

✓ Enrollment Packet

Certificate of Ministry

Master Builder Christian International University has been incorporated in Gainesville, Florida, in 2023.

It is a ministry created by Master Builder Ministries, Inc. for the purpose of assisting the church in its theological education enterprise.

The local church must be central to the theological enterprise. That does not mean that we have to do away with the concept of theologians or of theological centers of some type. All it means is that the establishing, shepherding, and multiplying of churches must be the central focus of the enterprise. It must be missiologically driven – keeping the Great Commission foremost. It also means that those involved in the training process must be fully engaged in the establishing, shepherding, and multiplying of local churches. Especially in the last 200 years, the theological enterprise has been institutionalized and professionalized. In reality, though, ever since a few decades after the death of the Apostles, the theological enterprise has been rooted in the academy and has not been centrally rooted in the churches. We seek to align our ministries to a more biblical model.

Defense for the Centrality of the Local Church in the Theological Enterprise:

It is Biblical. The local church is described by Paul in his letter to Timothy as “the pillar and support of the truth” (1 Timothy 3:14-16). Paul’s call to perpetually train faithful men in the deposit (sound doctrine) was rooted in the context of ministry by and for local churches (2 Timothy 2:2).

Separating the academy from the local church changes the nature of doing theology itself, creating an academic orientation, which eventually leads to some form of professionalization of the ministry. Once academics, or knowledge, becomes the barometer of spiritual leadership, arrogance sets in, and those fully trained ironically separate themselves in some way from the life of the churches, taking on the role of professionals. When theology is removed from the local churches, the issues facing the churches themselves no longer drive the theological questions; therefore, theology becomes irrelevant to the churches. The people (laity) of the churches remain uneducated, essentially babes in the faith, unable to handle meat, unable to think critically.

The local church has not been central to the theological enterprise since a few decades after the apostles, and yet it appears to be crucial that it assumes its rightful place as we enter into the global village of the postmodern era. The birth pangs of change toward church-based theology can be seen in the Theology by Extension movement, which fell very short, since in most cases it merely housed the academic model within the four walls of the churches. The institution model is not getting the job of leadership training done – churches all over the world suffer from a desperate lack of leaders.

Master Builder Christian International University is being formed to be part of the answer to this problem. For more information contact:

Master Builder Christian International University (Affiliate Office)

54 Bedard Street
Fall River, MA 02723
(508) 730-1735

Welcome!

It is my privilege to introduce to you Master Builder Christian International University, the result of more than a 27-year journey.

In 1995, we began to construct a process within our newly formed local church to facilitate the development of leaders. This began with a Pre-K through 12th grade Christian School – East Gate Christian Academy and the formation of a church ministry called Master Builder Ministries. The vision from the start was to train future leaders in Christian character, Biblical Worldview, and servant leadership.

We also developed a process to train leaders locally and in 2004 began to be involved in the training of leaders on an international level. First, in Ukraine in 2004, then expanding to many other countries including Belarus, Kenya, Ghana, Zimbabwe, and South Africa. In 2010, we planted a Brazilian church, which over time has opened the door to the training of leaders nationally and internationally. In 2017, we embarked on a joint program with Vision Christian University, J.W. College and MBILD to train international pastors and leaders in a Master of Theological Degree. With the completion of that program, interest has increased in the development of a continued training program.

After prayerful consideration, we have incorporated a new University to facilitate the vision to see well-established church-planting movements and community shapers by training in character skills and knowledge a network of leaders, from neighborhoods to nations, in the way of Christ and the apostles. Our mission is to support church-based theological education by providing academic degree programs, to train a network of leaders to further discipline others from neighborhoods to nations.

Our hope is that we are establishing the foundational groundwork for extending the Kingdom of God by giving leaders the tools needed to be able to commit to other faithful men and women what they have received.

In this exciting time in church history, our prayer is that God will use MBCIU to make a significant impact in raising present and future leaders to the glory of God and for the extension of His kingdom throughout the earth!



