



**MB** BIBLICAL  
SEMINARY

# TEACHING CHURCHES INITIATIVE

*Ministry Foundations Certificate*

# MINISTRY FOUNDATIONS CERTIFICATE



The **Ministry Foundations Certificate** helps emerging and veteran ministry leaders grow in their love for God and ministry effectiveness. The courses in the certificate focus on helping leaders interpret and apply Scripture, lead with integrity and excellence, share the Gospel, and make disciples in a maximum way—all from a Mennonite Brethren perspective. Churches will benefit as these leaders apply what they learn resulting in stronger leadership, relationships, and ministries.

## COURSES

### Missional Discipleship

What practices does your church use to introduce people to Jesus and equip them to be disciples? Do you want your church to be a missional, disciple-making church, but aren't sure how to get there? In this course, we will explore how we can live missionally—to live and share Jesus wherever we go, whether that is with unbelieving family and friends, neighbours, co-workers, or classmates. We will also look at how we can grow 11 essential elements that will move our churches toward greater disciple-making effectiveness.

### Interpreting Scripture Today

How do the Scriptures, the Spirit, and the interpretive community work together to discern the message and meaning of the Bible? How do we read the text carefully so that we can live it out with wisdom and faithfulness? In this introductory course, learners will develop a greater understanding and appreciation of the historical, literary, theological, and confessional value of both the Old and New Testaments, with special attention given to the Bible's interpretation and application in the Mennonite Brethren tradition.

### Christian Leadership Practices

How do churches develop leaders who are growing in their love for Jesus and their ability to serve with excellence? This course will help learners grow as Christian leaders and give them practical tools for helping others in their leadership development. Learners will explore how to strengthen six key Christian leadership practices: 1) cultivating a growing relationship with God, 2) developing godly character, 3) discerning and living out personal calling, 4) growing deep community, 5) building healthy teams, and 6) strengthening key leadership skills.

### Pastoral Care

How can the people in your church become more effective at walking alongside those facing life's challenges and opportunities? Pastoral care is an integral part of any ministry—caring for individuals dealing with personal struggles, hopes, fears, and choices. This translates into meaningful influence in the lives of those in your ministry context. This course will equip learners to understand mental health challenges and provide them with insight into key issues and topics that arise in pastoral care conversations. They will also learn tools for a biblical, integrated, and holistic pastoral care model that will equip learners to help others navigate through life well.

**\*Note:** Pastoral Care is just one of several ministry electives that learners can take to complete their Ministry Foundations Certificate. Other courses, including Managing Conflict, Strategic Planning, Understanding MAiD, and Pastor's Credentialing Orientation, may also fulfill the elective requirement.



## LEARNING OPTIONS



**MB** BIBLICAL SEMINARY

Learners can bundle the four Ministry Foundation courses into either a Graduate Certificate or a Continuing Education Certificate. Alternatively, they can take one or more courses for their own professional development without the additional certificate requirements. Credit-track students who want to integrate their learning more deeply into their ministry experience can opt to take the eight-month Integrated Ministry Experience Practicum course as an optional three-credit add-on to the certificate.

### CONTINUING EDUCATION CERTIFICATE

This certificate is for anyone who wants to receive official recognition for taking the Ministry Foundation courses for their own personal growth and/or to satisfy a credentialing body. Learners would apply to be continuing education students through MB Seminary. Once learners have successfully completed the course intensive and an applied ministry assignment, they will receive continuing education credit for the course in keeping with generally accepted standards for continuing education training. After successfully completing all four courses, learners will receive the Ministry Foundations Continuing Education Certificate.

**\$300** /course

### GRADUATE CERTIFICATE

This certificate is for those who want to take the Ministry Foundation courses for graduate credit. Those interested must apply to be students at MB Seminary. Each course has required readings and assignments that learners must successfully complete in order to receive three graduate-level credits for the course. Once learners have successfully completed all four courses, they will receive the Ministry Foundations Graduate Certificate (worth 12 graduate-level credits). If they desire to do a full master's degree at some point, they can explore transferring these courses into that program.

**\$975** /course

### STANDALONE COURSE

Learners who do not want to pursue a Graduate or Continuing Education Certificate can participate in one or more of the learning intensives without doing the follow-up assignments.

**\$100** /course

## COURSE DELIVERY

In order to make the MB Seminary Ministry Foundation Certificate courses as **contextualized and accessible** as possible, learners can participate in the courses in two ways:



Participate **onsite** in an interactive multi-day intensive at an MB Seminary Teaching Church



Participate in an **online** version of the course with professionally recorded instructional content and either online or church-based discussion groups

For more information, please contact: **Randy Wolff**, Associate Dean—[randywolff@mbseminary.ca](mailto:randywolff@mbseminary.ca)

FA21

LEARNING INTENSIVE

**SEP 17-18**

WILLINGDON CHURCH

What practices does your church use to introduce people to Jesus and equip them to be disciples? Do you want your church to be a missional, disciple-making church, but aren't sure how to get there? In this course, we will explore how we can live missionally—to live and share Jesus wherever we go, whether that is with unbelieving family and friends, neighbours, co-workers, or classmates. We will also look at how we can grow 11 essential elements that will move our churches toward greater disciple-making effectiveness.

