

Contenders Discipleship Initiative – Equipping for Ministry

The Contenders Discipleship Initiative combines coursework with mentoring for those desiring to be equipped for ministry. This can be lay ministry within the local church or preparation for full time Christian Ministry with a sending organization accepting the CDI as meeting educational requirements.

CDI Course work:

The CDI requires individuals to register for each course and then submit a personal evaluation after that course is completed. The pastor/mentor also submits an evaluation of the student after each course.

Please note: A course is not considered completed until both student and pastor/mentor evaluations have been submitted online through the CDI website at www.vmcidi.com

The returned email copy of these evaluations must be kept by both student and mentor.

CDI Mentoring:

In addition, the pastor/mentor facilitates ministry experience as well as personal mentoring.

The mentoring process needs to be tailored to meet the goal and this might change with time as the individual's call to ministry begins to take shape.

A check list is provided for the pastor/mentor to make sure that a well-rounded experience is provided for those heading for full-time ministry as a pastor. This check list will be a part of the individual's CDI Narrative Evaluation.

See page 2 'Mentoring for Ministry' for more guidelines.

CDI Record Keeping:

The completed student and pastor/mentor evaluations for all courses and the completed check list make up the CDI Narrative Evaluation. A Narrative Evaluation 'tells the story' (the narrative) of the student's equipping.

Upon completion of all CDI course work and ministry experience those students making application for full-time Christian ministry submit their completed Narrative Evaluation as documentation.

CDI Certificates of Completion:

A copy of the completed CDI Narrative Evaluation may be submitted to Village Missions Contenders Discipleship Initiative, P.O. Box 197 Dallas, OR 97338-0197 and after review a Certificate of Completion may be awarded.

Serving with Village Missions:

This document highlights the requirements and procedures involved in serving with Village Missions. For those interested in serving with another organization, that organization should be contacted regarding its requirements.

Mentoring for Ministry

Mentoring for Ministry needs to be tailored both to the individual and the desired outcome.

Those desiring lay ministry within the context of the local church will be on a different track than those who are looking toward full-time Christian ministry.

As students take part in the CDI coursework there might be the tendency to overlook that a call to full-time ministry often starts as a call to lay-ministry.

Because of this, both the CDI pastor/mentor and the student must, from the beginning, take the registration, evaluation, and record keeping seriously. It will fall to the CDI pastor/mentor to ensure that this is the case.

A very important consideration is the call of God for ministry upon a person's life. This call of God may be clear to the mentor before the one being mentored is fully aware of it. It might also be the case that God calls someone that the pastor/mentor has not considered.

The mentor should consider how to encourage and nurture the mentee in discovering this call of God. However, the call must never come from the mentor... it must be a conviction in the heart of the one being called!

Clarifying the call of God upon the mentee's life is a major step toward a successful ministry. We want to guide our mentees in the direction that God is truly calling them and not toward our own vision for their lives.

The following checklist can be used for both those called to lay ministry and those called to full-time ministry. For those aspiring to lay ministry these are not compulsory items.

Those who are called to full-time ministry as a pastor will need to have experience in as many of these areas as possible. Obviously, the more opportunities a ministry candidate has in practical ministry experience the better equipped they will be. This should be the goal for both mentor and mentee.

As a guiding principle, the pastor/mentor should think, "What skills, ministry experiences, and personal development do I wish I had had before going to my first field of service?"

For those mentors fortunate enough to mentor someone for full-time ministry, realize that this should become a life-long partnership.

Biblical discipleship is not a program. Biblical discipleship is embarking upon a ministry journey that can best be described by the word koinonia. A fellowship of ministry. It is a partnership that sees the baton passed from generation to generation.

Mentoring for Ministry also involves the local church body. Particularly for those moving toward full-time Christian ministry it is imperative that the church family be supportive of the endeavor.

The next page is a summary Ministry Training Plan to be presented to the church board.

Ministry Training Plan for _____

_____ Church Board

Date _____

_____ are actively preparing for full time ministry with Village Missions through the Contenders Discipleship Initiative.

We have received approval from our Village Missions District Representative to begin this process with them. While there is no guarantee of acceptance by Village Missions the satisfactory completion of all the CDI courses coupled with the VM mentoring component will qualify them to apply to Village Missions.