Ronald L. Bernier, President

Vision: Our vision is to see well-established church-planting movements and community shapers by training in character, skills, and knowledge a network of leaders, from neighborhoods to nations, in the way of Christ and His apostles.

Mission: Our mission is to support church-based theological education by providing academic degree programs, to train a network of leaders to further disciple others from neighborhoods to nations.

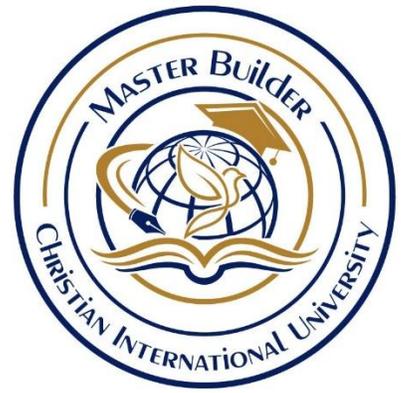
1 Corinthians 3:10–11 (NKJV) According to the grace of God which was given to me, as a wise master builder I have laid the foundation, and another builds on it. But let each one take heed how he builds on it. ¹¹ For no other foundation can anyone lay than that which is laid, which is Jesus Christ.

Matthew 7:24–25 (NKJV) (see also Luke 6:47–49) “Therefore whoever hears these sayings of Mine, and does them, I will liken him to a wise man who built his house on the rock: ²⁵ and the rain descended, the floods came, and the winds blew and beat on that house; and it did not fall, for it was founded on the rock.

2 Timothy 2:2 (NKJV) And the things that you have heard from me among many witnesses, commit these to faithful men who will be able to teach others also.

Philosophy: MBCIU maintains high standards of achievement represented by academic credentials, but it is a different approach to ministry training. It is not just another nontraditional version of formal education. The central context of student development is the work of the Holy Spirit in local churches, church networks, and church-planting movements. Learning occurs in-service and in the context of genuine communities of faith with wise leaders. We affirm the following as foundational to our philosophy of education:

- The center of God’s purpose for this age resides in the Church (Ephesians 3:2-11).
- Building God’s Church and His Kingdom became Christ’s purpose and multiplication of churches as His strategy (Matthew 16:13-19).
- The Apostles delivered the truth, and the world should see evidence of this truth in all churches (2 Timothy 1:13-15; Jude 3).
- The perpetual command to take the gospel to the world continues undiminished (Matthew 28:19-20; Luke 24:44-49; Acts 1:8; 1 Timothy 3:14-15).
- Character, skills, and academics taught in apprenticeship-type training yield the deepest-lasting impact (Titus 1:5-9; 1 Timothy 1:18-19).
- Urban centers act as the key to evangelizing the world (as seen throughout the New Testament).
- The church-planting method modeled by the Apostle Paul remains valid today (Acts 13:1-14:28).



2024

Dear Prospective Student,

We are glad that you have inquired into a unique opportunity of enrolling in the Certificate of Ministry degree program that is being offered through MBCIU.

This Certificate of Ministry degree program is being offered in both English and Portuguese.

Our hope is to have classes offered on campus as well as through an extension network. The program designed to have a seminar weekend every 4 to 8 weeks to be able to complete the entire program within a 2 to 2 ½ - year period.

The financial cost of the Certificate of Ministry Program is as follows:

Registration Fee: \$75.00 (to be submitted with application)	
Tuition Fee: \$100/Credit Hour (30 credits)=	\$3,000.00
<u>Graduation Fee:</u>	<u>\$ 165.00</u>

TOTAL: \$3,240.00

The total tuition and Fees will be payable through a schedule of payments for 24 months.
For example: \$3,240.00 / 24 months = \$135/month

We invite you to communicate with us if you or your church leaders are interested in getting further information, or enrolling in the program.

