

## **DEVELOPING A LEARNING COVENANT**

### **Supervised Ministry Practicum – Beeson Divinity School**

**The learning covenant is comprised of objectives the student sets in each of four areas:**

1. PERSONAL GROWTH – Growing in love for God, for his Church, and for others
2. LEADERSHIP – Leading God’s people in worship and ministry
3. PROCLAMATION – Making known the good news of Jesus Christ
4. PASTORAL CARE – Tending to the health and growth of the church

Each of these areas is very broad, and they overlap in ways that make it nearly impossible to classify a topic under one heading only. For example, equipping others to share their faith is not only Proclamation, but Leadership. Don’t get too hung up on the classifications, but strive to ensure that there is breadth to your objectives, i.e. that they reasonably represent the breadth of pastoral ministry.

#### **Things to consider as you define learning objectives**

- Current state of ministry preparedness
  - Where are the gaps/deficiencies in my readiness for ministry?
    - If you were to step into a full-time ministry position tomorrow, in what areas do you lack confidence that you could do what is needed?
  - How can I strengthen or improve my ministry skills and capacities?
- Nature and trajectory of your call to ministry
  - What am I gifted and called to do in ministry at this time and place?
  - In what type of ministry capacity do I believe God will use me in the future?
- Ministry context
  - What learning/growth opportunities and resources are available to me here?
  - What are realistic and attainable objectives given the limitations of time and other resources?
- Counsel of others
  - Mentor and others at the practicum site
  - Faculty, staff, and fellow students
  - Feedback received from previous ministry experiences
- Direction of Word and Spirit
  - As I read and meditate on God’s Word, and pray for wisdom in these matters, toward what objectives is the Holy Spirit pointing me?

## Resources and strategies

For each objective, the student must list resources and strategies he or she will use to facilitate learning or growth. These may include (but not be limited to) readings, resource people, discussions, observations, and experiences, depending on what is most appropriate for the type of objective. While it may not apply to every learning objective, a tried-and-true system for developing ministry skills is:



## Sample Learning Covenant

	LEARNING OBJECTIVE	RESOURCES & STRATEGIES
Personal Growth	To develop habits that will help me to balance commitments to family, ministry, and studies	Read articles or book; discuss with mentor or other; identify key issues and practices; experiment with different approaches; evaluate
	To grow in the practice of hospitality	Read articles or book; discuss with mentor or other; identify and address obstacles; establish and implement plan; evaluate
Leadership	To learn how to plan and execute a significant ministry project	Discuss with mentor and others; gather resources; develop project management plan; implement plan; evaluate
	To improve as a worship leader, in situations where I have a speaking or communication role (not music; not preaching)	Read articles; discuss with mentor or others; lead worship; review video or audio recording; gather feedback/enlist coach; lead worship; evaluate
Proclamation	To grow in my skills of preaching God's Word	Plan dates for preaching to different groups; plan and write sermons; share sermons with mentor to gain feedback; practice sermons with others; preach sermons; review sermons with mentor to gain feedback
	To learn how to equip and empower believers to share their faith with others	Read articles or book; discuss with mentor or others; gather resources; develop and implement plan; evaluate
Pastoral Care	To grow in my capacity to provide pastoral care and counsel to those struggling with marriage and family difficulties	Read articles or book; discuss with mentor or others; observe one or more counseling sessions
	To learn about bereavement ministry, including how to conduct a funeral	Discuss with mentor or others; gather resources; accompany minister providing bereavement care