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A QUICK GUIDE TO THE BASIC TRAINING PROGRAM

Ministerial Study Program
Church Leadership Academy



Quick Guide to the Basic Training Program

What is it?

Basic Training is a local church-run program that prepares leaders to minister more effectively in their own church. Led initially by the pastor as the Center Leader, the program constitutes a complete introduction to basic pastoral and leadership skills for lay leaders.

What are the major parts of it?

Basic Training includes three elements: lesson materials, ministry projects, and weekly class discussions. Students are supervised and assessed in each of the three elements for every course; together they form equal thirds of a student's grade. Each element requires approximately two hours of involvement each week (a total of six hours). In the lesson materials, students are required to read portions of Scripture, answer questions, and perform other tasks according to the programmed lesson. Students are initially assigned simple ministry tasks each week, and in later courses contract with the center leader for the practical, measurable objectives they will strive to reach during that course. The course content and ministry experiences are brought together in the weekly class discussion, where the focus is on applying the course instruction to ministry and on seeking answers to questions and problems related to local church ministry.

What are the courses?

The program consists of six courses in The Life of Christ, also called *The Compendium of Pastoral Theology*. In addition to an overview of the life of Christ, the student also discovers Bible study methods, biblical history and geography, basic Christian doctrine, and principles of Christian living and skills in ministry.

How does a church get started?

The church begins by ordering the Basic Training Startup Kit through <https://cmalliance.christianbook.com/>. This language-specific CD (English or Spanish) contains *The Center Leader's Manual* (for certifying the pastor), forms, exams and score keys for each course, a Leader's Guide for each of the six courses, and an electronic copy of the student's book for the first course.

How is the pastor trained and certified?

The pastor completes the 3 to 4-hour training using the self-study *Center Leader's Manual* and is certified through an interview with the CLA office. The church then pays a one-time, "lifetime membership" enrollment fee of \$125. Approved enrollment entitles a church to use the program perpetually, with an unlimited number of church leaders. A church may discontinue or resume participation at any time. When pastoral changes occur, the new pastor completes the center leader's training and the program continues.

How are students enrolled?

Students complete an application and congregational approval form and submit these with a one-time application fee. Since the pastor and church provide the administration and supervision of each element of study, the Church Leadership Academy does not charge tuition and the church pays only for the textbooks each student needs.

How do we order materials?

An enrolled church orders student books using the online Textbook Finder.

Where are the records kept?

Final student grades for each course are reported to the Church Leadership Academy and maintained in a national database, facilitating transfers for students who relocate.

What do students receive at the end of their studies?

Students who complete the Basic Training receive a *Certificate of Church Leadership Studies* that can be presented in a special recognition service in your church.

Does it carry credit?

Some Alliance schools, including Crown College, provide partial course credit for courses taken through the Basic Training. Students who complete the Basic Training and enroll in the Ministerial Studies Program receive credit for three courses in the MSP.