

## ***Diploma in Pastoral Ministry***

### **I. PURPOSE**

- A. To provide Christians who are answering God's call into the pastoral ministry with a foundation in biblical, theological, and ministry skills for service within local churches.
- B. To satisfy West Virginia Baptist Convention's minimum requirements for accreditation of ordination and enrollment in the retirement program of the Ministers and Missionaries Benefit Board of the American Baptist Churches/USA.

### **II. PROGRAM OF STUDY (204 hours of classroom study)**

#### ***Core Courses – Required courses for all students. 72 Hours***

##### Biblical Studies (48 hours)

- B-01 – Old Testament Survey I (12 hrs.)
- B-02 – Old Testament Survey II (12 hrs.)
- B-03 – New Testament Survey I (12 hrs.)
- B-04 – New Testament Survey II (12 hrs.)

##### Theological Studies (24 hours)

- T-01 – Christian Theology (12 hrs.)
- T-02 – Christian Theology (12 hrs.)

#### ***Regular Courses – 72 hours***

##### Historical Studies (12 hours)

- H-01 – Church History (12 hrs.)

##### Ministry Studies (60 hours)

- M-01 – Communicating God's Word (formerly Sermon and Lesson Preparation) (12 hrs.)\*
- M-02 – Discipleship Essentials (formerly Discipleship Training) (12 hrs.)
- M-03 – Teacher Training (12 hrs.)
- M-04 – Caring for People (formerly Introduction to Pastoral Care) (12 hrs.)
- M-05 – Leading People (formerly Church Administration and Leadership) (12 hrs.)

\* Lab time is in addition to class time.

#### ***Elective Courses – 24 hours***

- E-01 – Baptist Polity (4 hrs.)
- E-02 – West Virginia Baptist History (4 hrs.)
- E-03 – Worship and Music (4 hrs.)
- E-04 – Hospital Ministry (4 hrs.)
- E-05 – Funerals and Weddings (4 hrs.)
- E-06 – Baptism and Communion (4 hrs.)

#### ***Module Courses – 36 hours***

- Mod 1 – Creating Community (6 hrs.)
- Mod 2 – Ministerial Ethics (6 hrs.)
- Mod 3 – Introduction to Missions (6 hrs.)
- Mod 4 – Making Peace (formerly Conflict Management) (6 hrs.)
- Mod 5 – Community Ministry (6 hrs.)
- Mod 6 – Evangelism (6 hrs.)

### **III. PROCEDURES FOR GRADUATION**

- A. Satisfactory completion of required courses.
- B. All fees for registration and textbooks paid in full.

*NOTE: Ordination occurs in the local church under the guidance of the association. Upon ordination and the completion of the Pastoral Ministry Program, the Committee on Ministerial Standing will grant a certificate indicating state accreditation of ordination.*