

SERVANT-LEADER APPRENTICESHIP (SLA)

Purpose: Provide an opportunity for men who feel a call to ministry to participate as apprentices on the leadership team of the Followers of Jesus Mennonite Church for further discernment of their calling and gifts with the potential of future formal recognition of their ministries.

Length of Time: three to four years, renewable.

Qualifications: baptized; sense a call to ministry (pastoring, church planting or missions); willing to accept ministry assignments. Priority will be given to members of FJMC and to those who have applied for membership. In certain cases, non-members may be considered, such as those preparing for a missions assignment.

Expectations: Men who are selected would be expected to participate in the following activities in order to experience a variety of pastoral activities...

1. Attend a monthly Leadership Team meetings (currently Wednesday evening) for planning, input, delegation of work and prayer. At such meetings, these men would have voice without vote.
2. Apprentices will be assigned to one of the pastors who will guide them and walk together in reading, studying and discussing *Biblical Eldership*, followed by *Guide for Pastoral Mentoring* and additional appropriate material.
3. Help with visitation, evangelism, prayer, telephone contacts, counseling, preaching, teaching and other pastoral activities as possible.
4. Start/lead a small group to gain experience in pastoral ministry.
5. Openness to review of character and lifestyle.
6. Lead/participate in a *Life of Christ* group or teach some other MTI/Sunday School class as possible.
7. Guard in confidentiality any problems encountered in pastoral ministry.
8. Willingly serve without expectation of remuneration even when encountering difficulty, criticism and misunderstanding.
9. Wives of married apprentices must approve of their husband's participation in SLA.
10. Clearly understand that being a Servant-Leader Apprentice could lead to a formal ministry responsibility but does not guarantee such. In fact, there is no assurance of continuing on beyond the the three-four year period as an SLA. This means a commitment to Christ-like attitudes whether the apprenticeship results in a formal leadership capacity or not.

PROCESS FOR SELECTION OF SERVANT-LEADER APPRENTICES

1. Discussion with overseer and leadership team about choosing men to serve as servant-leader apprentices in order to prepare them for serving on the pastoral team of FJMC and beyond.
2. Give teaching and create vision in the congregation for training men for ministry by involvement as apprentices. Explain the process of how the men will be selected and what they will do.
3. Ask the congregation to review the list of names of men who are members of the church and to circle the names of men whom they feel have leadership qualities.
4. Ask the men to fill out the form "Servant-Leader Apprenticeship Questionnaire" indicating whether or not they feel a call to serve Christ in a leadership capacity. Prior to filling out the form, each man is given information about the purpose, length of time, qualifications, expectations and selection process.
5. The pastoral team will review the results of #3 and 4 above. Those men who received the most "votes", who feel a call and who are interested in being included as apprentices will be interviewed by the pastoral team. Only members will be accepted as apprentices (with possible exceptions for those who are preparing for a missions assignment).
6. After the interviews the pastoral team selects men to serve as apprentices for three to four years with

the possibility of renewal or of licensure. They will be presented to the congregation with a formal prayer of commissioning.

7. Each month the SLA will meet with a pastor who serves as a mentor to review the study of *Biblical Eldership* and to plan the following month's work. After finishing *Biblical Eldership* we will continue on with the *Guide for Pastoral Mentoring* and other appropriate materials.

PREPARATION FOR SLA SELECTION PROCESS

- ___ Pray (fasting is encouraged)
- ___ Review the information given about Servant-Leader Apprentices and how they are selected
- ___ Fill out and hand in the Servant-Leader Apprenticeship questionnaire given below
- ___ Review *Servant-Leader Apprenticeship Guide (SLA)*
- ___ Review the *FJMC GOALS* statement
- ___ Review the *Goals for Members of FJMC*
- ___ Review the *Mennonite Confession of Faith (1963)*
- ___ Review the *BMA Position and Policy Statement*
- ___ Fill out and hand in the *BMA Assessment of Unity* questionnaire
- ___ Read the *FJMC Statement on Homosexuality*
- ___ Set a time to meet with two or more of the pastors of FJMC.

SERVANT-LEADER APPRENTICESHIP QUESTIONNAIRE

"He gave some to be apostles, some to be prophets, some to be evangelists, and some to be pastors and teachers, to prepare God's people for works of service, so that the body of Christ may be built up..."
(Ephesians 4:11,12)

I **do** feel called to the serve Christ in a leadership capacity..... No 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 Yes

If "yes"...I feel more of a call to serve as... (circle those that apply)

missions church planting prophet evangelism pastor teacher deacon

I am interested in being included in the Servant-Leader Apprenticeship for 3-4 years.....

Yes No Perhaps in the Future

Any additional comments:

Name: _____

Date: _____