

Pastoral Licensing Process

Overview

We have a vision for LVCC to be a teaching church, committed to raising leaders, pastors and elders from within our own congregation.

2 Timothy 2:2 (NLT2)

² You have heard me teach things that have been confirmed by many reliable witnesses. Now teach these truths to other trustworthy people who will be able to pass them on to others.

The goal of LVCC Pastoral Internship Program is to unveil regular, day-to-day ministerial life and provide individuals aspiring to be pastors with an ecclesiological and pastoral grid for doing the work of ministry.

The essence of pastoral licensing comes from the testimony, witness and full backing of Loma Vista Community Church. Once a person completes their pastoral internship they will be presented to the members of LVCC at a Congregational Meeting (either in June or December) for approval and commissioning. This commissioning by the membership of LVCC creates a level of legitimacy and credibility for an individual and their ministry, recognizing them as one who is gifted, called, trained and commissioned for pastoral ministry. Once licensed the individual can then perform any sacraments of the church, such as weddings, funerals, preaching, baptism and other church duties, under the supervision of an LVCC pastor. This also allows the licensed pastor to go on and pursue ordination. A pastoral license is different from ordination:

<u>License</u>	<u>Ordination</u>
Temporary	Permanent
Supervised	Supervises
Needs renewal	Doesn't need renewal
Might be limited to local church	Transferable beyond local church

A pastoral license may also be honored and transferred to another church or ministry organization but isn't guaranteed. Further verification needs to be done by the individual. Licensed pastors are also recognized by the State of California and can be eligible to receive further benefits reserved only for licensed pastors by the I.R.S., such as a housing allowance, tax exemption status, etc. If the individual becomes an employee of LVCC, they can be eligible for further benefits, such as health insurance, retirement, etc.

Is Pastoral Licensing for me?

Pastoral licensing is designed to equip those who have already committed to pastoral ministry as their vocation and have demonstrated fruitfulness in leadership and teaching in such a way that can be quantified by the body of Christ. We desire to see

those who have already made this commitment to become fully equipped to serve the church in this capacity.

We also believe that pastoring is closely associated with leadership and teaching (Eph. 4:11-13), which is the primary emphasis of this program. Therefore, we discourage an individual from applying who is not interested in leadership or teaching, or from using this program to try and answer the question, “*Am I called to pastoral ministry?*” This program is too short and isn’t designed to give someone the time they need to adequately answer that question.

Eligibility

We believe God’s calling into pastoral ministry isn’t mysterious or mystical, but rather comes from the invitation and need of the local body of Christ.

Eligibility requirements:

- Committed to LVCC’s Membership, Maturity, Ministry and Missions Covenants
- Supportive of and is in good standing with LVCC’s members, leaders and church vision.
- Displays competence in multiple areas of ministry, particularly in leadership, team building and teaching that is verifiable by the Body of Christ.
- Has completed or is in the process of completing college undergraduate work or higher.
- Committed to serving as a pastor as their vocation
- Pass a criminal background check

Since serving as a pastor is one of the highest offices of the church, the candidate must be able to demonstrate fruitfulness in different levels of leadership. Therefore, we look for candidates who have experience as a Ministry Coordinator, a leader of leaders/teachers.

Structure of Internship

The internship will be comprised of four basic components:

- Reading –

Approximately one book will be assigned every two to three weeks. While the list of books is constantly updated, here is a general guide to the books that are used:

Integrity –	<i>“The Pursuit of Holiness”</i> Jerry Bridges
Gospel –	<i>“Gospel”</i> J.D. Greear

Pastoring – “*Elders and Leaders*” Gene Getz
Equipping – “*Developing the Leaders Around You*” John Maxwell
Leadership – “*Spiritual Leadership*” Oswald Sanders
Teaching – “*Communicating for a Change*” Andy Stanley
Apologetics – “*The Reason for God*” Tim Keller

- Writing

A two-page reflection paper will be assigned to each book and will be read, reviewed and critiqued by the Lead Pastor. These papers will be discussed in depth at the weekly Intern Meetings.

(The Reading and Writing segments of this process can be replaced with the student's normal course work in college/seminary.)

