

# **Pastoral Internship**

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## Internship is for...

The Ministerial Internship Plan has been devised to assist graduates of the Master of Divinity Program at the Seventh-day Adventist Theological Seminary in obtaining practical field experience in the various aspects of the gospel ministry. Ministerial Internship may commence prior to attending the Seventh-day Adventist Theological Seminary.

Because we are committed to spending our lives responding to God's Word we seek interns whose lives are characterized by public and private obedience to the Word of God; committed to sound teaching and living; devoted to seeing Christ formed in each other and dedicated to the task of sharing Christ with a lost world.

## Definition of "Ministerial Internship"

"Ministerial Internship" as used here is the period of time that a graduate engages in pastoral ministry under the supervision of an experienced pastor. Interns shall meet with the ordination/commissioning committee as follows:

- An intern *without* a Seminary degree is scheduled for interviews after their 2<sup>nd</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup>, and 6<sup>th</sup> years of ministry in the field.
- An intern *with* a Seminary degree is scheduled for interviews after their 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3.5 years of ministry in the field.
- An intern who has had two years of field experience will be interviewed prior to going to Seminary. Following Seminary, the 2<sup>nd</sup> interview will be done after two additional years of field experience.
- Internship ends when one is ordained to gospel ministry.

## Conference Responsibility...

1. The Potomac Conference assumes the obligation for direct supervision in training the interns during their field service, giving them opportunity for actual development in speaking and bearing responsibility.
2. Our conference endeavors to place ministerial interns where there is prospect for a well-rounded development in all the phases of the ministry—evangelistic, pastoral, teaching (i.e., personal and group instruction) and various departmental activities such as:
  - a. Evangelistic—For some months during the internship period, preferably at the outset, opportunity should be given the intern for association with one or more experienced evangelists where, by observation and participation, inspiration can be received, and the techniques of successful soul-winning can be studied.

- b. Pastoral—Training shall include association with an experienced pastor mentor. During this time, opportunity shall be given for observation and participation with the mentor pastor in the duties and responsibilities of pastoral ministry.
- c. Teaching—In the development of one who is “apt to teach,” opportunity shall be given the intern for participation in teaching individuals in home evangelism, community Bible schools, pictured-truth meetings, and evangelistic Bible and baptismal classes.

### Intern’s Responsibility...

1. During Internship, particular attention should be given to developing the following core competencies:
  - a. Evangelism
  - b. Leadership
  - c. Worship
  - d. Management
  - e. Relationship
2. Some of the basic skills, values and experiences to be demonstrated or accomplished before ordination or commissioning are:
  - Anointing
  - Developing an active Interest File
  - Appropriate boundaries
  - Balanced judgment
  - Christ-centered biblical preaching
  - Church Board Chair experience
  - Church Manual comprehension
  - Develop a balanced sermonic year
  - Develop a strategic plan for healthy church growth
  - Discipleship
  - Funerals
  - Leadership
  - Preaching of a full prophecy evangelistic series (minimum of 16 meetings)
  - Seminary or selected classes in recommended areas
  - Soul winner
  - Spirituality (the care and feeding of one’s own life in Christ)
  - Weddings

In addition to the above skills particular attention should be given to ascertaining that Pastoral Interns continue development of good judgment in decision making, personal financial planning, and developing and nurturing appropriate social relationships.