

INTERNSHIP APPLICATION

In I Timothy 3 the qualities of a spiritual leader are clearly enumerated. These characteristics are applicable not only to current spiritual leaders but for emerging spiritual leaders to strive towards. The following are some of the qualities that Mountain View interns will be required to achieve in order to live a life that brings glory to God:

Calling: Spiritual leaders are called and gifted by God to be leaders. There is the desire to lead others and to help them become all that God has called them to be. There resides a desire deep in a true spiritual leader's heart to do ministry and to release others into ministry. God calls people to lead and to follow. Leaders have a calling and a passion from God to lead.

Character: Character is a matter of the heart. For a Christian leader this is a matter of one's relationship with Jesus, one's maturity. Character is defined in Paul's lists in 1 Timothy 3:1-13 and Titus 1:5-9. There are twenty-four listed character issues for elders, deacons, or leaders in the Church. They are issues of honesty, integrity, and loyalty. Without character, the Church may have leaders who have skills but cannot manage them and, as a result, end up in all kinds of trouble. Leadership failings and scandals come from the breakdown of character. If all other factors are working, then people will follow, but a lack of character does incredible damage to both leaders and followers.

Competence: The Church wants to be led by people who know what they are doing. God gives all His children competence in different areas. Competence comes as one develops the necessary skills. It is difficult to imagine a leader who has no competence to lead. If there is no competence, no one will follow. People will not trust themselves to their hands for guidance, especially into unknown territory, if a leader does not know what he or she is doing. In these circumstances, believers in battle find themselves taking the wrong hill at the wrong time with the wrong weapons. That leads to disaster. Leaders without competence have no trusting group of followers. Spiritual leaders are recognized as having competence, because they show up everyday, keep improving, follow through, remain true to their word, do more than is expected, and inspire that kind of effort in others.

Chemistry: There is a need to build teams that love each other and work well together.

Commitment: Spiritual leaders first must commit their hearts and lives to Jesus as their Leader and Lord. They have experienced salvation that has changed them and gives them a biblical life in which they repent, are baptized, receive the Holy Spirit, devote themselves to apostolic teaching, experience fellowship in communion, frequently pray, and continue in purity. When Jesus calls, His followers say, "Yes!" Spiritual leaders have a growing, vibrant, and maturing relationship with Jesus Christ that understands that He is the source and that they must remain intimately connected to Him in order to accomplish anything of value. They know that apart from their commitment to Jesus, they can do nothing. In essence, they live their lives for Jesus.

Communication: Spiritual leaders are called to communicate a God-honoring vision. It is a commitment to listen to the voice of God through the Bible and the Holy Spirit and then share that with others. Jesus said to the Sadducees, who did not know God and hear His voice as they should, “Your problem is that you don’t know the Scriptures, and you don’t know the power of God” (Matthew 22:29). When leaders do not know the Scriptures, like the Sadducees they do not know the power of God. Furthermore, when leaders do not recognize the voice of the Holy Spirit and obey it, they also miss out on what God is saying to those they lead.

Courage: To be a spiritual leader, one needs courage to implement faith and risk. Faith in God and others allows a person to risk. Without risks, no one can lead to anything of true significance. It is character and competence that tell a follower what and when to join, while faith and risk encourage a follower to step out in courage. Without courage one may know what to do but will never have the strength to accomplish it. The faith of leaders empowers their courage and does not reside in ability. It is in God who has called them to lead and in whom they remain confident that He will release in them the power of the Holy Spirit. Faith is in God’s ability. Spiritual leaders know they are in a spiritual battle and dress accordingly to remain ever ready to fight the good fight of faith against the real enemy, the devil, and the evil rules and authorities of the unseen world. This type of courage translates as faith in Jesus who has overcome the world. It is courage due to the faith that spiritual leaders have in the authority that they have received from Jesus. This courage is from faith in God and leads a spiritual head to take leadership risks.

