

**REFORMED YOUTH MINISTRIES
MANUAL FOR
CHURCH INTERNS**

OVERVIEW

The RYM Church Internship Program is designed to: 1) serve the local church in reaching and equipping junior and senior high school students for Christ in the context of its' own church body and community; 2) to train and equip those who desire to minister to such students in and through the local church; and 3) to encourage aspiring ministers of the gospel in the legitimacy and merits of long-term ministry to youth and families. In effect the RYM Church Internship is an apprenticeship that will benefit both the local church and intern in their present and future ministries.

The purpose of the RYM Church Internship Program is to provide interns with practical training and experience in youth and family ministry, a sound biblical and theological education, and a coherent philosophy of ministry that reflects the principles, presuppositions, and goals of Reformed Youth Ministries.

In the short term, we believe that the RYM Church Internship Program will provide local churches with added, more affordable help in their ministry to covenant children and outreach to un-churched students in their communities. We also believe that the ministry of the church to youth and families will be enriched for the long term as RYM is instrumental in providing them with youth and family ministers, directors, and leaders who are more experienced, educated, and intentionally directed in ministry. Through the RYM Church Internship Program Reformed Youth Ministries and participating local churches and seminaries form a three-fold partnership in training and preparing the future leaders of the church in their callings as ministers of the gospel in general and ministers to youth and families in particular.

Local churches that desire to have an RYM church intern in their local context must:

1) Enter into a partnership with Reformed Youth Ministries via a [RYM/Local Church Affiliation Agreement](#) in which the partnering church agrees to the terms and conditions of the RYM Church Internship Program. The purpose of the affiliation agreement is to ensure clear communication and agreed upon expectations between the local church and Reformed Youth Ministries regarding the RYM Church Internship Program so that the interests of the local church, the RYM church intern, and Reformed Youth Ministries are best served. The affiliation agreement sets forth the responsibilities of both the partnering church and Reformed Youth Ministries in implementing and sustaining the RYM Church Internship Program in the context of the local church.

2) Ensure that the primary mentor for the RYM church intern in their church (youth minister, director, leader, or pastor, church planter, etc) attends the RYM Youth Leader Training Conference annually and agree to impart the RYM philosophy of ministry in their church's ministry to youth and families as well as assisting the RYM church intern in the learning and application of that philosophy of ministry.

POSITION AND FUNDING

- TITLE: RYM Church Intern
- DESCRIPTION: Learning/ministering position for college graduates working under an RYM trained youth minister, church planter, or pastor.
- LENGTH OF SERVICE: *2-Year Internship (non-seminary track)* - 2 years on site working under an approved youth minister, pastor, or church planter; 2-year concurrent commitment to the RYM internship study program.
- 3-Year Internship* - 2 years on site working under an approved youth minister, pastor, or church planter; while on site in the local church interns also take 14 hours/year of seminary courses for credit via distance education from a partnering seminary; after two years in local church intern moves on site to partnering seminary for 1 full year of in residence study at the end of which he/she will have earned a Master of Arts; RYM will then help place you back into a local church.
- 4-Year Internship* – 2 years on site working under an approved youth minister, pastor, or church planter; while on site in the local church interns also take 14 hours/year of seminary courses for credit via distance education from a partnering seminary; after two years in local church intern moves on site to partnering seminary for 2 full years of in residence study at the end of which they will have earned a Master of Divinity; RYM will then help place you back into a local church.
- FOCUS: Heavy involvement in evangelism and equipping/discipling of new and young Christians. The church intern's primary target area is students who are un-churched, not presently involved in the ministry, and/or fringe and uncommitted students.
- FUNDING: Half of the total funding will be supplied by the *partnering church to which the intern is assigned, while the other half must be raised by the intern primarily from individuals through Reformed Youth Ministries. Interns may receive support from their home church and potentially other churches with which they have a natural relationship, but only at the direction of the RYM Executive Director.
- For both the 3-Year Master of Arts Track and the 4-Year Master of Divinity Track, the intern may continue to raise funds through RYM while on site at a partnering seminary (the last 1-2 years of the internship program). Additionally, partnering seminaries have agreed to give RYM church interns a 50-67% (depending on seminary) reduction in tuition costs for both distance and on site education.
- *NOTE: Partnering churches must provide ½ of the RYM Church Intern's total financial package (as determined by RYM) to RYM on no less than a monthly basis during the entirety of the intern's service in their local church through the RYM Internship Program.**

JOB DESCRIPTION

TITLE: RYM Church Intern

OBJECTIVES: The church intern is in a “learning/ministering” position. Internship provides the individual with the opportunity to learn how to minister through training, directed study, and practical experience under an RYM trained youth minister, church planter, or church pastor.

