be to pulpit ministry, teaching, counseling, evangelism or whatever that ministers God's love to others, we want to equip you for that purpose. The Mississippi District School of Ministry's (MS-SOM) exists for the sole purpose of preparing students to develop into ministers and leaders that God can use to bring hope and life to those in need of salvation.

MS-SOM is only one of many means of developing your knowledge base that accentuates your abilities and talent to answer your call. We offer classes that meet the educational requirements for credentials with the General Council of the Assemblies of God as well as ministry specific courses that strengthen your serve wherever you are engaged in the local church or community.

Classes are designed to be interactive in order to stimulate your mind and heart regarding the written Word and give you help with the practical hands on, nuts and bolts of ministry. The instructors are seasoned ministers who offer years of experience, sharing successes and failures to prepare you for what lies ahead in your ministry.

I trust you will find the classes challenging yet attainable; friendly yet disciplined; practical yet spiritual. I want you to take this opportunity to fully engage instructors and peers in the quest to find the best and highest God has to offer you through this school. My prayer is that this will not end with completion of your required course but will be an entrance to a lifelong quest for knowledge and development to be all that you can be for the glory of God.

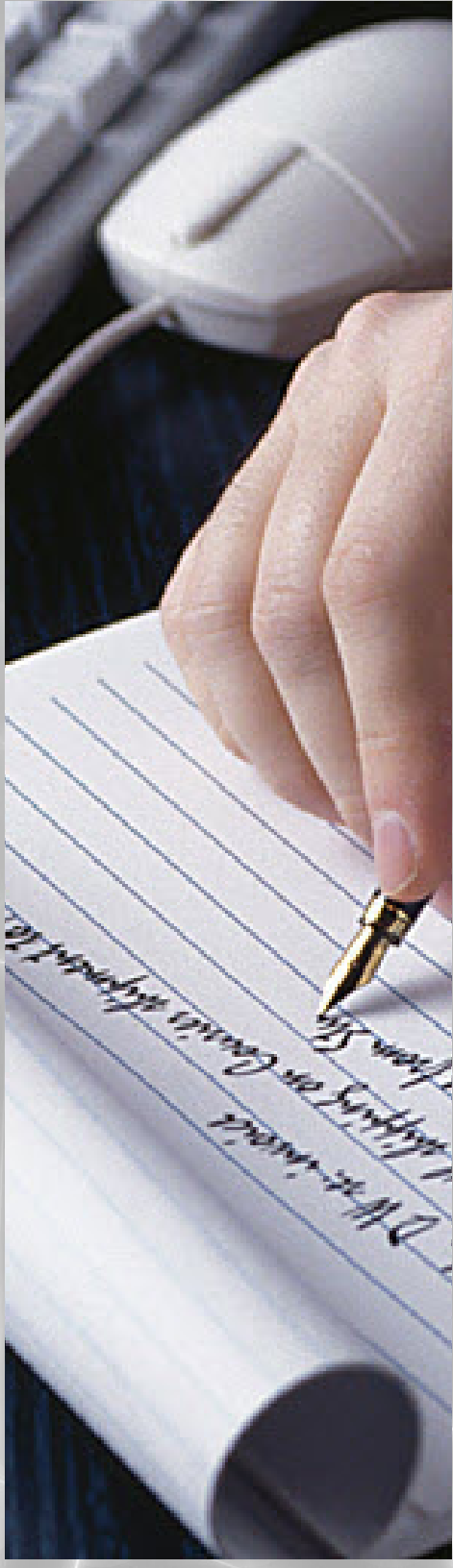
Join The Journey,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Derek Youngblood". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large loop at the beginning and end.

Derek Youngblood, MS-SOM Director

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GENERAL INFORMATION

The Mississippi School of Ministry (MS-SOM) is a vital support to the ministry endeavors of churches and pastors. Knowledge gleaned from the classroom experience becomes a valuable tool that the Holy Spirit can use to further the purpose of God in your life. Clergy and laypersons who understand not only “what to do” but “why to do it” will be far more effective than those who “just do it.”

