



A P P L I C A T I O N

# I N S T R U C T I O N S

## Overview

- Please read the entire application and complete the enclosed forms.
- Information provided will be regarded as confidential.
- Each form must be filled out completely on the paper provided (do not use additional pages).
- Information will be confirmed and discussed by Faith Bible Church leadership.

## Process

1. Read the History of the Training Center.
2. Read and understand the Program.
3. Read, check, and sign the Contract.
4. Read and have a ministry leader or an elder check and sign the Candidate Sponsor form.
5. Complete the Student Information form on yourself.
6. Complete the Character and Convictions form.
7. Return a scanned copy of the application, in the following order;
  - a. Contract [make this the front page].
  - b. Candidate Sponsor.
  - c. Student Information.
  - d. Character and Convictions.
8. Email a scanned copy of your application to [John Pleasnick](#) by Sunday, June 19, 2022.

**Note: Part of the acceptance decision is based in part on whether you can follow these clear instructions.**

## Notification

If Faith Bible Church leadership accepts the applicant into the Training Center, the candidate will be notified by e-mail in early July 2022.

*Notification will be sent to the email provided in the student information section.*

## Preparation

1. The candidate will pay \$800 (first semester fees) by August 29, 2022. <https://faith-bible-church.square.site/product/tc-tuition/1?cs=true>
2. The student will bring a completed Prayer Support Team form to their first day of TC1.
3. The student will purchase their own textbooks and complete assigned summer reading before the first day of TC1.
4. The student will purchase Fall textbooks and have them in hand by the first day of class.

*The Prayer Team form and book lists will be provided in early July, alongside acceptance notification.*

# H I S T O R Y

## **Purpose**

The Training Center is designed to enable any local church, committed to the authority of the Word of God, to fulfill and put into practice 2 Timothy 2:2: “And the things which you have heard from me in the presence of many witnesses, these entrust to faithful men, who will be able to teach others also.”

## **Goal**

The Training Center desires to fulfill 2 Timothy 2:2 by training men as future pastors, elders, missionaries, church planters, and strong lay leaders who will be used of God in local churches for God’s glory. The target is to not make men into something, but to draw out what God has already made them, following the goal of Ephesians 2:10, Acts 13:36, and emphasizing Ephesians 3:20-21: “Now to Him who is able to do exceeding abundantly beyond all that we ask or think, according to the power that works within us, to Him be the glory in the church and in Christ Jesus to all generations forever and ever. Amen.”

## **History**

The Training Center began at the birth of The Masters’ Seminary. Chris Mueller was asked to teach senior theology, which covered the entire bible, theology and practical theology. To graduate, students were required to pass this class so that they would be ready for ordination.

The basics of this seminary course became the foundation for training men in the local church. The senior theology class has been refined and improved over 30 years and is what makes up the first year of the Training Center.

Though functioning periodically for two decades, in 2002, the Training Center was officially implemented at East Valley Bible Church, Arizona with an inaugural class of 24 students from a variety of ministries within that church and churches in the area. Over the next 5 years, over 120 men completed the first year and over 70 men completed all three years, with many now serving in significant ministries spread across the country.

In 2008, we began the Training Center at Faith Bible Church. Each class has begun with around 30 men and concluded with about 15 men graduating from the 3<sup>rd</sup> year. By God’s grace, those graduates are now serving at FBC, in other local churches and overseas, ministering in vital roles as they use their gifts for the health of the Church. It remains the passionate desire of the elders of Faith Bible Church to use the Training Center [along with The Masters’ Seminary] to train men of God for ministry around the world.