- RESPONSIBILITIES:
1. To participate in the RYM Youth Leader Training Conference annually (Note: interns must attend the RYM Youth Leader Training Conference *every year* of his or her internship including years 3 & 4 for those on the Master of Arts and Master of Divinity tracks).
 2. To participate in all RYM Intern Training Retreats
 3. To serve on work crew at one RYM summer conference per year at the direction of the RYM Executive Director (NOTE: interns will not be asked to serve on work crew of a conference where they have students attending)
 4. To carry out the prescribed study program designed for RYM church intern including distance education with partnering seminaries while on site at their local church assignment.
 5. To learn what ministry is and to recognize and develop his or her own particular gifts and abilities while giving attention to areas of weakness. Practical experience in ministry under the supervision of an RYM trained youth minister, church planter, or church pastor will include:
 - a. One-to-one interaction with junior and senior high school students within the context of the assigned local church and community. The intern’s primary focus will be ministering to fringe students and new contacts within the local church as well as reaching un-churched students in the community through involvement in the extracurricular life of area schools.
 - b. Assistance with small groups, including observation of the youth minister, church planter, or church pastor leading different types of small groups and participation as part of the student leadership team. After a period of time, the intern will assist in leading small groups.
 - c. Learning how to work with the church session, diaconate, and youth and educational committees of the church.
 6. To assist the youth minister and youth ministry staff in the implementation of a two-fold strategy: 1) Reaching the covenant children in their local church for Christ and equipping them to serve Him in the church and world; 2) Reaching the youth of

their town or city for Christ and equipping them to serve Him in the church and world.

7. To communicate to supporters what is being accomplished through the ministry and the needs of the ministry.

RYM CHURCH INTERN ACCOUNT DEFICIT POLICY

All RYM church interns and their partnering church mentors will be given the following financial information via email on a monthly basis:

1. A financial statement revealing the interns income, expenses, and account balance
2. A donor statement revealing the names, addresses, and donation amounts of all donors who have given to the intern's account in the given month

If the RYM church intern's account reaches \$5000 positive balance, the intern and the partnering church mentor will be notified immediately and a strategic fundraising plan will be instituted as soon as possible.

If the RYM church intern's account reaches a \$2500 positive balance then a spending freeze will immediately go into effect for all associated and programming expenses until the account reaches a balance greater than \$2500. If there are not enough funds in the intern's account to cover his/her salary, then he/she will be paid only what is in the account after health insurance for the month has been paid. In addition, the intern will give a weekly report to the RYM Board and the partnering church via email showing both the names (at least two people per week) of those from whom they requested support and the specific amount requested.

If the RYM church intern's account reaches a \$0 balance then the intern's salary will be withheld until the account balance reaches a positive balance after insurance has been paid for the month. Again, the intern will be paid only what is in the account after insurance for the month has been paid (NOTE: the intern's health insurance will continue to be paid by RYM at this stage).

If the RYM church intern's account reaches a month ending \$1,000 deficit then the intern's relationship with RYM will be terminated along with all insurance benefits. The partnering church will then be responsible for paying one half of the deficit to RYM and RYM will absorb the other half.

I do hereby agree to all the terms described in the RYM Church Intern Account Deficit Policy:

