The Pastoral Training Center | Liberty Baptist Church

Keys to Success

Your keys to a successful completion of the residency are found below. Please read carefully and apply to the best of your ability.

**Monthly Group Meeting is Mandatory**

You have received the schedule well in advance so that you might have as much notice as possible to prepare. Obviously emergencies and other surprise time-sensitive issues preventing attendance won’t be held against you. But I have avoided holiday weekends to the best of my ability and plotted my own travel schedule around these meetings in order to preserve these times with you. Please do your best to avoid scheduling trips or other conflicts on meeting nights.

**Members’ Meetings and Elders’ Meetings**

All residents are strongly encouraged to attend all LBC members’ meetings. Your attendance will be noted and will factor into consideration of your successful completion of the residency.

Every resident will also be *required* to attend at least 1 elders’ meeting per semester. (This means you should attend at least 4 elders meetings during the duration of the residency.) The elders’ meetings open to you will be the 1st Wednesdays of each month but only during the first hour (8-9 p.m.). There will be a limit of 4 residents allowed in a given meeting. Please sign up for a meeting using the Calendly link provided to you later. If you have any questions, please ask Paul Gandy.

**Shadow Time and Time with the Pastors**

There will be times Nathan, Sam, Brandon, Steven, or David may invite you to accompany them on ministry business, be it hospital or home visitation, evangelistic opportunities, speaking engagements, or just to get coffee or lunch. If you’re able, please accept as many of these invites as come your way.

Additionally, you will be required to meet with 2 pastors every “semester” – once with Nathan, once with another elder. This means you should meet with Nathan 4 times one-on-one throughout the residency, and you should meet with another elder 4 times throughout the residency. (The additional elder doesn’t have to be the same each meeting.) You are responsible for reaching out and making this appointment, and you will be held accountable for failure to do so.

**Time with Jared**

This residency has been designed to be more mentoring/discipleship-heavy than academic, so relational access is important to me and I hope to you too. In terms of my involvement in the church, you men (and your families) are my priority. Call me, text me, email me (I prefer email) and let me know how I can pray for you and help you. Additionally, there will be opportunities shared ongoing to grab coffee or a meal and invites to accompany me on some speaking engagements. I plan to be as available to you as I feasibly can.

**Preaching Lab**

We will conduct 2 preaching labs during this session of PTC – the first will be October 10, 2020, and the second will be March 6, 2021. Your participation in these events is mandatory.

**Do the Work**

1. At group meetings, have your papers ready, no excuses. Come with questions. Don’t just sit there.

2. Accept any opportunity you can to serve at the church in any capacity (not just teaching or leading).

3. Accept any opportunity you can to get time with me or the elders. Be honest and transparent in conversations.

4. If you’re not currently a student, read the extra books required.

**Be Flexible**

There may be times we need to adjust schedules due to members meetings or inclement weather. We may need you to participate in service projects, fill local pulpits, help in various ministry opportunities, etc. Your ability to “roll with the changes” will speak to your pastoral constitution and versatility.

PTC MONTHLY MEETINGS

The monthly group meeting is a regular reset and refocus time, as well as a time of concentrated coaching for the residents. Failure to attend these meetings is a failure to successfully engage in the residency program.

Each monthly meeting will largely consist of these components:

**1. Turn in papers due from previous meeting’s reading assignment.**

**2. Group discussion of the reading.**

- You will benefit most from this discussion if you read the book, of course, but if also if you do so thoughtfully. Bring questions to ask and thoughts to “stir the pot.”

**3. Q&A Coaching Time**

- This is a catch-all time for any questions you might have about life and ministry – theological, personal, practical, etc.. Asking in front of the group is a great way to a) benefit others who may share your question and/or be helped by the response(s), and b) elicit multiple perspectives.

- Come with questions. Something in the reading spark something? Write it down. Something you read in another book or see on social media? Write it down. Something going in our church pique your curiosity? Write it down. Something going on in the wider evangelical world? Write it down. Have general questions about preaching, counseling, discipleship, personal balance, evangelism, anything and everything? Write them down.

**4. Teaching Time**

- Occasionally I may present a short lecture or devotion on our current ministry focus. Or we may also hear from guest speakers via Skype.

