



**Sovereign Grace
Academy**

COURSE TITLE: MPS300 Introduction to Church Life and Ministry

TERM: Fall 2021 (Aug 5 - Sept 23)

INSTRUCTOR: Dr. Keith Foskey

LOCATION: SGFC Learning Center

PHONE: 904-945-9207

EMAIL: FoskeyJax@gmail.com

TIME: Thursday 6:30pm - 8:00pm

COURSE OVERVIEW AND OBJECTIVES

This course will introduce the student to the various aspects of church life and ministry including leadership, membership, finances, missions, etc. Each student will be encouraged to discover the place in Christ's church where He has uniquely gifted them to serve.

REQUIRED TEXTS

The Holy Bible (Translation: Student's Choice)

A Biblically Functioning Church by Medford Foskey (available at lulu.com)

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

Class Attendance

Class attendance is required and will be checked at each session. A student who misses more than 25% of the class meetings will forfeit credit for the class and receive a failing grade, unless an arrangement is made with the professor to complete the work online. Students are expected to be in class on time.

Academic Character

Using someone's work without proper citation or handing in another's work as your own is considered plagiarism. This includes materials taken from books or the internet. Intentional cheating in any form compromises your grade and may jeopardize your continuation in this program.

Reading Assignments (25% of Final Grade)

The reading of assigned sections from the required text is a very important component of this course. Students must complete the readings contained in the syllabus to be able to engage in classroom discussions.

Notebook Assignment (25% of Final Grade)

Keep a notebook devoted specifically to this course. The notebook should contain all course handouts along with all of the notes and assignments that you do for this course. Organization of materials is important to make them accessible for future use.

Research Project (50% of Final Grade)

The research project will be assigned during the final class.

Each student will write an autobiography of their experience in church life and ministry.

This should include a history of:

- Churches joined and positions held.
- Important events and lessons learned.
- Discovery of individual giftedness.

The paper should conclude with a portion looking to the future answering the question "What do I believe God has called me to do in the church where I am currently serving?"

This research project will be submitted in the following format.

A title page which includes the course title, number, student name, and professor name.

The body of the project should be well-organized and be no less than three pages and no more than five pages (double spaced).

A properly cited bibliography page (Student may choose APA or MLA formatting).

GRADING SCALE

A (100-90) B (89-80) C (79-70) D (69-60) F (59 or below)

COURSE SCHEDULE

DATE	SESSION	CONTENT TO BE COVERED	ASSIGNED READING
08/05/2021	Lecture 1	Why Church Life & Ministry Matters <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Introduction to Ecclesiology - The Purpose and Mission of the Church - Discussion: How is church misunderstood? 	N/A
08/12/2021	Lecture 2	Joining a Local Church <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Is local church membership biblical? - Church Governmental Structures - Discussion: Expectations (Handout) 	Textbook: Chapter 1-3
08/19/2021	Lecture 4	Positions in the Local Church <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Officers (Elders & Deacons) - Missionaries (Local & Foreign) - Discussion: What are some other needed positions (youth, music, finances, etc)? 	Textbook: Chapter 5-7
08/26/2021	Lecture 4	Gender and the Local Church <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Complementarianism vs Egalitarianism - Examine relevant passages - Class Discussion: Confusing gender roles. 	Textbook: Chapter 4
09/02/2021	Lecture 5	Ministry in the Local Church (Pt1) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Gift-Based Ministry - Partnerships (denominations, fellowships, parachurch groups, etc.) - Discussion: Cessationism/Continuationism 	Textbook: Chapter 9 Articles: "Why I am a Cessationist" by Thomas Schreiner "Why I am a Continuationist" by Sam Storms
09/09/2021	Lecture 6	Ministry in the Local Church (Pt2) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Hospitality at Church and Home - Hospital and Bereavement Ministry - Leading/Counseling Marriages & Funerals - Discussion: Meeting "Felt" Needs 	*Catch Up Week
09/16/2021	Lecture 7	Conflict in the Local Church <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Conflict Management - Church Discipline - Discussion: Discipline Process/Methods 	Textbook: Chapter 8
09/23/2021	Lecture 8	Supporting the Local Church <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Compulsory v. Voluntary Giving - Purpose and Manner of Giving - Final Discussion: Research Project 	Textbook: Chapter 10

Once the final class is completed, student will have four weeks to return the completed research project which will then be graded. If all materials combine for a passing score, a certificate of completion will be awarded.