Signed by Moderator of Partnering Church Session Date

Signed by RYM Church Intern Date

Signed by Executive Director, Reformed Youth Ministries Date

STEPS IN APPLYING FOR POSITION AS RYM CHURCH INTERN

1. RYM church intern-applicant expresses interest in the internship to the RYM Executive Director.
2. Church intern-applicant contacts Reformed Youth Ministries which officially initiates the intern-applicant's file and the application process and in return receives an information packet and application.
3. RUF campus minister, local church pastor, and/or someone who knows the church intern-applicant is contacted for preliminary report of the church intern-applicant's potential as an RYM church intern.
4. Upon receipt of church intern-applicant's application, the Executive Director will notify applicant of acceptance or ineligibility. If initial application is accepted, the Executive Director sends letters and reference forms to the Intern-applicant's references.
5. When all references are received, an Intern-Applicant Summary (application and reference information) is sent to the Training and Internship Committee of the RYM Board.
6. Campus intern-applicant will be notified of the date of the next RYM Training and Internship Committee meeting for the purpose of examination and final approval as a church intern with Reformed Youth Ministries. The Training and Internship Committee is the only body that has the authority and right to make a recommendation of approval to the RYM Board of Directors of anyone desiring to serve as a church intern.
7. The RYM Board of Directors must then give final approval for any RYM church intern-applicant to serve as an RYM church intern. No applicant may continue with fundraising, training, or local church appointment without the prior approval of the RYM Training and Internship Committee AND the RYM Board of Directors concerning their internship.
8. Upon approval as a church intern, the individual is to begin to follow the procedure for obtaining support.
9. Church intern assignment to a particular local church will be made as soon as possible, (usually by the end of April).
10. Church intern-applicant understands that he or she will not actually move to their assigned local church until the Executive Director of Reformed Youth Ministries has confirmed that the church intern has completed the necessary training and has obtained a sufficient support level (***NOTE: all interns must raise 50% of their total annual financial package in cash AND an additional 25% in pledges BEFORE he or she may move on site to the partnering local church to which they have been assigned.***).

TIME LINE FOR POTENTIAL RYM CHURCH INTERNS

B. SENIOR YEAR

1. September - December
 - a. Potential RYM church intern begins reading through "Reading List for Church Intern-Applicant (See Appendix A)."
 - b. Request application from Reformed Youth Ministries.
 - c. Potential church intern submits application.
2. January
 - a. Completes "Reading List for Church-Intern Applicants"
 - b. Church intern-applicant must meet with Training and Internship Committee for approval
3. February
 - a. By February 15, church intern must have submitted via email his/her mailing list to the Executive Director of Reformed Youth Ministries
 - b. Church intern assignments made (if possible)
 - c. Church intern begins to make contacts for potential support.
 - d. Church intern mails initial support letter.
4. May
 - a. Church intern attends orientation to:
 1. Gain better understanding of Intern Program and policies and procedures.
 2. Understand plan for development work and financial procedure.
 - b. Church Intern attends Intern Orientation Retreat.
 - c. Church intern attends RYM Youth Leader Training Conference
 - c. Church intern finalizes support.
 - d. Upon approval of the Executive Director, church interns moves to assigned local church in late-May.

C. AFTER GRADUATION

1. June
 - a. Church intern begins receiving paychecks on a weekly basis.
 - b. Church intern develops support base through individual contacts.
 - c. Church intern begins reading assigned material on RYM Church Intern reading list (See Appendices B, C, & D).
2. July
 - a. Church intern's health insurance goes into effect July 1.
 - b. Church intern continues to develop support.

SUGGESTED QUESTIONS FOR RYM CHURCH INTERN-APPLICANTS

The following sample questions have been prepared to assist the RYM Training and Internship Committee in interviewing church intern-applicants

A. A Growing Christian

1. Briefly describe when and how you came to know Jesus Christ.
2. Describe your devotional life, Bible study, and prayer life.
3. What are some specific ways in which God has worked in your life over the past six months?

B. An Understanding of and Commitment to the Purpose, Goals, and Structure of Reformed Youth Ministries

1. What is the purpose of Reformed Youth Ministries? Describe how you have been involved in each aspect of this purpose or how God is working in that particular area of your life.
2. Do you have any problem or disagreement with the purpose and goals? If so, what?
3. What is your understanding of how Reformed Youth Ministries' purpose and goals are carried out in the context of the local church?
4. What is a church intern and what are a church intern's responsibilities in the local church & community?
5. How would you as a church intern relate to the youth minister, pastor, and/or church planter under whom you would be serving?

C. A General Understanding of the Reformed Faith

1. The name of our campus ministry is Reformed Youth Ministries. What is meant by the word "Reformed"?
2. How would you define or explain the following:

The Bible
The Sovereignty of God
Faith and Repentance
Justification
Sanctification
Sin
The Place of the Holy Spirit in the Christian Life
The Means of Grace
The Church
The Gospel
Evangelism
Discipleship

D. Teachable

1. What is your understanding of the church intern study program? What is to be studied and how much time should be spent? Why do you think we have a study program for church interns?
2. What do you desire to learn and be taught about ministry?
3. If in your study or spiritual growth you come to a position that is different from the youth minister, church planter, and/or church pastor you work under or the *Westminster Confession of Faith*, what will you do?