## COURSE OUTCOMES

This course will help learners:

- Analyze current trends in Canada that influence the ways in which they can effectively contextualize the Gospel and make disciples in the Canadian context.
- Formulate a theology of discipleship that focuses on helping people grow in their faith.
- Appreciate the importance of making disciple-making a central part of church life, to more effectively develop and multiply disciples (and churches).
- Grapple with various theological issues related to evangelism and discipleship.

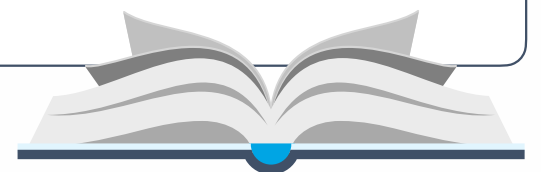


## TEXTS & ASSIGNMENTS

- *Missional Small Groups* by Scott Boren.
- *Intercultural Discipleship* by W. Jay Moon.
- *Saturate* by Jeff Vanderstelt.
- *The COACH Model for Christian Leaders* by Keith Webb.

The course assignments will help you:

- Engage in missional discipleship through small groups, coaching, and evangelism.
- Strengthen your theology of discipleship.
- Assess your church's discipleship approach.
- Sharpen your discipleship ideas in discussion groups.



## COURSE DURATION



**INTENSIVE**  
SEP 17-18

**DISCUSSION & CREDIT ASSIGNMENTS**  
SEP 17 - NOV 6



**Randy Wollf, Ph.D** Associate Dean and Associate Professor of Leadership and Practical Theology

Randy's passion for making disciples led him to help start a street ministry in Vancouver, develop disciples as a children's pastor and adult ministries pastor, move his family to live with refugees in Whalley for seven months, write a book on Maximum Discipleship in the Church, and assist with a church planting movement in Thailand.

FA21

LEARNING INTENSIVE

**NOV 5-6**

WILLINGDON CHURCH

**How do the Scriptures, the Spirit, and the interpretive community work together** to discern the message and meaning of the Bible? How do we read the text carefully so that we can live it out with wisdom and faithfulness? In this introductory course, learners will develop a greater understanding and appreciation of the historical, literary, theological, and confessional value of both the Old and New Testaments, with special attention given to the Bible's interpretation and application in the Mennonite Brethren tradition.

## COURSE OUTCOMES

This course will help learners:

- Identify and describe the main historical, literary and theological elements of the Old and New Testaments.
- Effectively interpret each of the various sections of the Bible.
- Articulate and critique various contemporary hermeneutical methods, and apply such methods and tools.
- Describe the history and relevance of the original manuscripts of the Bible.
- Describe how Mennonite Brethren interpretations of scripture are applied in the current Canadian context.



## TEXTS & ASSIGNMENTS

- "Sola Scriptura and the Mennonite Brethren" by Abe Dueck, Bruce Guenther, and Doug Heidebrecht in *Renewing Identity and Mission*.
- *The Bible Unwrapped* by Meghan Good.
- "Interpreting Scripture Today" by Doug Heidebrecht and Mark Wessner in *Direction 49*.
- "People of the Word," in *Family Matters*, by Lynn Jost.
- Old and New Testaments (read Exodus, Proverbs, Habakkuk, Mark, and Revelation).

The course assignments will help you:

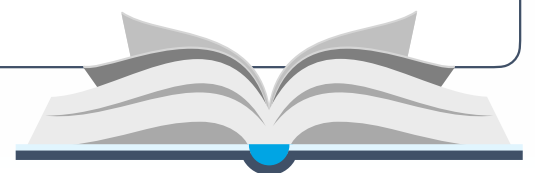
- Interpret biblical passages using the Interpreting Scripture method.
- Sharpen your understanding of biblical interpretation in discussion groups.
- Practice biblical interpretation in your ministry context.

## COURSE DURATION & ASSIGNMENTS



**INTENSIVE**  
NOV 5-6

**DISCUSSION & CREDIT ASSIGNMENTS**  
NOV 5 - DEC 18



**Mark Wessner, Ph.D** *President and Associate Professor of Biblical Studies for Leadership*

The spark of Mark's love for teaching the Bible was first lit in 1987, and he has taught in church, school, and community settings in the decades since then. Some of Mark's teaching experiences include translating portions of the Dead Sea Scrolls, pastoral ministry, leading tours to Israel, and launching two university religious studies programs.