Sincerely,

Ronald L. Bernier, President

MBCIU Master Builder Christian International University

54 Bedard Street, Fall River, MA 02723

(508)730-1735 rlbernier@mbministries.org

Master Builder Christian International University Degrees:

Degree	Description	Objective
Certificate	Certificate of Ministry	The Certificate of Ministry program is designed to provide basic training in biblical, theological, and ministerial competencies. The certificate is a fast-track option to gain foundational knowledge and skills to develop or enhance Christian ministry and service. The Certificate is designed for the student to demonstrate competencies associated with becoming a ministry leader.
Associate	Associate of Ministry	The Associate of Ministry provides the basic educational background and training in biblical studies, theology, and Christian ministry. After successfully completing this curriculum, students will be able to serve in a variety of capacities in Christian ministry.
Diploma	Diploma of Ministry	The Diploma in Ministry provides basic and practical training in biblical studies, theology, and church ministry. After successfully completing this curriculum, the student will be able to function successfully in a church ministry context.
Bachelor	Bachelor of Ministry	The Bachelor of Ministry is designed to provide the educational background needed by those preparing for pastoral or preaching ministry. A “typical” undergraduate degree serves the foundation for scholarly pursuits and other advance degrees.
Master	Master of Ministry	The Master of Ministry degree program represents a distinct configuration of courses that enables a student to align his or her academic study closely with personal ministry goals and interests to achieve specific objectives. The Master of Ministry degree is granted for advanced competencies shown through significant church-based theological education and practical ministry programs.
Doctor	Doctor of Ministry	The Doctor of Ministry degree program is designed to enhance the expertise of students who are in full-time Christian service and prepare them academically, spiritually, and professionally to serve. Special attention is given to prepare students to research, teach, and proclaim the uniqueness of the Christian faith. The degree program is to enhance understanding while making a substantial contribution in theology and ministry in today’s culture

Certificate of Ministry

30 Semester Hours of Credit

The Certificate of Ministry (C. Min) is granted for demonstration of an initial set of competencies associated with doing ministry according to the Way of Christ and His Apostles.

This C. Min. is a ministry program that helps existing and emerging leaders be trained and recognized as part of a ministry leadership team that is one-minded in ministry vision and philosophy.

Specific Program Objectives:

- Comprehensive development in character, skills, and knowledge for effective ministry.
- Life development and lifelong learning orientation.
- Recognition of and participation in the centrality of the local church in the plan of God.
- Master Scripture relevance to church and leadership development at an initial level, particularly through study of the biblical theology of Acts and the Pauline Epistles.
- Reflect on contributions of leading scholars regarding church and leadership development.
- Address basic issues related to church and leadership development and analyze Scripture and other contributions related to those issues.
- Formulate conclusions and personal applications regarding those basic issues.

The C. Min is offered by distance education to existing leaders rooted in local churches, church networks, and other ministry organizations to help them be trained and recognized as part of a ministry leadership team that is one-minded in ministry vision and philosophy. Out of this team would come those who commit themselves long term to local church leadership or those who desire to train to be part of a missionary team involved in planting or establishing churches in other areas.

The Certificate of Ministry is offered at the undergraduate level. Credit earned in the Certificate program may be applied in its entirety to degree programs if the credit matches the requirements of the degree program.

Certificate of Ministry (C. Min.)

The Certificate of Ministry (C. Min.) is a one-year 30 semester hours of credit certificate granted for demonstration of foundational competencies associated with doing ministry according to the way of Christ and His Apostles.

13 Courses & Ministry Practicum:

GE101 Introduction to English Composition (3 Credits)

This course is designed to have students practice and acquire fundamental writing principles: parts of speech; sentence structure and sentence types; and punctuation. The course project consists of four assigned essays, submitted incrementally; thus students receive individual feedback from instructors throughout the course. The collateral writing assignment teaches vital research skills, requiring students to develop research questions and thesis statements. Students will gather notes from scholarly sources, organize their body of research, and write an accurately documented report.