MS-SOM integrates spiritual formation, relationship building, and academic achievement to provide a unique learning experience. Students not only acquire knowledge necessary for obtaining ministerial credentials, but also develop character and skills essential for effective ministry.

ENDORSEMENTS

The Mississippi School of Ministry has been recognized and endorsed by the Executive Presbytery of the General Council of the Assemblies of God as a District Based Bible Institute.

The school has also been endorsed by the Executive Presbytery of the Mississippi District Council of the Assemblies of God as one of the official ministerial training programs for those seeking ministerial credentials through the Mississippi District Council of the Assemblies of God.

The Mississippi District School of Ministry is a member of the District School of Ministry Association representing more than 32 districts within the Assemblies of God.

DISCLAIMER

Courses completed through the Mississippi District School of Ministry that are required by the Assemblies of God for ministerial credentials meet the educational requirements of the General Council for the respective level of credential.

Completion of the courses, however, does not guarantee that a ministry credential will be granted, nor that preferential treatment will be given to those completing the required ministerial training courses through the School of Ministry. The credentialing of ministers is a process separate from completion of the educational requirements.

PREPARING BELIEVERS FOR 21ST CENTURY MINISTRY

What is MS-SOM?

- MS-SOM is a District Sponsored and District Operated ministerial training program that enables individuals to complete the educational requirements of the fellowship for credentialing.
- MS-SOM uniquely combines home study, classroom instruction, the student's relationship with a mentor and active involvement in ministry to set their ministerial formation.
- MS-SOM seeks to provide the student with the highest quality instruction and resources possible in a practical and cost effective way.
- MS-SOM gives educational direction, sets an atmosphere for the impartation of spirit, and guides the student's spiritual development to equip them for effective, full-time ministry.

What Are The Benefits of MS-SOM?

- *Builds a strong biblical foundation.*
- *Establishes spiritual formation.*
- *Builds lasting relationships.*
- *Develops ministerial character, ethics & integrity.*
- *Time measured and cost affordable.*
- *Academically accountable.*
- *Practical in structure.*
- *Flexible & expandable in format.*
- *Instills discipline of study, time & lifestyle.*
- *Direct, hands-on involvement in ministerial training.*

STATEMENT OF PURPOSE

The Mississippi School of Ministry exists to provide training for those sensing a call to ministry, whether as credentialed ministers of the Assemblies of God, or as equipped laypersons within the local church. The school seeks to promote a unified purpose for ministry within the Fellowship, providing doctrinal and practical instruction based upon common core values and shared ministry goals.

The Mississippi School of Ministry subscribes fully to the Statement of Fundamental Truths of the Assemblies of God and commits itself to proclaim and support the principles and polity of the Assemblies of God. Additionally, the school commits itself to provide training courses that meet district and General Council educational requirements for ministerial credentials.

STRUCTURE

Classes are conducted once a month, eight times a year. Three courses are offered each month, one for each corresponding credential level (certified, licensed, ordained). Students participate in five hours of classroom instruction, with a 3-hour class session on Saturday morning (8:45 a.m.-12:00 p.m.) and a 2+-hour session on Saturday afternoon (1:15 p.m. - 3:30 p.m.). A final exam is taken at the end of the final session. Grades are e-mailed to students. Final grades will be calculated as follows: Reflections and Insights 10%, Text Study Guide 45%, Exam 45%.

Prior to class, each student is required to work through the course text and text study guide. A minimum of 10 hours of preparatory work is necessary. With the classroom time, students will have invested 16 hours per course.

The classroom instruction provides an overview of the material, practical applications, and opportunity for questions and discussion. Instructors use personal experience and a variety of teaching methods. Faculty members become natural mentors as they build relationships and share experiences with their students. Faculty advisors are available to provide accountability and guidance for the students.