## **Leadership**

Chris Mueller has served in pastoral ministry since 1975. He served as a youth staff member under Chuck Swindoll at Evangelical Free Church in Fullerton, California. At Grace Community Church in Los

Angeles, he served as a pastor to junior high, college, and as a pastoral assistant to John MacArthur. He has functioned as a senior pastor for eleven years in Washington state and in conjunction with pastoral ministry, has served as an adjunct professor at Talbot, Masters, and Phoenix Seminaries over the past 25 years. Chris's strongest passion is to preach God's Word, lead Christ's Church, and to train men for ministry. He now fulfills this calling as the teaching pastor of Faith Bible Church and lead teacher of the Training Center. He and his wife, Jean, have two grown sons with amazing daughters-in-law, who have given them three incredible grandsons!! They reside in Wildomar, California.

John Pleasnick came to California from Spokane, Washington where he served as college pastor at another Faith Bible Church (unaffiliated). Upon relocating to this area, John served as the equipping pastor at Las Brisas Bible Fellowship in Murrieta. In the Fall of 2003, a team of men (including John) planted Faith Bible Church, and he's been serving here as a pastor ever since. John is a graduate of The Master's Seminary and Southern Seminary, and has been involved in training men for ministry since 1999. He presently serves as the Director of FBC's Training Center, along with a host of other ever-changing ministry roles. John and his wife, Beth, first met in the 90's in Spokane. Their relationship officially started on the last day of a short-term missions trip to Venezuela, and they have been married since 2001. God has blessed them with three children who, like their parents, enjoy rainy days more than sunny ones!

Nigel Shailer serves as a pastor at Faith Bible Church, overseeing its counseling center. His passion is to train and equip believers to serve in the local church as pastors, elders, missionaries, and in significant lay ministries. He is a discipler of men, having been involved in ministry for over 25 years. Previously, Nigel served as Vice-Principal, Academic Dean, and Head of Bible Exposition at The Shepherd's Bible College (a TMAI training institute) in New Zealand. Nigel earned a Bachelor of Applied Theology from Carey Baptist College in Auckland, New Zealand. He graduated in 2000 from The Master's Seminary in Los Angeles with a Master of Divinity degree. And in 2013, he earned a Doctor of Ministry degree from The Master's Seminary. Nigel married Sereena in 1991. They are both "Kiwis" (born and raised in New Zealand). Nigel loves to watch the "All Blacks" playing rugby and can enjoy the Tour de France repeatedly.

## P R O G R A M

The Training Center is a program with three separate years, which runs from late August through late May. Students meet for a single three-hour classroom gathering per week, sharing a meal together beforehand. Classes are primarily scheduled from 6-9pm so that men can attend after a normal work day. Homework, study, reading, writing, and class preparation may involve an additional 6 to 18 hours/week depending on class requirements and the student's abilities.

### Year One: **THE WORD**

An intense study of the entire bible, theology, and practical theology, with a focus on real-life ministry and heart-driven service within the church.

### Year Two: **THE SHEPHERD**

An introduction to preaching, teaching, expositional Greek, exegesis, study, expositional theology, discernment in reading and leading, counseling, pastoral care, eldership, shepherding, training men, leadership, purpose, calling, weddings, funerals, finances and more.

### Year Three: **THE LEADER**

A focus on setting direction, philosophy of ministry, leading change, sending and being sent, advanced teaching, preaching and exegesis, and the student's unique purpose in God's work for God's glory.

### Process

The weekly three-hour gathering is more than just class time, it is a life-on-life mentoring process involving every student as they share with each other and help shape one another's lives. The learning process is integrated, harmonizing the teaching topics with the reading topics to formulate discussion over key issues of ministry. The training is church-based, led by a pastor, and uses other pastors to give input at every level of the training process. It is a Hebrew approach [versus a Greek approach] to learning. Those familiar with graduate level courses, where students work outside of class, and form convictions and discussion and presentation inside of class will see similarities in the Training Center.

### Approach

The Training Center recognizes the value of a seminary education and yet, many men cannot attend seminary. Therefore, the Training Center focuses on equipping the man of God with the various tools he will repeatedly use in everyday ministry. For example, the Training Center begins with exegetical Greek and moves toward a grammatical study of Greek. This enables the student to learn how to determine the author's intended meaning of any text using the many Greek tools available today.