**5. Prayer Time**

- We will do a personal check-in, going around the room to see how everyone is doing. Any concerns personally or in your family we should know and pray about?

- We will take requests from each other and cover requests from the church body and then pray together.

**6. Presentation of Next Reading and Writing Assignment**

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HOW TO WRITE A PAPER FOR PTC

**1. Read the book.**

I can tell if you’re faking it. And if you have read the book but you write as if you haven’t, this will be a problem too. Do the work of processing what you’re reading.

**2. Follow the assigned question, project, or instruction.**

Don’t do your own thing. Do your best to accomplish the assigned objective.

**3. Don’t over-think it.**

I’m not looking for academic journal articles. Don’t try to impress me with scholarly jargon or a bunch of footnotes. Accomplish the assigned objective in *your* voice, with your own thoughts.

**4. Write as if writing for your flock.**

Don’t dumb anything down, but make it accessible, as if writing a blog post for your future church. Be smart, be pastoral, but don’t get fancy.

**5. Format your papers this way:**

* All papers should be minimum 3 pages, maximum 6.
* All papers should be double-spaced, one-inch margins, using a 12-point font, preferably Times New Roman, Arial, Cambria, or Garamond.
* All papers should be printed one-sided on plain white printer paper.
* Papers should include your name in upper left corner of first page, centered title below that. Please include page numbers beginning on 2nd page.
* Please cite any external sources used in footnotes. I don’t care what style (Chicago, Turabian, MLA, etc). Please cite page numbers for the primary source internally.

**6. Papers will be evaluated according to these criteria:**

* Good-faith attempt at accomplishing the assigned objective
* Well-written – mechanically, grammatically coherent
* Thoughtful. Shows you processed the material well.
* Adheres to the formatting requirements listed previously

READING LIST 2019-2021

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**Please note:** Residents who are *no*t college or seminary students have additional readings which are ***required***. In addition to the regular paper assignment for all residents, non-students must submit a one-page document consisting of quotes representative of the entire book to demonstrate at least an “attentive perusal” of the work.

**The Gospel**

Required for all:

*The Gospel* by Ray Ortlund

*Gospel Wakefulness* by Jared Wilson

*The Whole Christ* by Sinclair Ferguson

Additional required for non-students :

*Getting the Gospel Right* by R.C. Sproul

*Gospel-Centered Teaching* by Trevin Wax

*The Explicit Gospel* by Matt Chandler

**Biblical Theology**

Required for all:

*What is Biblical Theology?* by James Hamilton

*Jesus on Every Page* by David Murray

Additional required for non-students:

*Biblical Theology in the Life of the Church* by Michael Lawrence

*Preaching Christ in All of Scripture* by Edmund Clowney

**Church**

Required for all:

*The Church: The Gospel Made Visible* by Mark Dever

*The Prodigal Church* by Jared Wilson

*Life Together* by Dietrich Bonhoeffer

Additional required for non-students:

*Total Church* by Tim Chester and Steve Timmis

*The Rule of Love* by Jonathan Leeman

*The Deliberate Church* by Mark Dever

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**Preaching**

Required for all:

*Preaching* by Tim Keller

*The Supremacy of God in Preaching* by John Piper

*Preaching to a Post-Everything World* by Zack Eswine

*Doctrine that Dances* by Robert Smith

Additional required for non-students:

*The Word-Centered Church* by Jonathan Leeman

*On Preaching* by H.B. Charles

*Faithful Preaching* by Tony Merida

*Preaching for the Rest of Us* by Robby Gallaty and Steven Smith

**Ministry**

Required for all:

*The Imperfect Pastor* by Zack Eswine

*The Art of Pastoring* by David Hansen

*The Pastor: A Memoir* by Eugene Peterson

*The Cross and Christian Ministry* by D.A. Carson

Additional required for non-students:

*Brothers, We Are Not Professionals* by John Piper

*The Pastor’s Justification* by Jared Wilson

*The Reformed Pastor* by Richard Baxter

*Dangerous Calling* by Paul Tripp

**Worship**

Required for all:

*Worship Matters* by Bob Kauflin

Additional required for non-students:

*Christ-Centered Worship* by Bryan Chappell