STUDENT POLICIES

- Students are to register no less than three weeks prior to the course. The course must be paid for at the time of registration. Registrations will be accepted in person at the district office, by mail or online.
- Students must be eighteen (18) years of age to enroll in MS-SOM.
- Students are required to complete a minimum of 10 hours of preparatory self-study in advance of the class session. Students are required to read the course textbook(s) and to complete the course text study guide, along with additional assignments, if required, prior to class.
- Students are to bring 2 typed copies of their assignment to class, one copy to be submitted for grading and one for classroom review. Please note that all study guides must have **typed** answers. Failure to comply will result in a deduction of five points from the study guide grade.
- Students must attend all class sessions, complete the required assignments, and successfully pass the course exam in order to receive credit.
- Should an emergency arise which makes attendance impossible, the student must notify the school prior to class time in order for the tuition to be transferred. Transfer credit must be used within one calendar year. Any absence arising from a non-emergency occurrence will result in forfeiture of tuition. This transfer will not be extended beyond two absences.
- Students are required to attend orientation at 8:45. There will be a deduction from your final grade for non-attendance.
- Dress Code. In that this is considered post graduate education and a ministerial training center, we are requesting that students respect each other as to dress. Therefore, the MS-SOM Committee has determined that students adhere to a business casual attire.

REGISTRATION & INFORMATION.

1. Registration is \$15.00 per academic year. Tuition is \$55 per course. Textbooks are at students' expense. All fees are non-refundable. Tuition is transferable to another course within the same semester (2 course limit).
2. For mail in registrations, complete the registration form and return it to the district office no less than three weeks prior to the course session. Include payment for the course fee. If sent by U.S. Postal service, envelope must be postmarked by deadline. The deadline for online registration is the same. Registration is required on a class-by-class basis. Course materials will not be sent until all fees are paid in full.
3. Read your textbook(s) and complete the study guide as soon as you receive them. *A minimum of 10 hours of preparatory study is required prior to the class session.* A basic knowledge of the information covered in the text book is expected when students arrive on campus.
4. Arrive for class at the designated location by 8:45 a.m. prepared and ready to learn. Bring all pre-class assignments, completed and ready for submission to the course instructor and/or registrar.
5. If you are unable to attend a session you are registered for due to an emergency, registration may be applied to another course if you notify the district office *prior* the start of the class. See Student Policies for further details.

INTERNSHIP REGISTRATION & INFORMATION.

1. Registration is \$25.00 per level.
2. There are two semesters; January through June with the deadline being June 30th and July through December with a deadline of December 31st.
3. Contact registrar to request a registration packet. Complete the registration form and return with \$25. Once your mentor has been approved, you may begin the Internship.
4. Upon completion, contact registrar for closing forms. All forms must be completed and returned, along with all final reports as listed in the Internship Strategy, by the deadline. A 10-day extension may be requested. Additional charges may be associated with extension.

STANDARDS OF ACADEMIC INTEGRITY

Registration in the Mississippi School of Ministry requires adherence to basic standards of academic integrity. Any violation of these standards may result in disciplinary action ranging from lowering a grade to dismissal from MS-SOM, depending on the severity of the infraction. In addition, a notation of the violation will be placed in the student's permanent file which is reviewed by the credential committee and by the Presbytery during the credential process with the Mississippi District Council of the Assemblies of God.

The following examples represent some basic types of behaviors that are unacceptable. (This is not an exhaustive list.)

1. Submitting work done by someone else as your own.
2. Copying or paraphrasing someone else's essays, projects, study guides, or other work and submitting it as you own.
3. Obtaining or giving an unfair advantage by sharing completed study guides. MS-SOM is a Christian ministry development program serving to equip men and women to fulfill God's calling on their lives. Christian conduct and character are expected among students and faculty and should guide all written and verbal communication and assignments.
4. Students are expected to complete the required course assignments by their own efforts. While it is reasonable and beneficial for two or more students from the same family, church or community to study together, it is essential that each student's work be his or her own endeavor. Students should not combine their study results to make a common line of thought that appears identical on multiple pre-class session study guides. Situations of this nature will be brought to the attention of the school's administration and will be investigated to determine if discipline is warranted.
5. Sharing any information during examination will result in failure of course and possible dismissal from school.