The Training Center focuses on developing;

- CHARACTER that is honest,
- COMMITMENT that is passionate,
- Bible CONTENT understanding that is alive,
- COMMUNICATION skills that are practical, accurate, clear and engaging.

Since Jesus said, “. . . everyone, after Me has been fully trained, will be like his teacher” (Luke 6:40b), the Training Center believes that future pastors and elders are best trained by experienced pastors and elders who serve in local churches.

### Participants

The Training Center of Faith Bible Church is committed to coming alongside churches in Southern California and provide pastor/elder training to “elder-approved and elder-sent” men. Our desire is not to train men solely for Faith Bible Church, or to function in FBC-like churches alone, but to train men for usefulness in any solid church. We require each man sent from a local church to have an elder or pastor accompany him to his training day at least one time per month. This assures that the training process becomes an extension of each church, assisting each body to fulfill 2 Timothy 2:2.

### Requirements

A man who desires to go through the Training Center process must have:

- A strong desire to serve in the local church.
- The fruit of a changed-life already proven from their existing ministry.
- The approval of their teaching pastor and elder team.
- A clearly established gift of preaching, teaching, or ability to teach.
- A completed and signed application, submitted by June 19, 2022 [in order to start in the upcoming August].

*Class sizes are limited; therefore, it is best to apply early. Submitting an application is not a guarantee of acceptance.*

## **Conditions**

**The Training Center requires a great deal of time spent in class, in study, in special Saturday Training Days [up to 4 times per year] and attending an annual pastor's conference (up to a week long).** Students with demanding jobs or uncertain travel schedules, those who know they will miss more than three class sessions a semester, or those not affirmed by their pastoral leadership need not apply. We welcome participants from other churches in the region, but do require direct, regular involvement by a pastor or elder from the sending church. Leadership teams who are not able to have an elder or pastor attend with their student at least once per month also need not apply.

## **Costs**

The Training Center is a not-for-profit ministry of Faith Bible Church for our church members and open to the local church community. The following amounts should be used for budgeting purposes.

Tuition costs are approximately \$800 per semester;

- This amount does not include books, materials, laptop, and Logos Bible Software.
- This amount does include all other costs, including a required annual pastor's conference.

TOTAL COST [including everything for each year]:

- **Year One:** Approx. \$1,600-\$1,700
- **Year Two:** Approx. \$2,600-\$2,900 [including Logos Bible Software (approx. \$900) but does not include laptop required at the beginning of the year]
- **Year Three:** Approx. \$2,000-\$2,400

## **Payment and Refund Guidelines**

- Tuition is collected before the beginning of each semester.
  - *If you need a payment plan, please make arrangements with [John Pleasnick](#).*
  - *All payment plans require an initial payment of \$250 by start of semester.*
- Tuition will be refunded minus a \$50 withdrawal fee before class begins.
- Once class begins, tuition is refundable minus a \$100 withdrawal fee.
- After 4 weeks of the semester are completed, tuition is non-refundable.
- Payments for tuition are made online at:

<https://faith-bible-church.square.site/product/tc-tuition/1?cs=true>

# C O N T R A C T

Candidate Name \_\_\_\_\_

PLEASE PRINT CLEARLY

I agree to complete what I have started. I will not drop out without mutual agreement between myself and Chris Mueller, John Pleasnick, and Nigel Shailer. I also agree to involve them early in the process of evaluating my continuing in the training center and not later after a decision has already been made. I also agree to a four-week release point where I can step out of the Training Center after being able to better count the cost.

Initial here:

I agree to take time off for a scheduled pastors' conference each year (a week long, typically held sometime between Feb-Apr), to pay for approx. \$800 tuition per semester, which include the pastors' conference costs, and if I continue into TC 2, to purchase Logos Bible Software, costing approximately \$900, and have it installed and functioning on a laptop that I own or will purchase. I understand that the Training Center seeks to financially break even – it is not-for-profit.

