

## **Foundations:**

### **Module 1: Christian Thinking and Ministry Practice**

#### *Module Description*

This module is designed to enable pastors and leaders in Christian ministries to reflect theologically on the nature of their ministry and the issues that arise out of it, especially in the Asian context. The module brings together three strands: the nature of vocational ministry approaches to reflecting Christianly within that calling, and biblical hermeneutics as the foundation for thinking theologically. Consideration of the role of culture and systems thinking about the church and other organisations are included in this.

### **Module 2: Kingdom, Church and Society**

#### *Module Description*

One of the greatest challenges facing the church is appropriately focussing on its Kingdom mission. This module is designed to introduce students to a theology of the Kingdom and from that how the church and society can and do interact with the Kingdom. Starting from the biblical texts the module will examine a biblical theology of the Kingdom, theological and sociological views of the church as well as theological and cultural responses to the society around you. This will culminate with you being able to evaluate your interactions with the society around you in a way that ensures you are bringing the Kingdom near in the midst of where you are.

### **Module 3: Ministry Leadership: Issues and Challenges**

#### *Module Description*

This module is designed to provide the ministry leader with a greater systemic awareness of their part in the construction of an ethical, affirming and effective organizational culture.

Leadership is about seeing, acting and knowing oneself so as to be aware of the impact of self on the whole group. The expected major outcome of this module is that participants will have a greater sense of self-awareness as leaders and be more sensitive to the mutual impact of their leading upon the mood and culture within their church or organization and the demands of that organization upon themselves as persons.

### **Module 4: Approaches and Practices for Ministry-based Research**

#### *Module Description*

This module is designed to prepare students to research, write and defend a ministry-project DMin dissertation. Students will be introduced to all the phases of the DMin contextually-applied ministry project dissertation process. This includes getting started on: a research design, a literature review, data collection and analysis, presentation and writing the final product. This is a skill-based module and will incorporate practical work on each of the skill sets. Time will be given to familiarize students with the use of electronic databases for ministry project research

### **Module 5: Pastoral Theology: Issues and challenges in integrating the disconnect between our beliefs and the practice of our faith.**

#### *Module Description*

This module is designed to explore and constructively critique current understandings of our evangelical Pastoral Theology. We have counted on preaching, teaching, and knowledge or information to form faith in the hearer, and have counted on faith to form the inner life and outward behaviour of the Christian. But, for whatever reason, this

strategy has not turned out well. The result is that in many areas, (say, divorce) Christians fare no better than non-Christians.

In this module we will therefore be attempting to discover what are the causes for the 'disconnect' between our profession of belief and the actual practice of our faith. In our time together, we are going to learn from Dallas Willard and other experienced pastor-theologians, the nuts and bolts of what it means to be an 'apprentice' of Jesus Christ and what it means to help fellow apprentices to be conformed after the image of Christ.

## **6. Module 6: Education for Faith Formation**

### *Module Description*

One characteristic of God's people in the Bible is that of a learning community of adults, youths, and children who were educated to understand and live out their faith (*You will be my people, and I will be your God.*). The importance of teaching and learning among the believers is an explicit task echoed through the Old Testament, modeled by Jesus Christ and included in the Great Commission. The task of education (teaching and learning) continues to be important for God's people today. However, meaningful education of God's people can only be a reality if the process is deliberately and systematically planned. This module addresses the latter and guides the students in exploring curricular issues in educating a faith community.