COURSE DESCRIPTIONS – CERTIFIED (LEVEL I)

Acts

A study of Acts with concentration on the biblical theology of Acts, the historical background of events, and an emphasis on Luke's historical and theological narrative. Special attention is given to the supernatural role of the Holy Spirit in the birth and development of the church.

A/G History, Missions and Governance

This course is a study to give the students an understanding of the Assemblies of God history, missions, and governance. Historically the course is covered by studying the stories of people influential in the development of the Assemblies of God. Theological attention is given to the development of the Tenants of Faith and theology of missions with an emphasis on the people that were involved in the process. Organizationally, the General Council Constitution and Bylaws will be reviewed with a focus on the structure of the Assemblies of God as well as local church organization.

Evangelism

A theological and practical study of taking the Gospel to the world. Emphasis is given to building a church that is focused on ministry.

Introduction to Hermeneutics: How to Interpret the Bible

An introductory course on the principles for interpreting Scripture. It summarizes the need for hermeneutical principles, and explores the qualifications, tools, and goals of a biblical interpreter. This is followed by a historical survey of hermeneutics from early Jewish interpreters to the present.

Introduction to Pentecostal Doctrine

This introductory course in Pentecostal theology provides an overview of biblical doctrines significant to the Pentecostal tradition. Particular attention is given to the Person and work of the Holy Spirit, the Baptism in the Holy Spirit, and the role of spiritual gifts in ministry.

Prison Epistles

The goal for the student is a better understanding of culture, period times, religious currents in which each book was written as well as a clearer understanding of the text itself using the New International Biblical Commentary of Ephesians, Colossians, and Philemon, otherwise known as the prison epistles. This will be accomplished by highlighting important texts, adding complementary notes and listing a bibliography where the student can do further research.

CERTIFIED (LEVEL I) – CONTINUED

Relationships and Ethics in Ministry

This course will provide a general overview of the entire scope of ministerial ethics. It will address different ethical issues from biblical and theological perspectives. The course will help the student establish basic methods and approaches to maintaining high ethical standards in their lives.

Synoptic Gospels: The Life and Teachings of Christ

This course will concentrate on major events in the life of Christ. The course will focus on the time, place, circumstances, and people involved in the Lord's ministry. The goal of the course is to increase students' understanding of the Lord's message, ministry and mission, and to inspire them to be better ministers of the gospel of Christ.

Certified Internship

Perform Sacerdotal functions (funeral, baptism, communion and wedding) under the guidance of a mentor.

- Mentor and disciple a lay leader in a local church.
- Conduct a premarital counseling session under the guidance of a mentor/pastor.
- Lead someone to Christ and see them discipled in a local church.
- Keep a prayer and devotional journal for three months.

COURSE DESCRIPTIONS – LICENSED (LEVEL II)

Conflict Resolution

A study devoted to the resolution of conflict in the local church. The reasons for churches becoming unhealthy and how God wants to heal them are examined. The lordship of Jesus Christ and His methodology in resolving conflict form the basis of this study.

Eschatology

Eschatology is the branch of theology, which deals with ultimate or final things. Views of the rapture, tribulation, millennium, judgment, the new heavens and new earth, final states and other topics related to eschatology will be discussed.

Introduction to Homiletics

This course provides an introduction to the preparation and delivery of sermons. Attention is given to practical principles for the development of biblical messages. Different sermon types are introduced with an emphasis on the expository sermon.