Initial here:

I agree to attend every class on time, except for severe sickness or crisis. I agree to notify Chris each time I may have to miss class in writing, by email, or by phone, before I miss a class. I understand that my absence may have consequences. I also understand that being absent from more than three classes in a semester will result in the termination of my enrollment in the Training Center. I will complete projects and reading on time, prepared correctly, and submit digital copies to the TC leadership, using the correct format and method, before class starts each week.

Initial here:

I agree to have my calling, my character, my understanding of the Word and theology, my ministry commitment, competency, courage, chemistry with others and my communication as a teacher or preacher or shepherd be evaluated continually throughout the Training Center process. I desire to grow and welcome the input of Chris Mueller, John Pleasnick, Nigel Shailer, the other elders, and the men of my class in my life, even when it is difficult to hear.

Initial here:

I agree to work hard to maintain a healthy relationship with Christ, to be filled with the Spirit, and to be in regular and continual prayer for Chris, John, Nigel, and the Training Center men. I will learn aggressively, apply the Word diligently, and maintain my passion for Christ and His Church as hard as I can.

Initial here:

I agree to pursue loving my wife like Christ loves the church, to lead my home, and to parent my children [and/or grandchildren] consistently throughout the Training Center process. I will seek to apply what I am learning most aggressively in my home so that my wife and children are encouraged by the sacrifices necessary to continue in the Training Center. I will strive to outdo all my prior years as a husband and father.

Initial here:

I agree to submit to the leadership of my church and will support all the ministries of my church from the heart, in prayer, and by participation whenever possible. I will affirm the doctrine and direction of my church family completely. If a part of Faith Bible Church, I will be involved in shepherding a portion of the flock weekly, I will be faithfully involved in consistent ministry, and will involve my wife and children in age-appropriate ministries. I will also be a supporter, from the heart, of the children's, student, college and adult ministries of my church – not just with my words and prayers, but also by the participation of my own family. I will give generously to my church, both with my finances and my time.

Initial here:

I agree to have a team of people praying for me through my Training Center experience. I will keep them current on how to pray and on answers to their prayers. From the beginning of my time in the Training Center, I will be involved in shepherding a portion of the flock. By the end of year one, I will seek to be sharing the gospel weekly and discipling at least one man. Throughout the Training Center, I will be aggressive with ministry opportunities, attend up to two Saturday training days per semester, take a ½ day per semester for a personal prayer summit and attend one 'fun' day with my Training Center class, and possibly the spouses.

Initial here:

I agree [within reason] to complete all Training Center assignments and reading in a 15-hour maximum period each week. I will seek help if I need to develop study habits, to develop discipline, or if I am a perfectionist.

Initial here:

I understand that even if I complete Year One, I may not continue into Year Two for additional shepherd training. This depends on my calling, gifts, desire, the affirmation of the elders, the Training Center leadership and the Training Center men, and satisfactory work during Year One.

Initial here:

I agree and am committed to paying for and taking time to travel overseas on a short-term missions trip, in order to serve the Church in some manner, before, during, or within two years after my time in the Training Center.

Initial here:

**TRAINING CENTER CANDIDATE**

Date \_\_\_\_\_

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Print Name \_\_\_\_\_

**CANDIDATE'S WIFE, if married**

Date \_\_\_\_\_

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Print Name \_\_\_\_\_

# C A N D I D A T E   S P O N S O R

Candidate Name \_\_\_\_\_

PLEASE PRINT CLEARLY

Address \_\_\_\_\_ City \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Home Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Cell \_\_\_\_\_ Work \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

## **Application Process Described**

1. Complete and submit ALL application forms to apply for the Training Center.
2. The FBC Elders will review, discuss and approve potential men for the TC class, taking into account their fit for that particular year, class size & preparation.
3. One of the FBC pastoral staff will communicate the decision to each of the men who apply.

