

✓ Enrollment Packet

Doctor 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.

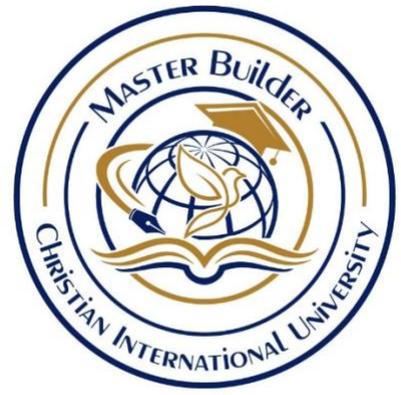
1 Corinthians 3:10–11 (NKJV) According to the grace of God which was given to me, as a wise master builder I have laid the foundation, and another builds on it. But let each one take heed how he builds on it. ¹¹ For no other foundation can anyone lay than that which is laid, which is Jesus Christ.

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

This Doctor 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 Doctor of Ministry Program is as follows:

Registration Fee: \$100.00 (to be submitted with application)	
Tuition Fee: \$100/Credit Hour (40 credits)=	\$5,000.00
Doctoral Dissertation/Project Fee:	\$ 300.00
<u>Graduation Fee:</u>	<u>\$ 300.00</u>

TOTAL: \$5,600.00

The total tuition and Fees will be payable through a schedule of payments for 32 months.
For example: \$5,600.00 / 32 months = \$175/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

Doctor of Ministry

40 Semester Credit Hours in addition to Master of Ministry

The Doctor of Ministry degree (D. Min.) is granted for demonstration of competencies associated with being a minister of the Gospel (pastor, church planter, missionary) and other ministry leaders who are situated to have significant influence in formal or informal church networks.

General objectives of all MBILD Christian International University programs:

- 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.
- Ability to master biblical content, benefit from significant contributions of scholars, and build strategic models of ministry accordingly.
- Develop a foundational understanding through an integrated core of interdisciplinary studies.

The general objective of Ministry Degrees is to help train those who desire to be part of a leadership and ministry 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.

Specific program objectives of the D. Min.:

- Identify and address paradigm-level issues in theological education, doing theology, hermeneutics, missions, and Christian education.
- Build biblical philosophies in each of these areas.
- Construct and evaluate strategic models and tools that integrate biblical philosophy with contemporary ministry situations.

The Doctor of Ministry program is offered by distance education to existing and emerging leaders rooted in local churches, church networks, and other ministry organizations in order to help them be trained and recognized as part of a ministry leadership team that is one-minded in ministry, vision and philosophy.

Doctor of Ministry

Program Requirements: The Doctor of Ministry Degree requires 40 credits: 25 for Core courses and 15 for the Doctoral Project.

5 Core Courses – 5 Semester Credit Hours each

- A 20-page paper or equivalent is to be written on each of the five core topics with Bibliography.
- The papers are to be written according to the standards of the University as discussed in the book “Research Writing Made Easy”, which will be outlined for each student.

Doctoral Proposal: The student is to then write a proposal for the Doctorate, describing the project according to the prescribed format. The completed proposal is to be approved by the Doctoral Committee of the University. The process and format for a Doctorate Proposal will be described, referring to “Research Writing Made Easy” and the paper titled “Steps to Completing Your Doctoral Project / Dissertation”.

Doctoral Project: The student is then (upon approval of the proposal) to begin writing their Doctoral Project, according to the specific format. The Doctoral Project is the finishing work for the Doctoral degree and is what provides the right to be called Doctor. It could take the form of a dissertation (literature review and original research), a book, or a leadership-type course (suited to a particular ministry situation or issue). It is worth 15 credits towards the degree program.

5 Core Courses:

DM803: Counseling, Family Life & Pastoral Leadership

Shepherding, Counseling, and the Early Church

The overall objective of this course is to build a comprehensive shepherding strategy for a church, which is rooted in the traditional pastoral care paradigm, drawn from the Scriptures, especially from Paul's early letters, rather than the secular psychological care paradigm of contemporary culture. Specifically, this means that each person studying the course would:

- Develop an understanding of the biblical model of pastoral care practiced in the early churches as a basis for formulating a philosophy of pastoral care which is consistent with New Testament guidelines for living in community and treating problems in our own lives and in our churches.
- Formulate a clear perspective of the Gospel and the work of the Spirit in our lives (from an examination of the message of the Gospel in Paul's early Epistles) as a basis for addressing the foundational needs and life-controlling problems of new or unestablished believers.

- Examine the contemporary practice of integrating psychology and theology and assess the legitimacy of such an endeavor and its implications for the practice of counseling within the church.
- Lay necessary foundations for skillfully handling the Scriptures in counseling and develop convictions regarding the sufficiency of the scriptures in the counseling process.
- Critique the contemporary emergence of a new Christian profession--Christian psychologists and psychiatrists--and the church's reliance upon it for pastoral care while examining its implications on biblical authority structures and responsibilities.
- Design a contemporary and comprehensive pastoral care strategy consistent with the biblical guidelines set forth in the Scriptures for the life of the church and the individual's growth in the Spirit.

