

BMA Curriculum for New Pastors/Deacons

Introduction: Following is a curriculum for newly licensed and ordained ministers. This is to give you an opportunity to develop your person, your knowledge, and your skills for ministry. It is a mixture of a week at EBI's special class for new ministers, reading, and mentoring. We expect the new minister to complete the minimum and work at some more. This should actually save time and stress in the ministry for the long run. Each minister should log onto the EBI website and register under "New Minister" and keep a log of items finished. If you do not have access to the internet, a paper log can be used.

Section I

Read *A Good Minister* by Howard Bean. (*To be finished within six weeks after ordination/licensing.*)

Section II

Read Part I of the BMA Minister's Manual. This will give you a concise overview of the structure and policies of BMA. This understanding will greatly help you to know BMA's "heart" and why.

Read Part 2 of the BMA Minister's Manual. This will bring into focus how to officiate different services. While you might not need this immediately, it will give you a base of knowledge and you will associate what you have read with these procedures when you see others do them. (*To be finished by 12 weeks.*)

Section III

Attend the special Fall Seminar at EBI called "*Pastoral Leadership Basics.*" Content can include:

- **Study methods** to make sermon preparation easier and more effective
- **Creating a sermon outline** that is easy for the audience to understand
- **Sermon delivery** that encourages people to listen intently
- **How to encourage** people who have experienced grief and loss
- **What to say** and what not to say when offering consolation
- **Conflict resolution** and how to diffuse tension
- **Time management** that allows a balanced life between church and family
- **Decision making** method that removes emotion
- **Dynamics of team ministry** and what is required to make it work properly
- **Determine who you are** and define your goal

The benefits of classroom discussion and experienced advice are invaluable. A congregation should make this possible, both with the cost of the seminar and the loss of wages.

Section IV

Choose a seasoned minister to be your mentor for at least one year. This could be your overseer. If it is not your overseer, your overseer should be involved in choosing the person. If the local congregation has mentoring in place, this could fulfill the goals. Following is what should happen:

Planned communication at least one time a month to review your ministry:

- Address questions that arise
- Help with any relational issues
- Encourage and lift up

"Guide for Pastoral Mentoring," in the BMA Minister's Manual, can also be referred to as a resource. This material is found on pages 109-111 in the 2016 edition of the BMA Minister's Manual.

Section V

For the first 2 years, at least 3 books a year should be read from the list below.

Reading for new BMA Pastors/Deacons

*Disclaimer: While there is a lot of good in these books, we should be discerning in all we read.
Not all of the views in these books are necessarily endorsed by BMA.*

Personal Life

David G. Benner, *The Gift of Being Yourself: The Sacred Call to Self-Discovery*

Spiritual Life

Roy Hession, *The Calvary Road*

Prayer

Edward M. Bounds, *Power Through Prayer*

Marriage and Family

Scott Stanley, Daniel Trathen, Savanna McCain, and Milt Bryan, *A Lasting Promise: A Christian Guide to Fighting for Your Marriage*

Pastoral Identity and Duties

Howard Bean, *A Good Minister*

Deacon Ministry

Alexander Strauch, *The New Testament Deacon: The Church's Minister of Mercy*

Pastoral Ethics and Etiquette

Nolan B. Harmon, *Ministerial Ethics and Etiquette*

Church Life/Congregational Dynamics

Ronald W. Richardson, *Creating a Healthier Church: Family Systems Theory, Leadership, and Congregational Life*

Leadership

J. Oswald Sanders, *Spiritual Leadership*

Administration

John H. Tyson, *Administration in the Small Membership Church* (not just for small churches)

Preaching and Teaching

John R. Mumaw, *Preach the Word: Expository Preaching from the Book of Ephesians*

Pastoral Care and Counseling

Paul David Tripp, *Instruments in the Redeemer's Hands: People in Need of Change Helping People in Need of Change*

Bible Study and Interpretation

Howard G. Hendricks and William D. Hendricks, *Living by the Book*

Theology/Doctrine

John C. Wenger, *Introduction to Theology*

Church History

Timothy Paul Jones, *Christian History Made Easy*

Anabaptism and the Mennonite Experience

William R. Estep, *The Anabaptist Story: An Introduction to Sixteenth-Century Anabaptism* (3rd edition)

Ethics and the Christian Life

J. Heinrich Arnold, *Discipleship: Living for Christ in the Daily Grind*

Evangelism and Missions

Three chapters from Wilbert R. Shenk, editor, *Anabaptism and Mission*:

Franklin H. Littell, "The Anabaptist Theology of Mission"

Hans Kasdorf, "The Anabaptist Approach to Mission"

N. van der Zijpp, "From Anabaptist Missionary Congregation to Mennonite Seclusion"

Apologetics

Josh McDowell, *More Than a Carpenter*

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