FPS101 Faith: Becoming a Disciple (2 Credits)

This course is designed to take the student through a simple process of examining the Bible for themselves and carefully thinking through what it means to become a disciple of Jesus Christ. It is also designed to bring the student to a point of commitment, or fully embracing the faith – the teachings of Jesus Christ.

FPS102 Community Life: Belonging to a Family of Families (2 Credits)

This course focuses on the first of two great needs in life, a sense of belonging and purpose. Belonging comes from a sense of family. In its most powerful sense, belonging is enjoyed within a true community. God's design for the local church is for it to be a family of families with strong, intergenerational roots: a powerful force in raising children, in building strong marriages, and in cultivating an intergenerational heritage that grows stronger generation by generation.

FPS103 Community Response: Participating in the Mission of the Church (2 Credits)

This course focuses on the second of the two greatest needs in life: a sense of belonging and purpose. The problem with all the purposes we create (career, children, materialism, sports, recreation, leisure, etc.,) is that they are not big enough to encompass all of life. As Christians, we are given the ultimate purpose, the ultimate mission – fulfilling the mission of Jesus Christ. In this course the student will examine Christ's plan and identify how they can fully participate in that plan.

FPS104 Disciplined Living: Cultivating Habits of the Heart (2 Credits)

In this course, the student will take a radically different approach to the habits of the heart. God never intended our lives to be based on a set of individual daily habits, but rather on a whole life orientation that grows out of family and community life.

FPS105 Marriage: Enjoying Your Relationships (2 Credits)

In this course the student will turn his attention to God's design for the marriage relationship. While Christian guidelines for the marriage relationship may seem archaic, or out of touch with contemporary culture, when understood, they reveal God's wisdom. In addition, their beauty and the residual effects that lead to a fruitful heritage, can produce for generations to come.

FPS106 Family Life: Passing on Your Beliefs (2 Credits)

One of the most crucial tasks for churches of each generation is to see that the faith is successfully passed on to the next generation. In this course, the student will focus on the first principles of family life, particularly from the vantage point of passing on the faith to their children.

FPS107 Ministry: Envisioning Fruitful Life Work (2 Credits)

In this course the student will turn his attention to the role of work within family life. God has designed the household unit to be a productive unit in the life of the church community: providing for our own families, meeting needs within the church family, helping others in need in the community, and assisting believing church families throughout the world. Work should be balanced with every other area of the individual's life, enabling him to accomplish the "life basics" to which God has call us all.

FPS108 True Success: Building for Future Generations (2 Credits)

Each individual desires their lives to count for something. Everyone wants to invest their life in the right things. True success is far deeper and more comprehensive than financial security and enjoyment of this life. For the Christian, true success involves matters of eternal significance. It involves producing a godly heritage – passing on the faith to the next generation and fulfilling the lifework the each has been called to. This course will focus on building the student's life on the right foundation and laying out the true prize.

FPS109 Bible Study: Handling the Word with Confidence (2 Credits)

In this course, the student will learn solid principles for validating an author's intended meaning as expressed in a text of Scripture. Each one must develop a personal confidence in handling the Word, if they expect to be effective in training their children, ministering effectively in the church community, defending, and sharing the faith in a postmodern culture, and intelligently and creatively carrying out their lifework before a watching world. This course will instruct the student to practice the principles of interpretation.

FPS110 Acts: Unfolding the Great Commission (2 Credits)

In this course the student will study Acts for building an overall framework of what really happened in the Early Church. The unfolding of the Great Commission is profoundly misunderstood. The concept of a worldwide multiplication of churches has been reduced to a worldwide multiplication of individuals. The book of Acts was designed to shape our understanding of the Great Commission and how God designed it to unfold.

RS 101 Neighborhoods to Nations (3 Credits)

This course will focus on establishment principles of churches in varied cultural, political, and geographical settings. Building on this foundation gives wisdom in handling future issues. In addition, strategic concepts that help establish, stabilize, and structure the church will be examined, including leadership development and mission expansion, as well as guidelines and assessments to implement these strategies.

