CourSE DESCRIPtIONS

NOTE: The courses listed in this document represent the general offerings in the Foundations program. Courses offered at different locations may vary. The site or program coordinator may schedule some courses unique and relevant to the student’s context.

Christian Heritage: A Brief Overview
Christian Heritage: A Brief Overview, offers a very basic introduction to the history of Christianity from its origins to the present. This course will provide the learner with an essential map to guide him or her on the first voyage through the study of Christianity’s history.

Church Administration
Church Administration guides the student in reflecting upon some of the basics leadership skills needed for leading a church. Topics include the dynamics of interpersonal relationships, administrative approaches, budget preparation, planning, problem solving, leading meetings, and educational programming.

Ministry Contextualization
Ministry Contextualization (Ministry in the Local Congregation) employs an interactive approach in which several presenters will address a variety of topics important to good ministry. Topics will include ministerial leadership, the pastor and worship, managing conflict, and other timely matters of importance to congregational health. The intent is to provide relevant information and reflection on issues related to ministry leadership that are transferable from one ministry context to another.

Ministry Ethics
Ministry Ethics guides the student in confronting some of the major ethical issues commonly faced in ministry. Among the topics touched upon are professional boundaries, responsible sexuality, plagiarism and preaching, pastoral care in bioethical situations, financial accountability, and ministerial self care.

Missional Church
Missional Church offers a basic introduction to the complex dynamics of the church in relation to today’s culture. The study introduces the concept of missional paradigms (models for understanding the church’s mission or purpose), challenges of contemporary contextualization (understanding the church’s purpose in relation to the world in which it is situated), and important elements of an “emerging church” paradigm (new ways for understating the church in relation to the needs of today’s society).

New Testament: A Brief Overview

Old Testament: A Brief Overview
Old Testament: A Brief Overview, presents an overview of the Old Testament, focused around biblical Israel’s story. Major books of the Old Testament are introduced from the context of the theological development within ancient Israel’s faith tradition.

**Pastoral Arts**
Pastoral Arts offers a very basic introduction to a wide variety of ministry arts that are essential for an effective pastor. Topics will include such activities as hospital visitation, weddings, funerals, home visitation, congregational nurture, pastoral counseling, and spiritual formation of new believers.

**Proclamation**
Proclamation introduces the student to some of the basics of the art of preaching. Focus is given to the purpose of preaching, how the Bible is responsibly used in preaching, and basic points of good preaching delivery and style.

**Protestantism in America**
This course will introduce the student to the history and development of Protestant traditions in America.