

✓ Enrollment Packet

Diploma 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.

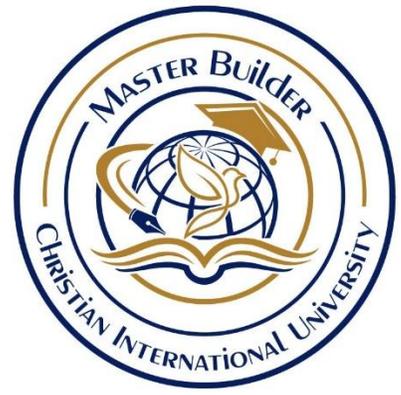
1 Corinthians 3:10–11 (NKJV) According to the grace of God which was given to me, as a wise master builder I have laid the foundation, and another builds on it. But let each one take heed how he builds on it. ¹¹ For no other foundation can anyone lay than that which is laid, which is Jesus Christ.

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 Diploma of Ministry degree program that is being offered through MBCIU.

This Diploma 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 Diploma of Ministry Program is as follows:

Diploma of Ministry – 30 Semester Credit Hours + Associate 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

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

Diploma of Ministry

90 Semester of Credit Hours (30 + Associate of Ministry Degree)

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.

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 Diploma 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 of those who desire to train to be part of a missionary team involved in planting or establishing churches in other areas.

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

Diploma 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 church ministry context.

First 25 Courses & Ministry Practicums from Associate of Ministry Program

Year 3 – Additional 13 Courses & Ministry Practicum

LS 301 The Leader's Foundation (2 Credits)

The Leader's Foundation focuses on forming a godly self-image and proper foundation for leadership. It reviews the foundational elements of the Christian faith and emphasizes the need for a leader to have his or her identity and motivation rooted in being a child and servant of God.

LS 302 The Leader's Freedom (2 Credits)

The Leader's Freedom focuses on obtaining steps to freedom from hurt, bondage, and unhealthy living. It presents seven steps to freedom: facing our bondages, relinquishing control, exposing the roots, embracing responsibility, developing discipline, overcoming temptation, and moving on to maturity.

LS 303 The Leader's Example (2 Credits)

The Leader's Example focuses on embracing and modeling the basic principle of discipleship. It presents Jesus as our discipling example, as well as following, being like, abiding with, and growing for our example. It presents how to overcome common discipleship obstacles and keys to discipling others.

LS 304 The Leader's Calling (2 Credits)

The Leader's Calling focuses on discovering your calling and role in God's Master Plan. It presents God's desire for our worship and His continuous plan to reach the world. Key principles are presented related to discovering your call, preparing, being tested, and walking in the proper timing of your calling.

LS 305 The Leader's Potential (2 Credits) – The Leader's Potential focuses on reaching your potential by maximizing your spiritual gifts and personality mix. It shows how understanding yourself and those

around you will help you find your PLACE in ministry and maximize your strengths to reach your greatest potential.

LS 306 Leading with Outreach (2 Credits)

Leading with Outreach focuses on reaching those around you through Spirit-led friendships. It shows how effective outreach includes a balanced, three-fold approach of sharing the spoken words of the Gospel, walking in the power of the Holy Spirit, and demonstrating a lifestyle that reflects the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

LS 307 Leading with Mentoring (2 Credits)

Leading with Mentoring focuses on finding and providing effective mentoring relationships. It gives an overview of mentoring and what it should include. It provides guidelines on how to have and be an effective mentor and how to avoid poor mentoring relationships.

LS 308 Leading with the Word (2 Credits)

Leading with the Word focuses on using basic Bible study skills to prepare and share biblical messages. It presents the basic three components of inductive Bible study: observation, interpretation, and application of Scripture. It then gives practical guidelines on how to prepare and deliver biblically based messages.

LS 309 Leading Team Projects (2 Credits)

Leading Team Projects focuses on learning to lead projects and reach goals with a team approach. It presents the basics of vision, planning, and goal setting, with tracking and delegation. It also presents forming, developing and mobilizing an effective team. It concludes with how to finish a project well.

LS310 Leading with Teams (2 Credits)

Leading with Teams focuses on developing a diverse leadership team for ministry success. It reviews the traditional models and offers a biblical alternative. It gives principles for becoming an effective team leader and building a strong leadership team. Also presented are handling team conflict and transitioning to team leadership.

RS 301 – Interpretation of the Scriptures (3 Credits)

Since one's doctrine stems from one's interpretation of the Bible and all interpretation is guided by various rules, it seems that the Christian community should be focusing its attention more on the field of hermeneutics - the science of interpreting Scripture. It is this need that provides the basis for this course.

This course assumes that a working knowledge of hermeneutics coupled with an illuminating unction of the Holy Spirit will enable those who interpret Scripture to come to a harmonious knowledge of the truth.

RS 302 - Christian Foundations (3 Credits)

The Apostolic mindset is that maturity is necessary for the proper functioning of the Kingdom. Christianity is about the moral and spiritual transformation of life. This course seeks to build on the framework of foundational truths found in Hebrews 6:1-3. It is interesting to note that the first doctrine of repentance is the start of the Christian's new life in Christ and the last foundational doctrine is eternal judgment. Thus, the entire length of the Christian's life is covered – from time to eternity. Establishing a strong foundation to build and press on from.

RS 303 – Nehemiah: Leadership Principles and Practices (3 Credits)

In this course the student will encounter the leadership example of Nehemiah, made contemporary for this generation. It is a treatise on church life, its functions and dysfunctions, despair, and recovery, rooted in biblical revelation. Using the book of Nehemiah eternal truths are presented in practical and usable format for the edification of every present and potential leader and the vision to transform cultures through servant leadership.

MP 301 – Ministry Practicum III (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:

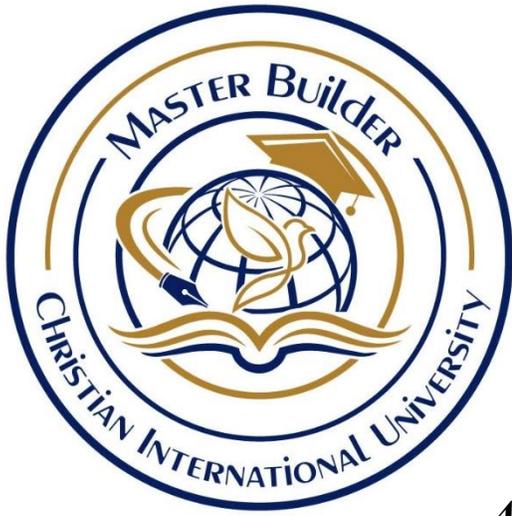
Each student will sign an agreement as to his or her method of payment.

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 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

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: _____