RS 102 Fruitful Living (3 Credits)

Christians are grown in the soil of spiritual transformation and the whole counsel of God. The primary moral thrust of the Christian community belongs to those who reveal the character of the Lord Jesus Christ in every area of life. The fruit of those with discerning hearts is expressed in the decisions, priorities, and activities of daily life. This course offers practical insight of how this transformational process is worked out in individual lives as each yield to the work of the Holy Spirit and the Word of God.

MP101 Ministry Practicum I (1 Credit)

Contracted learning ministry including written description of preliminary plan and learning goals, report of actual experience, and evaluation and reflection of learning accomplished.

Financial Agreement:

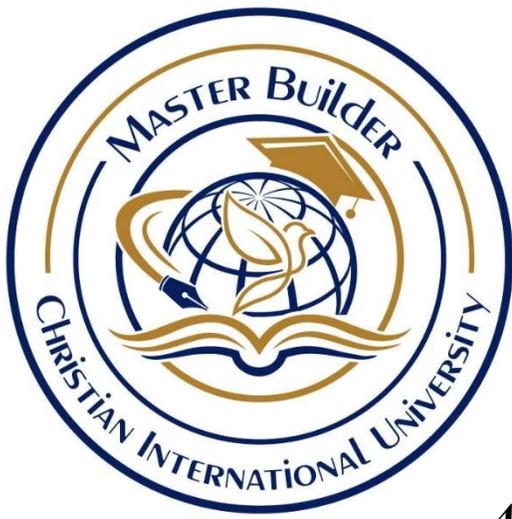
Each student will sign an agreement as to his or her method of payment.
Payment for the program will be the following:

- \$135/month for 24 months

(Graduation cannot commence until the final obligations are paid in full.)

Ready to Enroll?

- ***Submit an Application for admission along with the required \$75.00 application fee.***
- ***Provide any applicable transcripts.***



54 Bedard Street,
Fall River, MA 02723
Phone: (508)730-1735
Fax: (508)674-6166

Email: rlbernier@mbministries.org

Application for Admission

Application Information (Please type or print clearly)

Full Name: _____
Last First Middle

Date of Birth: _____ Sex: Male Female Social Security No. _____

Marital Status: Single Married Widowed Divorced

Address: _____
Street Address Apartment/Unit#

City State Zip Code

Phone: _____ Email: _____

Desired Degree Program: Certificate of Ministry Associate of Ministry
 Diploma of Ministry Bachelor of Ministry
 Master of Ministry Doctor of Ministry

Additional Personal Information:

Name of Church you attend: _____

Church Address: _____
Street Address

City State Zip Code

Pastor' Name: _____

Are you an active member in your church? Yes No

Do you serve in a ministry position? Yes No Position: _____

Military Service: Yes No Dates of Service: _____ to _____

Active Reserve: Yes No Branch: _____

Academic History

Institution & Location	Degree/Award	Major/Concentration	Graduation Date

MINISTERIAL ORDINATION/LICENSURE

Check the appropriate box if you hold any of the following: Licensed Ordained Lay/Minister

Denomination/Ministerial Network of Fellowship (include location):

References:

Please list the name and phone numbers of at least three (3) references. One must be from your local church. The other two can be from your workplace or friends.

#1 Name: _____ Phone# _____

#2 Name: _____ Phone# _____

#3 Name: _____ Phone# _____

U.S. & CANADA ONLY: \$75.00 USD APPLICATION FEE FOR ALL PROGRAMS (EXCEPT *Master of Ministry Program* \$100.00) PAYMENT INFORMATION (NON-REFUNDABLE)

Pay by Check or Money Order made payable to **MBCIU**.

I give the MBCIU permission to contact any references listed above.

I have read the ***Statement of Faith*** and the ***Student Code of Conduct*** and I agree to abide by both.

Date: _____ Signature: _____