E. Personnel Policies

1. Where is your church membership?
2. What questions or concerns do you have about support development?
3. Do you understand that your local church assignment will be determined by the Training and Internship Committee of Reformed Youth Ministries taking your requests and the suggestions of your references into consideration? Do you have any questions about how we determine the church at which you will work?
4. Do you understand that, as a church intern, you will work under the authority of the RYM Board of Directors and a partnering local church session? Do you also understand that you will be working under an RYM trained youth minister, pastor, or church planter, as well as the Executive Director of Reformed Youth Ministries?
5. Do you understand the necessity of a 2-year commitment on site in a local church? Do you understand the necessity of an additional 1-year (if you are on the Master of Arts track) or 2-year (if on the Master of Divinity track) commitment on site at a partnering seminary?

GUIDELINES FOR ASSIGNMENTS OF RYM CHURCH INTERNS

I. GENERAL GUIDELINES

- A. In making placement decisions for RYM church intern-applicants, a number of considerations must be made.
- * Male or female?
 - * The personality of the intern-applicant (self-starter, dependant, capable). The recommending RUF campus minister, local church pastor, youth minister, etc. must help the RYM Training and Internship Committee understand everything about the candidate.
 - * Personality of the church considered for placement.
 - * Personality, manner, style of the youth minister, pastor, or church planter under which the intern will minister.
 - * How has a particular youth minister, pastor, or church planter handled church interns in the past? Are they willing to devote the time needed to monitor the church intern's study program and determine what assistance the church intern needs?
 - * Is the youth minister, pastor, or church planter under which the intern would minister a church intern recruiter? Are his recruits ready to become good interns?
 - * Money: (a) Some local churches may be more advantageous for the intern-applicant's fundraising than others. (b) The assignment must help the intern back home; his or her support base must be enthusiastic about the assignment.
 - * Local factors: (a) The community in which the local church is situated, (b) size of the church, (c) presbytery.
- B. The church intern may or may not be assigned to a local church ministry in which they were involved as a high school student. Placement will be at the discretion of the RYM Training and Internship Committee and/or the RYM Executive Director.
- C. The church intern position is a learning/ministering position. Therefore, assignment will involve the following order of considerations:
1. The areas in which the church intern needs to grow and learn as well as his or her abilities and gifts;
 2. The local church ministry with which he or she is most compatible;
 3. The youth minister, pastor, or church planter best able to train and use the church intern to his or her potential; and
 4. The best assignment for the ministry of Reformed Youth Ministries as a whole at that particular time. Ideally, all factors interact to give a harmonious decision.

II. GUIDELINES FOR DETERMINING ASSIGNMENTS

The RYM Training and Internship Committee will coordinate various opportunities and assignments. The church intern's application will be reviewed by the Training and Internship Committee to determine an initial composite description of his or her needs, abilities, and gifts. The Executive Director will see that the following are carried out.

- A. Receive input from the church intern-applicant's pastor, former youth director, RUF campus minister, etc. concerning the applicant's:
 1. needs,
 2. abilities and gifts, and
 3. assignment possibilities.

- B. Talk with the church intern-applicant concerning his or her:
 1. understanding of his or her needs,
 2. understanding of his or her abilities and gifts, and
 3. desires for assignment and reasons for those desires.

- C. A member of the RYM Training and Internship Committee will talk with the youth minister, pastor, or church planter of the local church ministry that appears to be the best assignment for that church intern concerning:
 1. the needs of the church intern,
 2. the abilities and gifts of the church intern, and
 3. the reasons of the Training and Internship Committee for feeling that particular local church ministry to be the best assignment for the church intern.

- D. The youth minister, pastor, or church planter of the local church that appears to be the best assignment for the church intern will:
 1. be allowed time to:
 - a. contact the church intern's former youth director, pastor, RUF campus minister, etc.
 - b. contact the church intern after first notifying the RYM Executive Director

 2. have the right and prerogative to question, challenge, and reject the Training and Internship Committee's assignment possibility.

