

✓ Enrollment Packet

*Associate 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 12<sup>th</sup> 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.

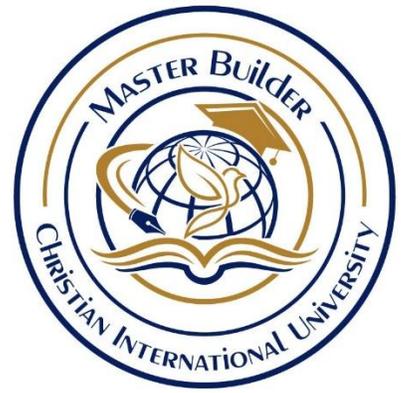
**1 Corinthians 3:10–11** (NKJV) According to the grace of God which was given to me, as a wise master builder I have laid the foundation, and another builds on it. But let each one take heed how he builds on it. <sup>11</sup> For no other foundation can anyone lay than that which is laid, which is Jesus 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: <sup>25</sup> 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 Associate of Ministry degree program that is being offered through MBCIU.

This Associate 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 Associate of Ministry Program is as follows:*

**Associate of Ministry – 30 Semester Credit Hours + Certificate of Ministry**

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

**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](mailto:rlbernier@mbministries.org)

## Master Builder Christian International University Degrees:

<b>Degree</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Objective</b>
<b>Certificate</b>	<b>Certificate of Ministry</b>	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.
<b>Associate</b>	<b>Associate of Ministry</b>	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.
<b>Diploma</b>	<b>Diploma of Ministry</b>	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.
<b>Bachelor</b>	<b>Bachelor of Ministry</b>	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.
<b>Master</b>	<b>Master of Ministry</b>	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.
<b>Doctor</b>	<b>Doctor of Ministry</b>	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

# *Associate of Ministry*

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*60 Semester of Credit Hours (30 + Certificate of Ministry)*

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The Associate of Ministry (A. Min) is granted for demonstration of an initial and secondary set of competencies associated with doing ministry according to the way of Christ and His Apostles.

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

## *Associate of Ministry (A. Min)*

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.

### First 13 Courses & Ministry Practicum – Certificate of Ministry

#### Additional 12 Courses & Ministry Practicum

##### **GS101 From Jesus to the Gospels: Solidifying Kerygmatic Community (2 Credits)**

This course is designed to situate the Gospels in their historical context as well as in their canonical context – how they fit into and with the other writings of the New Testament, as delivered to the churches.

##### **GS102 Mark: Announcing the New Community (2 Credits)**

This course will look at Mark's intention in writing and his relationship as an assistant and interpreter of Peter. The student will see the essence of the good news proclaimed by Jesus; the emerging Jewish-Gentile tensions, and the announcement of Jesus' new community, including His death and resurrection and the commissioning of this new community to continue proclaiming the gospel.

##### **GS103 Matthew: I Will Build My Church (2 Credits)**

This course will focus on Matthew, who built a massive argument connecting Jesus and the Old Testament. In the Gospel of Matthew, Jesus states His mission is to build His Church, with Peter as key in the foundation of this Church. Jesus again commissions this new community to continue the proclamation after His death and resurrection.

##### **GS104 Luke: All That Jesus Accomplished (2 Credits)**

This course is devoted to Luke's Gospel and the second volume of his work – The Acts of the Apostles – which Luke actually tabs as “what Jesus continued to do and teach.” The intent of this two-volume work is to make the whole picture – the whole plan – clear. The Gentiles come on strong in the picture painted by Luke. They are central as the Gentile churches multiply in Acts, while the Jewish nation rejects Jesus and His new communities.

### **GS105 John: That the World May Know We Are One (2 Credits)**

This course will focus on the Gospel of John, the last Gospel to be written. Its focus is on true belief that is intended to bring abundant life into the churches and a fellowship within these new communities that will show the world the real picture of what He is up to. The student will be taken into the Upper Room conversation where Jesus places the New Covenant at the center of his community and explains to the disciples that much of what He veiled or hid from them would be made known to them when He leaves, and the Spirit comes. The Spirit will not bring another teaching but will only speak of that which is directly from Jesus for the churches.