Introduction to Theology

An introductory study in theology structured around the sixteen points of the Statement of Fundamental Truths of the Assemblies of God. The course covers biblical doctrine with a Pentecostal perspective within the larger framework of Protestant, evangelical Christianity.

Leadership Skills

This course will offer leadership insights that are practical and can be used to improve our leadership ability. Each student will glean a great foundation from which to build their leadership knowledge and begin their personal leadership journey. Leaders are built not necessarily born. Everything rises and falls on leadership!

New Testament Survey

This course will serve as an introduction to the history, literature and basic message of the New Testament. The course will address major figures, events, and themes presented in each of the New Testament books. As the result of this course, the students are expected to gain better understanding of and appreciation for the Bible as the Word of God, be strengthened in their faith, and grow spiritually in the knowledge of Christ.

Old Testament Survey

This course will serve as an introduction to the history, literature, and basic message of the Old Testament. The course will address major figures, events, and themes of the Old Testament and its foundational relationship to the New Testament. As the result of this course, the students are expected to gain better understanding of and appreciation for the Bible as the Word of God, be strengthened in their faith, and grow spiritually in the knowledge of Christ.

LICENSED (LEVEL II) – CONTINUED

Romans

Paul's letter to the church in Rome is the most extensive theological presentation in the New Testament. For this reason, it has demanded the attention of biblical students in every era. Yet, there are significant passages in Romans that are paralleled in other NT writings, indicating that Paul is addressing important issues that are not entirely new.

Theology of Missions

Introduction course into the science of missions. A survey of theology, history, and methods of Christian missions. Special emphasis on recent developments, crucial issues, current trends and missions as they are carried out through the local and national churches.

License Internship

- Critique a church board meeting with a mentor.
- Conduct a counseling session under the guidance of a mentor/pastor.
- Prepare and evaluate a personal family budget.
- Develop a report on benevolence agencies in the community.
- Keep a prayer and devotional journal for three months.

COURSE DESCRIPTIONS — ORDAINED (LEVEL III)

Church Administration, Law and Finance

A theological and practical study of the wide-ranging daily life issues of running a church-
- organizational, financial, legal, and people issues.

Corinthians

This course is the study of two letters of Paul to the Corinthians. Attention is given to the historical background and the varied issues in the Corinthian church to which Paul responds.

Pastoral Ministry

A study of the practical aspects of pastoral ministry, including the pastor's call, preaching, teaching, church leadership, family life, and more.

Pentateuch

This course will serve as a general introduction to the theology of the first five books of the Bible. The course will address various topics, including the doctrine and nature of creation, the nature of sin and redemption, the importance of holiness in life and worship, and the primacy of covenant in all of God's dealings with individuals and the whole nation of Israel. As the result of this course, students will gain a better understanding of the major themes and doctrines presented in the Pentateuch, which serve as the foundation of all further revelations. The major objective of the course will be also to strengthen the students' commitment to God and His Word.

Poetic Books

This course will serve as a study of the five poetic books of the Bible- - Job, Psalms, Proverbs, Ecclesiastics, and Song of Songs.

Theology of Worship

An exploration of the scriptural and theological foundations for individual and corporate praise and worship. Various styles and formats of worship are discussed relative to both historical and contemporary settings

Preaching in Context

This course will concentrate on the role of the preacher and his or her ability to communicate the clear message of the "Good News" of Jesus Christ to a culture that is continually changing. This course will help you with the challenge that is before you in the 21st Century to communicate the solid ground of the Gospel in a culture that is fluid.

ORDAINED (LEVEL III) – CONTINUED

Ordained Internship

- Lead a group of local church leaders through a process of specific objectives.
- Have a preaching coach/mentor critique five preached sermons.
- Develop an annual church budget (actual or sample) to be evaluated by a mentor.
- Assemble a vision team in the local church and lead them through the vision discovery process.
- Produce a vision statement to be evaluated with a mentor.
- Keep a prayer and devotional journal for three months.