DM805: Spiritual Development of the Pastor, Church & Community

Ministry Priorities and Personal Management

The overall objective of this course is to create a life-management strategy founded on biblical principles and focused on a central life purpose that will guide each person to be an effective steward of his or her God-given priorities and responsibilities. Specifically, this means that each person studying the course would:

- Review and summarize God's purpose for the church in this age and write a unifying philosophy-of-life statement to be used as a guide in setting goals and building a personal management system.
- Develop an understanding of the priorities and responsibilities that God set forth for the proper functioning of His household, and our individual households, and how this proper functioning contributes to the building of His church.
- Set lifelong goals and build and implement a priorities management system out of the "house order" instructions of the Pastoral Epistles.

DM806: Ethics and the Church in Today's Culture – A Pastoral Perspective

Character of a Leader

The overall objective of this course is to understand the biblical idea of qualified leadership and to determine the fundamental biblical guidelines for character formation in leaders and in the household of God. Specifically, this means that each person studying the course would:

- Develop a conviction as to the reason for and the benefit of mature character as motivation for pursuing these character qualities personally, as a family, and as a church.

- Gain a clear understanding into the character qualities required of mature leaders and of mature men and women within the church, and how these qualities relate to the roles and functions of men and women within the church.
- Perform personal evaluations and design plans for developing and/or strengthening character qualities which would enhance overall growth and character development.
- Be able to help other leaders and/or members of the church design a plan for long-term spiritual growth and character development as they pursue their responsibilities within the church community.

DM807: Conflict Management and Resolution in Church Life

Ministry Perspectives: Conflict Without, Fears Within

The overall objective of this course is to develop a biblical perspective of life and ministry as the guiding force for standing firm in the ministry, skillfully and resolutely addressing the problems and problem people within the church. Specifically, this means that each person studying the course would:

- Study Paul's letters to the Corinthian church and his instructions to Timothy and Titus to gain insight into a "realistic" perspective of ministry.
- Formulate a description of the ministry and perspectives one should have of the ministry based on the study of Paul's Corinthian and Pastoral letters.
- Examine personal ministry attitudes and perspectives, and test these against Paul's description of the ministry and a minister, in order to reshape personal perspectives around his teaching and example.
- Make specific commitments and strategies related to personal perspective in ministry which will be a guide for long-term development and involvement in the church and its mission in the world.

DM 811: Missions in the 21st Century

Evangelism and the Early Church

The overall objective of this course is to develop and implement a household strategy for reaching unbelievers with the Gospel and incorporating them into the life of the church, based on biblical principles and patterns for the home and the church. Specifically, this means that each person studying the course would:

- Take a fresh look at evangelism through the eyes of the early church, looking for insights into their effectiveness and boldness, as well as identifying patterns which can serve as guides and models for today.

- Integrate the insights of the first-century church drawn from Acts with the mandates and exhortations of the Epistles to formulate a guide or model which can serve as an aid to shape our twenty-first-century strategies.
 - Define the essentials of the gospel message, package them in a way that they can easily be shared with a nonbeliever and develop a core set of answers to all the basic questions non-believers ask concerning the validity of our faith.
 - Think through the issue of establishing a new convert in their faith and study the role of baptism in this process in order to design a plan for incorporating a new believer into the life of a believing community--a local church.
 - Design and implement a home-based evangelism strategy for your own household and design a generic strategy which could serve as a guide for any local church in developing evangelism strategy at a corporate level.
-

Financial Agreement:

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

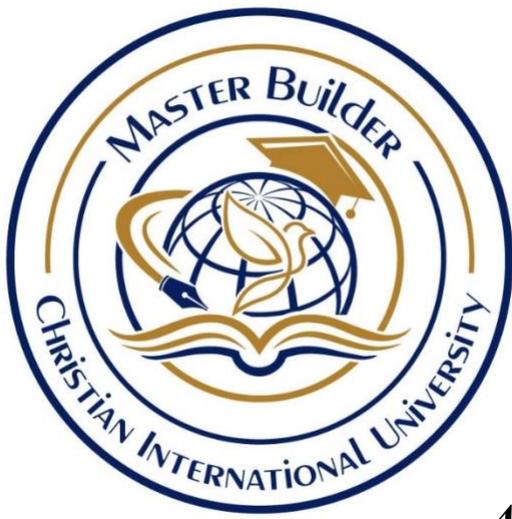
Payment for the program will be the following:

- \$175/month for 32 months

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

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

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:	<input type="checkbox"/> Certificate of Ministry	<input type="checkbox"/> Associate of Ministry
	<input type="checkbox"/> Diploma of Ministry	<input type="checkbox"/> Bachelor of Ministry
	<input type="checkbox"/> Master of Ministry	<input type="checkbox"/> 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 and Doctoral Programs*: \$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: _____