



LETTER TO PROSPECTIVE INTERNS

Dear Prospective Pastoral Intern,

Somewhere along the way, in God's kind providence, you have been made aware of this new endeavor of Cottondale Baptist Church to raise up the next generation of church leaders for the sake of Christ and his kingdom—and you are interested or, perhaps, merely curious! Praise God! We are praying for God's chosen man (men) to join with us in this step of faith. We only ask that you prayerfully consider the opportunity and follow the Spirit's leading.

So **what is this pastoral internship** anyway? It is our endeavor to fulfill the command of 2 Timothy 2:2—*what you have heard from me in the presence of many witnesses entrust to faithful men, who will be able to teach others also*. It is our effort to intentionally equip young men who feel called to some form of pastoral ministry by giving them hands-on experience in a local church context. You would essentially be a staff member who would work by my side in serving and supporting every ministry of the church.

Additionally, you would have the **opportunity to earn up to 18 hours of elective credit toward an undergrad or graduate degree through Boyce College or Southern Seminary (SBTS)**. Through SBTS's Ministry Apprenticeship Program (MAP), and under my supervision, interns can earn 6 hours of elective credit in each of the following 3 areas: Proclamation, Leadership, and Outreach. We believe that seminary training wed with practical leadership experience within the local church is the consummate union, able to effectively produce the next generation of godly servant-leaders. And raising up such leaders is the calling and responsibility of the local church.

Sound interesting? **We would love to begin a conversation with you.** You may contact me (Pastor Chad) directly at cehendley@gmail.com. We require a completed application with references and a résumé followed by an interview. Participation in MAP through SBTS requires you to apply directly to the school, and upon admission, to enroll in the MAP courses (more information below). However, your application to SBTS should wait until you are in the interview process.

Undoubtedly, you have many more questions. Following this letter, you will find some of those questions answered as well as the application process. All further questions can be directed to the email address above.

We are praying with you and for you! We trust God, that he will connect us with right man (men) to whom we can be a tremendous blessing, and who can be a tremendous blessing to us! May God direct your every step as you serve him.

Your servant in Christ,

Chad E. Hendley
Pastor
Cottondale Baptist Church

PASTORAL INTERNSHIP—FAQs

What responsibility and time commitments will the intern make?

The intern will be responsible to be present at every regular, organized gathering of the church, namely, (1) Morning and Evening Sunday Worship, (2) Wednesday Prayer Meeting/Kids Ministry, (3) Deacons' Meetings, and (4) any other event/activity/meeting in which the pastor deems his attendance necessary or profitable. Additionally, the intern will meet personally with the pastor on a weekly basis for prayer, planning, encouragement, and instruction (in conjunction with MAP, see below). The intern should also be prepared to contribute to the preaching/teaching ministry of the church, including (but not limited to) preaching/teaching on Sundays and Wednesdays, at the pastor's discretion and under his guidance. Finally, the intern should expect to share with the pastor regular, weekly times of visitation for the purposes of pastoral care, outreach, and evangelism. Beyond these commitments, the intern's time is at his discretion to complete his seminary coursework, prepare, serve, rest or anything else needful. The pastor will gladly work with intern regarding time off or needful absence from any of the above activities.

How long is the internship?

The internship, in conjunction with MAP (see below) is semester based, although preference is given to those who can stay at least 2 full semesters and, ideally, a summer as well (i.e. a full calendar year).

What is SBTS's Ministry Apprenticeship Program (MAP), and how do I apply?

Further information can be found at <http://www.sbts.edu/globalcampus/map/>. MAP is an effort by the Southern Baptist Theological Seminary (SBTS) to link formal, seminary training with practical, ministerial experience. There are three, 6-credit hour seminars that you can choose from: Leadership, Proclamation, and Outreach. These credit hours are fully accredited and are elective credits which count toward degrees at either Southern Seminary OR Boyce College. Whether these credits will transfer to other colleges/seminaries is up to those respective institutions and would have to be verified directly with them. To participate, you will have to be accepted by the admissions office of SBTS/Boyce as well as pay the tuition for the course(s). The pastor will be the supervisor for the courses. You will have to follow the instructions below:

1. Apply at sbts.edu/apply. Use code MAP to waive the application fee.
2. Once accepted as a student, you can sign up for the 6 hour seminars.
3. Once in the course, you will fill out a questionnaire. Indicate that Chad Hendley of Cottondale Baptist Church will be your supervisor.
4. The syllabus will be delivered to your online learning portal like all other classes.

Is the internship paid?

The finance committee has approved a *monthly stipend of \$750* to offset the intern(s)' living expenses. Additionally, due to God's grace overflowing in generosity among the saints, housing will be provided. Should there be more than one qualified candidate seeking the internship at the same time frame, we reserve the right to work with the candidates to see if an agreeable division of this amount among the candidates can be reached. Otherwise, we will accept only one applicant and the full amount will go to him.

The intern will be responsible to raise support for the remainder of their living expenses, and if necessary, the tuition amount for the MAP course through SBTS. If raising support is a new endeavor to you, we strongly recommend purchasing and following the guidance of the book *The God Ask* by Steve Shadrach. Though interns are strongly urged—by God's grace, through faith-filled effort—to raise sufficient support, if a part-time job is necessary to meet one's needs, we will allow it, as long it does not interfere with the intern's other duties.

THE APPLICATION PROCESS

1. **Complete the application** including references and return to cottondalebaptist@gmail.com or P.O. Box 4571, Eastman, GA 31023. **Please send a résumé as well.** We will accept your application as soon as you complete it—the sooner the better. While not an absolute cut-off date, we urge you to submit your application by **June 1**. The Fall application deadline at SBTS is July 15. This will give us time to review your application and schedule an interview, while still leaving you time to apply to SBTS and raise support. In the case of many early applicants, **we may cap the number of applicants** we consider, and those who submitted their applications earlier will be given priority.
 - a. By mid-April, we should have an **internship page** up on our website (cottondalebaptistchurch.com). If you are applying closer toward June 1, check there first. We will post if we have closed the internship to further applicants.
2. Once you submit your application, **we will contact you and confirm receipt of your application.** You may be contacted by the pastor for an informal conversation and introduction.
3. Upon further prayerful review, **you will be notified whether or not we would like to schedule a formal interview.** As much as we wish we could support a large intern group, we are unable to do at this time. So, especially if there is a large pool of applicants, everyone may not move forward in the interview process.
4. If an **interview** is scheduled, **you will meet with the pastor, the personnel committee, and possibly the deacon board.**
5. After we interview the pool of accepted applicants, the intern(s) will be chosen, likely up to a maximum of two. **You will be notified whether or not you have been selected.**
6. Then, the intern(s) will need to **apply to SBTS, and, upon acceptance, sign up for the MAP course(s)** as described in the above FAQ.
7. Also, the intern(s) will want to **begin support raising.** We recommend the counsel given in Steve Shadrach's book *The God Ask*. The pastor can provide counsel in this area as well.
8. Finally, the intern(s) will need to **move in prior to the beginning of the Fall Semester.**