

HOW TO GET INTO FULL-TIME CHRISTIAN MINISTRY

Just a minute! Isn't every believer in full-time ministry? Shouldn't every Christian be a full-time minister or representative of Christ every day of his or her life? Absolutely! Then, what do we mean by "getting into full-time ministry"?

Most Christians might be described as self supporting ministers or servants of Christ. That is, they either directly or indirectly earn money to be able to support themselves throughout their years of service for the Lord. I Thessalonians 4:11,12

But the New Testament also describes individuals who "receive their living from the Gospel" I Corinthians 9:14. They are described as "workers who deserve wages" in I Timothy 5:17,18. Christian ministry generally refers to such things as: evangelism, extending the kingdom of Christ, building up His people, and includes various support roles for this Christian ministry enterprise. Such ministry may occur in our own community or it may involve travelling to the farthest corners of the earth.

How do people get involved in this kind of ministry (*either part-time or full-time*) through Lakeshore Bible Chapel?

1. They **may serve with a ministry agency** which provides for their financial support. The Leadership Team/Elders of Lakeshore Bible Chapel strongly desire the opportunity to consult with the candidate prior to application for service with such an agency. Letters of reference to the agency will be provided by the Leadership Team as required or deemed appropriate.
2. They may become involved in **short term ministry projects** (*one month to one year*) which require financial support from God's people and perhaps from the church at Lakeshore. Those who anticipate such support should:
 - A) Notify the Leadership Team immediately of their intention to apply for service with a ministry agency.
 - B) Consider carefully the Stage One portion of the Career Path for those Getting Into Full-Time Ministry (*see other side*).
 - C) Consult with the Leadership Team regarding their suitability for such service and terms under which they may communicate their financial needs to, or among the congregation.

If the candidate is approved by the ministry agency and by the Leadership Team, appropriate opportunity will be given to explain to the congregation their anticipated service.

3. They may become involved in "**long term**" or "**vocational ministry**". Such people must qualify according to the expectations outlined on the Career Path for those Getting into Full-Time Ministry (*see other side*) and should also read carefully Lakeshore's paper entitled Full Time Ministry. Their involvement in such ministry requires a combination of a sense of "calling from God", the endorsement of the Leadership Team, and the affirmation of the congregation.

Commendation is a term used in Scripture for "setting apart a person or persons who are called by God to some specific ministry" Acts 13:1-3; 14:26.

Commendation at Lakeshore :

- A) Applies primarily to members of Lakeshore who are entering a ministry which requires the financial support of the church.
- B) May apply to self-funded ministry workers.
- C) Means the Leadership Team and the congregation are endorsing the call of God on the person in question.
- D) Recognizes that the person in question is ultimately accountable to God as other believers are, but that their primary church accountability link is with Lakeshore via its Leadership Team. Terms of such accountability must be established with the Leadership Team when candidates are accepted for commendation.
- E) Is understood to provide formal ministry status with some ministry agencies and may be recognized by some departments of government.
- F) Includes agreed upon terms of financial support.
- G) Is not provided jointly with other congregations.

When considering financial support for ministry workers, Lakeshore will always give priority to supporting members of Lakeshore who enter ministry as commended workers. However, as funds are available Lakeshore may choose to provide some ongoing financial

support for people already in ministry who are not commended by Lakeshore. Such partnerships will be based on continuing positive relationships between the ministry workers and Lakeshore. The Leadership Team expects such workers: to send regular prayer letters to Lakeshore, to write prompt personal acknowledgments to the church for donations received and to practice exemplary involvement in the ministry at Lakeshore if/when they are making Lakeshore their church home.

"CAREER PATH" FOR THOSE GETTING INTO FULL-TIME MINISTRY

STAGE ONE: *PREPARING YOURSELF*

PERSONAL SPIRITUAL DISCIPLESHIP	CHURCH INVOLVEMENT	EXPOSURE TO MINISTRY	BASIC REQUIREMENTS
<p>Possess acceptable Christian beliefs.</p> <p>Demonstrate consistency in living the basics:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✚ In the Word ✚ In Prayer ✚ In Fellowship ✚ Ready to Witness <p>Clarification of spiritual giftedness. Work well with others.</p>	<p>Be an active and exemplary part of the ministry at Lakeshore for a minimum of one year in both Sunday services, and in small groups.</p>	<p>Learn all you can about ministries that God gives you an interest in.</p> <p>Meet people who are involved in such ministries, dialogue with them.</p> <p>Communicate with the Leadership Team your ministry interests.</p>	<p>Have a clear and consistent sense of direction from God.</p> <p>Acquire formal training and experience appropriate to the ministry anticipated.</p> <p>Express your intentions to the Leadership Team.</p>

STAGE TWO: *GETTING THERE*

ON-THE-JOB EXPERIENCE AT HOME	ADVANCED TRAINING	AGENCY CONTACT & CANDIDACY	ASSIGNMENT SEARCH	CHURCH COMMENDATION
<p>Get involved as a reliable volunteer in a ministry that is similar to the ministry you want to get into.</p>	<p>As needed in accordance with ministry anticipated.</p>	<p>Consult and pray with the Leadership Team about possible ministries or ministry agencies you are interested in. Agree together with them prior to formal application.</p>	<p>Work through the location, timing, and funding for service with the Leadership Team.</p>	<p>When the candidate, the Leadership Team, and the agency (<i>as applicable</i>) agree before God as to the timing and nature of ministry, commendation will be provided by the church.</p>

STAGE THREE: *BEING THERE*

MINISTRY PERSONNEL COMMENDED BY LAKESHORE BIBLE CHAPEL

Accountability & Relationship are vital ingredients to a successful partnership between Lakeshore and ministry personnel. Suitable terms of accountability must be established between the worker and the Leadership Team of Lakeshore Bible Chapel at the time of commendation.

General expectations include:



Quarterly Report to the Leadership Team.



Prompt, personal acknowledgments to the church for donations received.



Exemplary involvement in the ministry at Lakeshore Bible Chapel if/when they are making Lakeshore their church home.