Compassion: Essentially, leaders are shepherds; therefore, they are called to lead sheep. To lead sheep effectively, a shepherd must care well for the sheep: love them, feed them, nourish them, serve as an instrument of healing, take care to guide them if they are on a dangerous path, and at all times have compassion for them. In fact, shepherds must have so much compassion that they are willing to leave the ninety-nine sheep in search of the one that has wandered. For leaders to shepherd successfully, they have to intimately care about those they lead. They cannot use those they lead for personal purposes. The sheep do not exist to serve the shepherd; the shepherd exists to serve the sheep.

Charismatic: People look for spiritual leaders who will seek the baptism of the Holy Spirit that Jesus promised and lead them in a Pentecostal experience. There is an empowerment that comes from God and is tied into water baptism and is marked by power to witness and live differently, a power to overcome sin and live as God’s children. The power of sin is broken through the infilling of the Holy Spirit. The spiritual leader is empowered to live a life controlled by the Holy Spirit. In the life of the spiritual leader the “anointing” of the Holy Spirit makes ministry effective. The Holy Spirit comes to anoint believers and makes them spiritual leaders. To live as a charismatic leader, one must be immersed in holiness.

1. Classroom Teaching:

Students will take classes from the MVCC School of Ministry during their stay (course titles include: Spiritual Leadership, Spiritual Formation, Doing Church As a Team, Prayer Ministry, Evangelism, etc...).

2. Field Experience:

Students will be involved in various ministry assignments at MVCC. The emphasis will be on experiences that approximate real-life church ministry.

3. Mentoring:

Students will meet weekly with an MVCC staff ministry to discuss ministry issues, personal spiritual growth, etc....

(An attached resume that provides the requested information is acceptable.)

A. PERSONAL INFORMATION

Name _____

Address _____

Phone # _____ Cell # _____

E-mail _____

Date of Birth ____ / ____ / ____

Marital Status _____

Spouse's name (if applicable) _____

B. EDUCATIONAL EXPERIENCE

High School:

College:

Graduate School:

Other educational experience (conference, seminars, etc...)

C. CHURCH EXPERIENCE

Name and contact info for home church:

Attended since: _____

Any other churches that you attended previously?

D. MINISTRY EXPERIENCE

1. Paid Ministry Experience: Please provide a listing of the ministry positions, the names of your ministry employers, dates of employment, basic responsibilities, etc...

2. Unpaid Ministry Experience: same info as above.

E. OTHER WORK EXPERIENCE

F. SPIRITUAL LIFE

Please write and attach a testimony of your spiritual life including an account of your conversion, baptism, & call to ministry.

QUESTIONS

Please attach a sheet with your answers to the following questions:

Do you agree with the Mennonite Brethren Confession of Faith?

Tell us about opportunities that you have had to share your faith and help others become Christians.

Who has been the most influential spiritual mentor in your life?

Are you currently tithing to your local church?

Tell us about your experiences with the Holy Spirit?

Describe any challenges that you have had with addictions including substance abuse, pornography, etc...

What are your top three spiritual gifts?

What kind of ministry do you most enjoy? Do you picture yourself entering full-time ministry in the future?

Do you have any financial debt? If yes, please detail the amount and nature of the debt.

Are you ready to serve as an student/intern and submit to the leadership at MVCC?

Describe your devotional life.

Tell us about your physical exercise habits.

If married, how does your spouse feel about serving with you in ministry?

H. REFERENCES

Please provide 3 references - one friend, one pastor and one co-laborer in ministry.

Internship Covenant

We believe that participating in an internship at MVCC represents significant leadership in the body of Christ. It is an honor that carries with it additional responsibilities before God. Therefore, we ask you to affirm the following statements by signing this document.

Elijah Program Commitments:

I have read and signed the MVCC membership and ministry leader's covenants and affirm that I will abide by them.

I have read and understood my job and description and I affirm that I will abide by its requirements.

During my internship I will not consume alcohol, drugs or use tobacco products and I will keep myself sexually pure and avoid all appearances of evil.

I will apply myself diligently to my SOM classes and fulfill all the academic requirements to the best of my abilities.

I understand, accept and commit to these responsibilities.

_____ / ____ / ____
Intern Signature Date

_____ / ____ / ____
Ministry Director Signature Date