SP22

LEARNING INTENSIVE

**JAN 7-8**

WILLINGDON CHURCH

**How do churches develop leaders** who are growing in their love for Jesus and their ability to serve with excellence? This course will help learners grow as Christian leaders and give them practical tools for helping others in their leadership development. Learners will explore how to strengthen six key Christian leadership practices: 1) cultivating a growing relationship with God, 2) developing godly character, 3) discerning and living out personal calling, 4) growing deep community, 5) building healthy teams, and 6) strengthening key leadership skills.

## COURSE OUTCOMES

This course will help learners:

- Formulate a theology of leadership that undergirds their approach to missional leadership and serves as a grid for assessing the appropriateness of leadership practices.
- Appraise their personal strengths and growth areas particularly related to their ability to lead.
- Design and begin implementing a robust personal growth plan that will encourage long-term sustainable growth.
- Assess their own style of leadership and gain an appreciation for other styles of leadership.



## TEXTS & ASSIGNMENTS

- *Spiritual Leadership* by Henry & Richard Blackaby.
- *Work, Rest, and the Art of Being Human* by John Mark Comer.
- *A Work of Heart* by Reggie McNeal.
- *In the Name of Jesus* by Henri Nouwen.
- *Assessments: Emotional Intelligence 2.0; StrengthsFinder 2.0; The Christian Life Profile.*

The course assignments will help you:

- Explore your strengths, gifts and personal calling.
- Develop a personal development plan to grow your leadership capacity.
- Strengthen your theology of leadership.
- Assess the six practices within your ministry context.
- Sharpen your leadership ideas in discussion groups.

## COURSE DURATION & ASSIGNMENTS



**INTENSIVE**  
JAN 7-8

**DISCUSSION & CREDIT ASSIGNMENTS**  
JAN 3 - FEB 26



**Randy Wollf, Ph.D** Associate Dean and Associate Professor of Leadership and Practical Theology

Randy loves to build capacity through leadership coaching and innovative, visionary leadership. He is passionate about serving churches and other organizations as they seek to make a maximum impact for Christ. In addition to teaching and seminary leadership, Randy has also served as a pastor, church planting missionary, and business entrepreneur.

SP22

LEARNING INTENSIVE

**MAR 4-5**

WILLINGDON CHURCH

**How can the people in your church become more effective at walking alongside those facing life's challenges and opportunities?** Pastoral care is an integral part of any ministry—caring for individuals dealing with personal struggles, hopes, fears, and choices. This translates into meaningful influence in the lives of those in your ministry context. This course will equip learners to understand mental health challenges and provide them with insight into key issues and topics that arise in pastoral care conversations. They will also learn tools for a biblical, integrated, and holistic pastoral care model that will equip learners to help others navigate through life well.

## COURSE OUTCOMES

This course will help learners:

- Articulate a biblical, integrated and holistic model of pastoral counselling in the context of pastoral care.
- Demonstrate reflective listening skills essential to good shepherding.
- Identify and reflectively process key issues that influence your pastoral care.
- Demonstrate familiarity with the symptoms of selected mental and emotional problems as well as the basic ethical principles of pastoral care, including knowing when to refer/seek supervision.
- Educate others about specific mental health issues and appropriate pastoral counsel.



## TEXTS & ASSIGNMENTS

- *The Cry of the Soul* by Dan Allender & Tremper Longman.
- *The Minister's Guide to Psychological Disorders and Treatments* by Brad Johnson.
- Other select readings.

The course assignments will help you:

- Strengthen your reflective listening skills.
- Develop understanding of life and mental health issues common in pastoral settings.
- Build skills in pastoral care practice through group discussions and case studies.
- Strengthen your understanding of pastoral care in your ministry context.

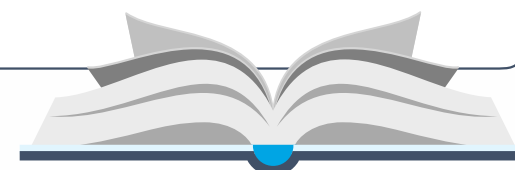
## COURSE DURATION



WILLINGDON CHURCH

**INTENSIVE**  
MAR 4-5

**DISCUSSION & CREDIT ASSIGNMENTS**  
FEB 28 - APR 23



**Gloria Woodland, DMin** Assistant Professor of Chaplaincy Studies & Spiritual Care

Gloria is passionate about the ministry of spiritual care because it reveals that God is present and active amidst the varied circumstances of life. She excels at building into learners through interactive discovery and discussion, enabling them to become effective in coming alongside others and sharing the compassion of Christ.