PERSONNEL POLICY

EFFECTIVE DATE OF EMPLOYMENT

RYM church intern employment is normally considered as a yearly term of June 1 through May 31. It is our desire that church interns serve for two years on site in a partnering local church with an additional one to two years (depending on degree) on site at a partnering seminary. Effective dates related to insurance, pay, operation and administration, and programming expenses will be adjusted for a campus intern with an effective date of employment other than June 1.

HOURS OF WORK

A normal work week will consist of 55 hours (15 hours of which is part of the campus intern study program) during a 5 or 5 1/2 day work week. Ministry does not fit into set office hours of "8:00 A.M. - 5:00 P.M.", Monday through Friday. Much work will be accomplished at night (e.g., large group meetings, small groups, appointments with students, making new contacts). There will be work on weekends (e.g., conferences, get-togethers for sporting events, special outings, projects, trips). Therefore, church interns shall not assume weekends are "free-time" without first consulting with the youth director, pastor, or church planter under whom they work.

VACATION

1. First year church interns are allowed two weeks of vacation.
2. Second year church interns are allowed three weeks of vacation.
3. Vacation dates must have approval of both the youth director, pastor, or church planter and the RYM Executive Director.
4. Vacation time is not cumulative or redeemable for salary.

HOLIDAYS

The following days are considered official, paid holidays if they do not conflict with ministry responsibilities:

Thanksgiving and the day after
Christmas plus two days
New Year's plus one day
Two days for Spring Break or Good Friday
July 4th - Independence Day

Church interns who are required to work on an observed holiday shall be granted another work day off with pay or an additional day of vacation for each holiday worked.

COMPENSATORY TIME

When a work week consists of considerably more than 55 hours and more than 5 1/2 days, a church intern should seek to take off an additional day the following week. Such time off does not accumulate.

SICK LEAVE

Time missed through illness, death in the immediate family, or severe weather is excused. Other time must be made up or pay forfeited, unless an excused absence is granted. Church interns may be excused for the above reasons for a maximum of fifteen days in any calendar year, unless a truly extraordinary circumstance occurs. This time is not cumulative and may not be arbitrarily taken as time off.

INSURANCE

Medical insurance coverage for church interns will be in the Reformed Youth Ministries plan. Our carrier has a one-month waiting period after initial employment, so coverage normally begins July 1.

PAY AND EXPENSES

1. Church interns will be paid weekly.
2. Normal pay day is Friday of each week.
3. Financial categories are set by the RYM Training and Internship Committee and/or the RYM Executive Director.

LINES OF AUTHORITY

Youth ministers and pastors are responsible to the local church session or in the case of church planters the presbytery that oversees their work. RYM church interns are hired by the RYM Board through her Training and Internship Committee. While on site in the local church, church interns work under the supervision of the RYM trained youth minister, pastor, or church planter responsible for the work in that particular local church. Final responsibility for the overall ministry (development, training, and ministry on site in the local church) of the church intern lies with the office of the RYM Executive Director.

DRESS AND DEMEANOR

Dress in a manner that will bring respect to yourself, your fellow staff, the local church, and Reformed Youth Ministries. Reformed Youth Ministries justifies its existence with a single purpose: to glorify God, to promote the image and Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ. We should seek to please Him in our attitudes and efficiency, and to be of assistance to other staff in their desire to please the Lord.

FINANCES AND PUBLIC RELATIONS

I. FINANCES

- A. Church intern must obtain all his or her financial support from individuals and may receive support from their home church and potentially other churches with which they have a natural relationship but only at the direction of the RYM Executive Director.
- B. Because this is a “learning/ministering” program, pay is at a basic subsistence level.
- C. Church interns must raise a certain dollar amount based on the following categories. *The figures shown, referred to as basic monthly salary, are for a single person right out of college.* The actual dollar amount needed by a campus intern will vary with the length of time out of college, marital status, financial obligations, etc.

	Monthly	Annual
Salary*	\$1,375	\$15,300
Health Insurance-Medical/Dental	375	4125
Associated Expenses:		
Seminary Tuition	250	3,800
Development/Itineration	100	1,200
Area Assistance/ Support Services	200	2400
Worker’s Compensation	10	120
FICA-Employer	100	1,200
Life Insurance	20	240
 Programming Expenses:		
Phone	80	960
Training/Books	250	3,000
Conferences	50	600
Travel	50	600
Special Projects	50	600
Ministry Expenses	150	1,800
TOTAL	\$2,996	\$35,945

*Salary paycheck will be amount shown, less taxes and employee’s portion of Social Security.