## **Principles I Am Affirming in My Recommendation**

***By recommending the man listed above...***

1. I affirm my belief that God could intend this man to be a future elder, teaching pastor, staff pastor, missionary, church planter, biblical counselor or significant layman. And I recognize the warning of 1 Timothy 5:22: "Do not lay hands upon anyone too hastily and thus share responsibility for the sins of others; keep yourself free from sin." Initial here:
2. I affirm the potential candidate listed above is a man who has been a part of the family of Faith Bible Church for two years in active ministry. (*There are some exceptions to this requirement that can be discussed.*) Initial here:
3. I affirm he has shepherded his family in such a way as to be an example for the Faith Bible Church family. Initial here:
4. I affirm my belief that he is a shepherd, having seen others become more like Christ [the fruit of changed lives] because of his ministry and observing him demonstrate a genuine love for people, both lost and saved. Initial here:
5. I affirm my belief that he can teach, in that he has taught the Bible in some setting in the past with some measure of blessing. Initial here:

6. I affirm my belief he is a member of Faith Bible Church. Initial here:
7. I affirm that he understands and embraces the doctrine of Faith Bible Church. Initial here:
8. I affirm that he has no overt character flaw which would hinder him from responsible ministry and has enough discipline in order to complete the process of the training center—including 3 hours of class time and up to 15 hours of preparation—all while maintaining his commitments to the Lord, his wife, and children and ministry to the church. Initial here:
9. I affirm that he is faithfully and regularly giving to support the ministry of Faith Bible Church. Initial here:

One signature is needed to complete this form; the pastor or elder must sign below. In doing so, the pastor/elder is affirming that he has...

1. ***Read this entire page in light of the man listed above and with a clear conscience can affirm this man to participate in the Training Center for the new class starting this August, and,***
2. ***Agreed to sponsor this man through the process of the Training Center; meaning to support the candidate with prayer, counsel, support, encouragement, and help.***

***SPONSOR (i.e., Faith Bible Church Ministry Leader, Pastor, or Elder)***

Date \_\_\_\_\_

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Print Name \_\_\_\_\_

*Once signed, a scanned copy of this form should be included with the candidate's application.*

# STUDENT INFORMATION

Keep it short and simple.

Candidate Name \_\_\_\_\_ Nickname [if any] \_\_\_\_\_

PLEASE PRINT CLEARLY

Address \_\_\_\_\_ City \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Home Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Cell \_\_\_\_\_ Work \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_ Other Email \_\_\_\_\_

Country of Birth \_\_\_\_\_ Age \_\_\_\_\_

Current Career and Previous Jobs \_\_\_\_\_

Are you a member of Faith Bible Church? *Circle one:* Yes | No Year you became a member? \_\_\_\_\_

*If you are a member of another church, please list here:* \_\_\_\_\_

Wife's Name \_\_\_\_\_ Number of Years Married \_\_\_\_\_ Number of Children \_\_\_\_\_

Child's Name	Age	Gender	School they Attend	Best Quality

Countries Visited \_\_\_\_\_

Languages you speak other than English \_\_\_\_\_

List "pre-FBC" ministry involvement [List main roles in chronological order (oldest to most recent) and the church/organization they took place in]

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List current ministry involvement at Faith Bible Church

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Current Pastor/Elder/Overseer's name \_\_\_\_\_ Current Mentor [if different] \_\_\_\_\_

Course I'd like to teach as an Equipping Class sometime soon \_\_\_\_\_

**Indicate Your Favorites**

Candy Bar	Drink	Restaurant	Vacation Spot
Animal	Meal	Snack	Movie
Book [besides Bible]	Sport to Watch	Sport to Play	Hobby
Pastime	Skill	Type of Music	Musical Artist
Preacher	Radio Preacher	Book of the Bible	Best Friend

**Indicate Your Top Three Favorite Dead Authors**

1.	2.	3.
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**Indicate Your Top Three Favorite Alive Authors**

1.	2.	3.
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List three local people you come in contact weekly you are praying for that they might be saved

1.	2.	3.
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Which particular sin is your biggest struggle right now? \_\_\_\_\_

Which of the following "man" temptations is your biggest struggle? [circle one]: Gold, Girls, or Glory

Indicate the type of ministry you'd like to be doing in 3-10 years and why.