- Observing

Each intern will be exposed to different areas of ministry within the church to get a well-rounded experience. During their internship they will observe weddings, funerals, hospital visitations, Elders/Staff Meetings, and Service Design meetings. The observation experience may also include interviewing elders or staff members regarding their testimony and ministry.

- Serving

During the program the intern will need to serve for a minimum of 15-20 hours per week (paid or volunteered) in a specific ministry. These hours can be under the supervision of an LVCC licensed/ordained pastor.

A Typical Week

The internship program takes approximately 3-6 months to complete, depending on a candidate's experience and education. During that time the intern will have to meet the following program requirements:

- Serve 15-20 hours per week (paid or volunteered) in a ministry of their choice, supervised by a LVCC licensed pastor or staff
- Attend the 1 ½ hour weekly Intern Meeting with Pastors on Thursday or Friday
- Complete weekly reading and writing assignments
- Attend necessary meetings each week

(This schedule may vary depending on the person's family and school responsibilities.)

Application Process

- Fill out Pastoral Internship Application
- Provide three references attesting to your ministry experience and fruitfulness.
 - One from a ministry supervisor
 - One from someone under your supervision
 - One from a colleague or peer

The application will be reviewed by the pastors and elders for approval and generally takes one to two months to process.

Frequently Asked Questions

When are internships offered? Our internship programs generally start in time to get the candidates ready to be presented at our Congregational Meetings in June and December. Therefore, we like to start them in January and July but are flexible.

Can I get seminary credit for doing the internship? We are happy to cooperate with any college or seminary, but since it is their decision, check with them first.

I'm not sure I want to be a pastor. Can I still do the internship? We encourage only those who have already made a commitment or are currently in pastoral ministry to apply for the program.

Is LVCC able to provide internships for women? We believe women can serve in a variety of roles as leaders, coordinators, directors and ministers. However, we believe scriptures reserve the role of the pastor for qualified and called men.

Where should I be in my education before doing the internship? A college degree is usually expected for intern candidates. However, you can begin your internship before or during your college education.

Is a stipend provided for the interns? No. Some interns will be paid employees of LVCC and others will be volunteers. The books will be covered by the church and possibly reimbursement for expenses related to your ministry.

Pastoral Licensing Application

Thank you for your interest in an internship at Loma Vista Community Church. Our hope in this Pastoral Internship Program is to encourage and influence future pastors in their role in evangelical churches and ministry organizations. Under supervision, interns will gain knowledge in the areas of pastoral leadership, teaching and church management.

To complete the application, please send each of the following via email to joe@lomavistacc.com or mail it to our church office.

Name _____ Date _____

Home Phone _____ Work Phone _____ Cell _____

Email address _____

How did you become a Christian?

Describe your church experience.

What areas of your faith have you grown in? Struggled in?

What are your spiritual gifts and how have you used them?

Describe your educational experience beyond high school. Include college, large conferences, graduate work or other internships. Include times, dates and degrees/certifications earned:

Describe past ministry experiences listing year, churches, your duties and the results of your service.

Why do you want to intern at LVCC?

What kind of service do you think God is leading you into?

What strengths and experiences do you bring to a team?

If you are married, tell us about your marriage and any concerns you may have for it as you consider pastoral ministry.

Please comment on your current and recent track record with obeying God by abstaining from pornography and related forms of sexual sin. If you have sinned in this area, please explain and be specific in regard to frequency, when the sin occurred (e.g., in the past week, month, year, 5 years?) and what you have done to fight for a pattern of obedience.

Are you willing to continue to serve as a pastor as your vocation? Why or why not?

Please provide three references who can speak to your character, experience, skills, strengths and weaknesses. They must be able to verify your fruitfulness and effectiveness in ministry, specifically in the areas of leadership and teaching. Please ask your references to state how long and in what relational capacity they have known you. Have their letters be sent directly to sharon@lomavistacc.com

Reference #1 (a pastor or supervisor)

Name: _____ Cell: _____

Email: _____

Reference #2 (someone you have supervised)

Name: _____ Cell: _____

Email: _____

Reference #3 (a peer or colleague)

Name: _____ Cell: _____

Email: _____