

Ministry Associates

Equipping Future Leaders *for* the Local Church

=====

Christ Church is a community of maturing and growing Christians that aim to live all of life in light of the gospel. We do this by Treasuring Christ, Maturing in His Love, and Spreading His Glory.

Our Ministry Associates program (MA) helps us to fulfill our vision to be a Training and Sending church. This opportunity for Christians keen to play a vital part in building God's kingdom to establish firm foundations for gospel ministry and to explore their calling while serving God wholeheartedly in a vibrant local church with a variety of established and pioneering ministries.

Through training, mentoring and stretching ministry experience, our Ministry Associates program aims to help ministry trainees deepen their understanding of the Bible, develop their ministry skills and become more Christlike in character. As a church, Christ Church invests strongly in our ministry associates because we are committed to doing our part in raising up a new generation of faithful Christian leaders.

Program Outline

1. **Study and Training:** Ministry Associates gather together three times per semester (three in the fall, three in the spring) to be trained by one of the pastors on a key component of ministry and leadership in the local church. The focus is on knowing the whole Bible – seeing how it holds together, studying different biblical genres, understanding how Christian doctrines are derived from the Bible and how the Bible should shape our thinking about everything – in order that we might worship and be transformed, and be better equipped to build others up. The training also covers a range of practical ministry issues - writing and leading Bible studies, one-to-one discipleship, care ministries, local outreach, cross-cultural evangelism, etc..
2. **Ministry Experience:** Each trainee is placed within a church ministry, working alongside a Christ Church ministry leader (their supervisor), and given increasing responsibility. It is an opportunity to invest deeply in gospel ministry and in people for a year. The Ministry Associate program allows participants to experience what it's like to be working for a church full-time. Participants gain insight into how a healthy local church runs, how ministry decisions are made, and the joys and challenges of full-time church ministry. They will also identify their own strengths

and weaknesses in ministry. A good part of Christian ministry consists of mundane/unglamorous but necessary tasks. Participants will have some practical responsibilities (cleaning, setting up, etc) to serve the church family.

3. **Mentored Supervision:** This is a year that trainees commit to intentionally growing their own discipleship and ministry competence. Their supervisors support them in this by providing regular guidance and feedback in ministry and spurring them on in their discipleship. The Ministry Associate program is not just concerned about developing skills and knowledge, but each participant's relationship with God and who they are becoming in Christ. In the face of constant pressure from ministry needs/opportunities, and the lure of performing well, MAs learn the importance of protecting time and energy for their unseen walk with God.

Investment

In addition to being mentored, participants will receive:

1. **Four Key Books.** These will be read over the course of the year and participants will be expected to contribute to a helpful discussion at MA meetings.
2. **Expenses Covered for the Cross Conference.** Participants will have the opportunity to have their expenses (except food) covered for the 2025 Cross Conference in Louisville, KY. The dates for the conference are: January 2nd-4th, 2025.
3. **Scholarship Funding for Ministry Education.** Participants can receive up to \$300 per semester (fall and spring) toward an approved and accredited course that is ministry-specific. Courses will need to be related to: biblical studies, theological studies, or ministry leadership and taken through an approved college or seminary.
4. **Mentor Relationship.** Participants will be paired with an older believer who will meet at least monthly with you to encourage you in Christ and process with you the things you are learning about ministry and leadership.

Key Dates for 2024-25

1. **Orientation Dinner + Meeting** on Sunday, August 18th from 7:30-9:00 p.m.
2. **Ministry Training Sessions** will generally meet on the 4th Sunday from 3:00-5:00. The dates for 2024-25 will be: Sept 22nd, Oct 20th, Feb 16th, Apr 6th.
3. **Cross Conference.** Dates are Jan 2nd-4th, 2025 in Louisville, KY.
4. **End of Year Cookout** on May 4th, 2025 at 5:30pm. This will be an informal time to debrief the year and spend time in fellowship with one another.

Participants

We have space for 5-6 participants and applications will be considered on a rolling basis until spots are filled. Applicants should already be involved in Christian service and have shown gifts for ministry and leadership potential. They should be committed to sitting under the authority of God's word and be servant hearted, reliable and growing in spiritual maturity.

QUESTIONS

1. Can Ministry Associates participate for more than one year?

Yes! There is no set time limit for how long someone may participate as a Ministry Associate. We hope to cycle through new books each year as part of the program.

2. Can participants serve for half the year?

We want participants to commit to the full school year in order to participate in the Ministry Associates program.

3. What are the Ministry Placement options and which one will I be in?

We hope to have MAs participate in several key ministry areas of the church, which can include, but are not limited to: Christ Kids, Youth, Young Adult, Welcome, Outreach + Evangelism, Adult Discipleship, and Music Ministries. Placements will be made based upon participant's preference and ministry needs.

4. What books will we read?

Given the goals listed above, we hope to have participants read books that will develop their knowledge of Scripture, theology, and ministry leadership in the local church.