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# C H A R A C T E R   A N D   C O N V I C T I O N S

Candidate Name \_\_\_\_\_

PLEASE PRINT CLEARLY

*If you are involved in another church, please substitute your church's name in place of Faith Bible Church below*

Because the Training Center is about training men in character and convictions in ministry, this form is used to expose the candidate's heart as a determiner to the readiness of the candidate to pursue the process of shepherd in Christ's church. All answers must be completely honest, clear, and brief. No long explanations. Godly leaders may carefully investigate your answers. You may be asked follow-up questions. Use only the spaces provided.

1. Where have you served in ministry at Faith Bible Church in the past?
2. Where are you currently serving at Faith Bible Church? In what capacity/role?
3. How long have you served in your current position at Faith Bible Church?
4. Have you been faithful in ministry in your current role?
5. What kind of changed lives [fruit] have you witnessed as a result of your ministry?
6. What percentage of your annual income is given specifically to Faith Bible Church? \_\_\_\_\_ %  
How long have you been giving at that level? \_\_\_\_\_ years
7. What percentage of your annual income is given to the Lord's work other than Faith Bible Church? \_\_\_\_\_ %  
How long have you been giving to others at that level? \_\_\_\_\_ years
8. Have you ever been critical of the Faith Bible Church elders, deacons, or ministry leaders? If yes, in what way? How was it resolved?

9. Have you had a conflict with any elder, deacon, or ministry leader at Faith Bible Church? If yes, how did you resolve that conflict?
  
10. Have you been involved in any serious counseling from or shepherding with a Faith Bible Church ministry leader? If yes, what was the nature of the issue being discussed?
  
11. How is your commitment to the leaders of Faith Bible Church manifested?
  
12. What are your main biblical priorities as a man?
  
13. How does your commitment to family relate to your commitment to your church family?
  
14. How many hours do you spend playing video/computer games each week, on average?
15. How many hours do you spend watching television each week, on average?
16. What is your favorite show? Why?
  
17. How many hours do you spend on social media each week, on average?
18. How often do you NOT attend church in a year? For what reasons?
  
19. How involved are each of your children [if applicable] in Faith Bible Church Childrens, Student, and College ministries?
  
20. Why do you think you should be included in the Training Center process?

21. On the following topics, indicate how alike or different you are from Faith Bible Church leadership...

**Doctrines of Grace (TULIP)** [circle one] Alike / Different  
If different, please describe how:

**Lordship** [circle one] Alike / Different  
If different, please describe how:

**Cessationism** [circle one] Alike / Different  
If different, please describe how:

**Millennial View** [circle one] Alike / Different  
If different, please describe how:

**Church Membership** [circle one] Alike / Different  
If different, please describe how:

**Creation** [circle one] Alike / Different  
If different, please describe how:

**Church Government** [circle one] Alike / Different  
If different, please describe how:

**Demon Possession and Exorcism** [circle one] Alike / Different  
If different, please describe how:

**Homosexuality** [circle one] Alike / Different  
If different, please describe how:

**Marriage, Divorce, and Remarriage** [circle one] Alike / Different  
If different, please describe how:

**Gender Roles in the Home and in the Church** [circle one] Alike / Different  
If different, please describe how:

**Abortion** [circle one] Alike / Different  
If different, please describe how:

**Integration of Psychology and Christianity** [circle one] Alike / Different  
If different, please describe how:

22. Where do you disagree with Faith Bible Church doctrine? Be specific!

23. What areas of Faith Bible Church doctrine are you still unsure or undecided about?

24. What specific steps have you taken, if any, to study those issues where you disagree or are unsure about Faith Bible Church doctrine?

Date \_\_\_\_\_

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Print Name \_\_\_\_\_