### **MS101 1 & 2 Thessalonians: Laying Solid Foundation in the Church (2 Credits)**

This course will focus on two of Paul's Letters to the church at Thessalonica. The student will look at Paul's intent in writing these letters and then focus will be on Paul's process of establishing the church; founding, shaping it around the Apostle's teaching, and stabilizing the church in light of their suffering at the hands of those trying to destabilize the church. In addition, the student will consider the impact that an established church can have in a pagan community.

### **MS102 Ephesians: Catching God's Vision for the Church (2 Credits)**

This course will begin with a focus on Paul's Letter to the churches in Ephesians, and a look at Paul's intention for writing, as well as his process of maturing the church. Additionally, a look at the vision of the church in Christ's plan for this age, and how the maturing church reveals a picture of Christ to the world. Attention is also given to the maturing process for individuals and households, and the process of standing firm against Satan's schemes and experiencing powerful victories as the churches carry out their mission.

### **MS103 Pauline Epistles: Living in God's Household (2 Credits)**

This course will focus on Paul's final letters – the Pastorals. This time He is not writing to the churches, but to his two young, faithful leaders, Timothy, and Titus. The student will look at Paul's intent in writing these letters and their content. Attention will be given to how Paul developed these churches into strong, intergenerational, households of God and to the task of preparing leadership for future generations to guard and protect these churches.

### **MS104 Christian Worldview (3 Credits)**

In this course many worldviews will be compared to the Christian worldview as to how they approach various disciplines. In every discipline, it will be presented how the Christian worldview explains our place in the universe and is more realistic, scientific, more intellectually satisfying, and more defensible. Many of these disciplines are imprinted in the created order and addressed in just the first few chapters of the Bible. In a systematic analysis of how each worldview approaches the various disciplines, Christian

claims that an acknowledgement of God's nature and character, and the life and work of Christ, will reveal truth, as opposed to isolated truths.

**MS 105 Christian Ethics (3 Credits)** – Many people today are swayed by mere emotionalism or trapped by the most recent propaganda disseminated from the airwaves or classroom. The culprits behind the decline of our society are many. In this course, the real question addressed is not whether values or morality will be part of our society, but whose values will rule society. Also, the student will explore solutions to the prevailing ethical viewpoints of our culture that formed the foundation of the difficulties we now face.

**RS 201 – Contending for the Faith: Apologetics (3 Credits)** - The understanding of absolute, objective truth has been largely lost in contemporary culture. Spend just a few minutes discussing politics or religion and you will hear responses such as “There is no truth!” or “That may be true for you, but not for me.” This course dares to wade into the middle of the controversy. The focus of the course is to broaden the student's definitive resource for deepening and defending their faith.

**RS 202 – Revelation: Letters to the Churches (3 Credits)** – For the purpose of this course, the student will examine John's writing to seven churches rooted in real history. His revelation from the Lord shows a knowledge of their geographical, political, and spiritual challenges. The writing attests that the Lord knows and walks among His churches. While the words spoken to the churches were specific to their circumstance, they were also meant to be read among the churches, for what was addressed in one served as a teaching and warning for all the others. What was communicated then can serve to build principles for how our churches impact culture in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century.

**MP201 Ministry Practicum II (2 Credits)** - 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

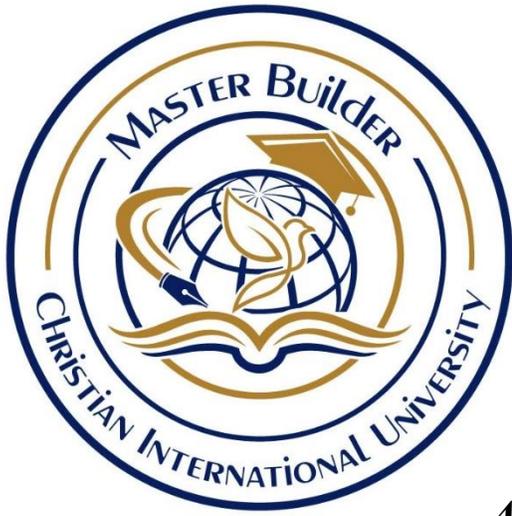
*(Graduation cannot commence until the final obligations are paid in full.)*

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### ***Ready to Enroll?***

- ***Submit an Application for admission along with the required \$100.00 registration fee.***
- ***Provide any applicable transcripts.***





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

Email: [rlbernier@mbministries.org](mailto: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: \_\_\_\_\_