

TEAM Work: Frequently Asked Questions

Is TEAM accredited?

No. Bethany Baptist Church's leadership development program is not accredited and we have no desire to pursue accreditation. The requirements of accreditation would force us provide a specific kind of education that we have no interest in providing. We want our philosophy of education and the needs of the students to dictate the program. This would be compromised if we were accredited.

What does it mean that TEAM is “church-based”?

Let's start with what it doesn't mean. It *doesn't* mean that that we're a seminary that meets at Bethany Baptist's building. It does mean that the entire educational experience is integrated into the life and ministry of the church. Students learn as they participate in authentic church ministry. They're taught by pastors, not just professors. Their educational experience is put into practice in their local church.

What does Bethany Baptist Church have against seminaries?

Nothing. That is to say, we believe that godly Bible colleges and seminaries can have a legitimate role in the training of Christian ministers. What we object to is the idea that they have the an *exclusive* or *primary* role in training Christian ministers. We believe that God gave local churches the responsibilities to educate, train, and appoint its own leadership (Matthew 28:19; Acts 6:1-7, 13:1-3, 20:27; 2 Timothy 2:2). We want to take that responsibility seriously and not merely delegate to others. Whatever role seminaries have it must be secondary and supportive of the local church.

Will training from TEAM Work help me get a job as a pastor?

That depends on the church. We don't have enough data to accurately say whether or not the training you receive through the TEAM Work program will help you get a job as a pastor or Christian minister. To some churches and organizations, having a diploma from an accredited institution is very important. Others will value the depth of learning, practical experiences, character development, and pastoral training that you will receive from our program. Likewise, a church planting mentality also helps solve this problem. Being involved in a Bethany church plant can help put you into a pastorate without having to send out your resume.

Do I have to be a member of Bethany Baptist Church to participate in the TEAM Work program?

Yes. This is not because we're trying to be exclusive or steal people from other churches. Rather, our program simply doesn't work if you're not a member of Bethany. The church-based

nature of the program means that students are called upon to do things that are only appropriate for church members to do. For students desiring to go back to their home church, Watchcare Membership may be an option.

How much does it cost to enroll in a TEAM Work track?

Not much. Usually, students only have to pay for materials.

Why does the TEAM program put so much emphasis on character development?

Because we believe God does! The qualifications for church leaders found in 1st Timothy 3 deal almost exclusively with specific character issues. And yet, most pastoral study programs deal almost entirely with academic knowledge. While we absolutely believe in the importance of theological education (its in our name!), we also believe that the character of prospective pastors should be assessed and developed. We do this through regular, organized assessments that require both the student and church leadership to examine the student in light of scriptural qualifications. This also happens through the organic mentoring process that is just a part of the church-based experience.