In addition to completing the CDI course work the following is an outline of the things _____ should experience when possible as part of his Mentorship for Ministry:

- ☐ **Preaching: Sunday morning at Church, other venues**
- ☐ **Music: Preparing and Leading song service**
- ☐ **Teaching: Adults, Teens, and Children**
- ☐ **Assisting & Performing: Baptism, Communion, Wedding, Funeral**
- ☐ **Attending & Observing: Church Board meeting, other ministry related meetings**
- ☐ **Organizing & Leading: Church Services, VBS, etc.**
- ☐ **Visitation & Outreach: Home visitation, Hospital visitation, Community events, etc.**

_____ will also receive mentoring in the role of a pastor's wife.

As this should be a whole-church project, in which we will support and encourage them in their endeavors, we submit this Ministry Training Plan to the Church Board for approval.

Pastor _____ Board Chairman _____

Contenders Discipleship Initiative Coursework checklist:

Bibliology and how to study the Bible	Date begun_____	Completed_____
Christian Doctrine	Date begun_____	Completed_____
New Testament	Date begun_____	Completed_____
Old Testament	Date begun_____	Completed_____
Church History	Date begun_____	Completed_____
Evangelism, Teaching and Preaching	Date begun_____	Completed_____

CDI Ministry Experience Check list:

☐ Preaching

☐ Sunday

☐ am ☐ pm ☐ am & pm ☐ single sermon ☐ sermon series

☐ exhortation of believers ☐ evangelistic message

☐ Rest Home/Care Facility

☐ Other _____

☐ Music

☐ Preparing & Leading Sunday song service

☐ Preparing & Leading age specific songs

☐ children ☐ teens ☐ senior adults

☐ Additional Music training when possible

☐ leading ☐ instrument ☐ PowerPoint

☐ Other _____

☐ Teaching

☐ Adult SS Class

☐ Adult Bible Study

☐ Membership Class

☐ Children Church

☐ Teen Youth Group

☐ VBS

☐ Other _____

☐ **Assisting & Performing**

- | | | |
|---|--|---|
| ☐ Baptism | ☐ assist | ☐ perform |
| ☐ Communion | ☐ assist | ☐ perform |
| ☐ Wedding | ☐ assist | ☐ perform |
| ☐ Funeral | ☐ assist | ☐ perform |
| ☐ Dedication | ☐ assist | ☐ perform |
| ☐ Other _____ | | |

☐ **Attending & Observing**

- ☐ **Church Board meeting**
- ☐ **Ministerial Association meeting**
- ☐ **Camp Association meeting**
- ☐ **Village Missionary fellowship**
- ☐ **Other** _____

☐ **Organizing & Leading**

- ☐ **Special Church Service (Easter/Christmas)**
- ☐ **Adult social function**
- ☐ **Teen Activity** ☐ **Vacation Bible School**
- ☐ **Church outreach event:** _____
- ☐ **Summer Camping program (one aspect)**
- ☐ **Other** _____

☐ **Visitation & Outreach**

- ☐ **Home visitation** ☐ **churched** ☐ **unchurched**
- ☐ **Hospital visitation**
- ☐ **Nursing Home visitation**
- ☐ **Community Event:** _____
- ☐ **Local hangout: coffee shop, restaurant etc.**
- ☐ **Other** _____

Personal Development Narrative (Husband by Pastor/Mentor)

Document initial evaluation, mentoring and final evaluation

☐ **Spiritual Growth:**

☐ **Social Skills:**

☐ **Ethics:**

☐ **Marriage:**

☐ **Home Life:**

☐ **Other:**

Personal Development Narrative (Wife by _____)

Document initial evaluation, mentoring and final evaluation

☐ **Spiritual Growth:**

☐ **Social Skills:**

☐ **Ethics:**

☐ **Marriage:**

☐ **Home Life:**

☐ **Other:**

Serving with Village Missions:

Village Missions exists to glorify Jesus Christ by developing spiritually vital churches in rural North America.

We do this by equipping and enabling rural pastors to serve as missionaries in rural communities.

Successful completion of the full CDI program will qualify for making application to Village Missions but does not guarantee acceptance.

On all the online registration forms for CDI courses there is a check box for those interested in exploring service with Village Missions.

Those who are interested in serving with Village Missions should involve the V.M. area District Representative as early as possible in the process. The area District Representative will monitor progress and advise the mentoring pastor.

We also encourage Village Missionaries who are using the CDI coursework to take note of and encourage those who might be called to serve in ministry with Village Missions.

The Village Missionary will inform his area District Representative who will also inform the Village Missions Office and the C.D.I. director.

Using the check list given along with other areas of development as necessary, the Village Missionary will involve the church in the mentoring process to the edification of all.