**Health insurance is budgeted for medical and dental and reflects 11 months of coverage.

1. Associated Expenses
This amount goes toward covering the costs incurred in the following areas:
 - a. Area Assistance/Support Services-Maintaining financial matters, acknowledging and receipting gifts, supervision & oversight, etc.
 - b. Development-Basic development materials, initial letters to mailing list, ministry-wide mailings, newsletter printing and mailing, long-distance calls for development.
 - c. Itineration-Certain travel involved in building and maintaining a support base.
 - e. Workman’s Compensation
 - f. Taxes-Employer’s portion of FICA, federal and state tax withheld and filed

2. Programming Expenses (all programming expenses must have prior approval of the Executive Director)

- a. Training and Books – Certain expenses for training will be covered through program expenses, i.e., approved books, training materials, travel connected with training, room and board.
 - b. Conferences – Related costs for RYM ministry-at-large conferences.
 - c. Travel – Cost of travel to and from certain ministry events.
- D. If the funds are not available, the campus intern will not be paid. Funds are allowed to build up in the church intern's account.
- E. The expenses incurred under Associated and Programming are not completely paid for during someone's internship. Any remaining funds following the internship go to the general fund of Reformed Youth Ministries to cover other Associated, Programming, and Training costs as set forth in the policy, "Fund Balance Remaining in a Church Intern's Account."

II. PUBLIC RELATIONS-DEVELOPMENT

The church intern is expected to do the necessary public relations work required to develop, maintain, and service his or her individual support base. This includes such items as a mailing list of individuals who are interested in him or her and his or her ministry; maintaining regular contact with such individuals through personal visits, telephone conversations, letters, and newsletter; and completing monthly reports on time.

PRIORITIES FOR RYM CHURCH INTERNS

1. Individual Support Base.
2. Study Program (15 hours per week)
3. To understand ministry and do ministry
4. One-to-One
 - a. Primarily un-churched students, fringe students, and new contact students. Also, some committed students and possibly some rising leadership students.
 - b. Identification of the spiritual condition of those in "a".
 - c. Determining how they will minister to those in "a" - what they need, frequency, and a plan for the semester.
5. Small Groups
 - a. Core Group - Participate as an observer and interact with the youth minister, pastor, or church planter on what is happening. You are not a core group member. You are not responsible for the direction of the ministry. The youth minister, pastor, or church planter is responsible.
 - b. First-year church interns are to observe their youth minister, pastor, or church planter leading different types of small groups.
 - c. Modified Inductive Studies - Normally a church intern will be leading a modified inductive Bible study (not a modified inductive study of a book or a small group lecture/teaching).
 - (1) First semester, first year - one modified inductive Bible study.
 - (2) Second semester, first year - one modified inductive Bible study, plus an option for a modified inductive book study, with the total per week not to exceed three (i.e., two Bible studies and one book study). The priority for church interns is to lead modified inductive Bible studies not book studies.
 - d. Prayer Group - church intern is to be a facilitator in encouraging small groups for prayer. The groups should be built around common interests-academic pursuits, living areas, concerns (missions, special events/projects, implementation of evangelistic and group strategy). Such groups could share needs and how God is working in individuals' lives.
6. Assisting youth minister, pastor, or church planter and group in implementation of strategy.
7. Helping in RYM ministry-at-large conferences and events as well as ministry-at-large public relations.

PURPOSE AND GOALS

PURPOSE: Reaching Junior and Senior High School Students for Christ
Equipping Students to Serve Christ in the Church and World

GOALS:

1. *Growth in Grace* - Students are growing in knowledge and grace.
2. *Fellowship and Service* - Students are experiencing genuine involvement with other Christians and responding to those in need.
3. *Evangelism and Missions* - Students are using their gifts for reaching others and growing in their concern for the lost in their community and throughout the world.
4. *Biblical World-and-Life View* - Students are developing a view of life which relates God and the Bible to all aspects of life.

PRINCIPLES TO BE UNDERSTOOD AND COMMITTED TO:

1. The Scripture is Authoritative - "Rule of faith and practice."
2. Justification - "God reconciling sinners to Himself in Christ."
3. Sanctification - "An understanding of the process."

THREE PRINCIPLES TO BE UNDERSTOOD AND TO WHICH WE CAN BE COMMITTED

- I. The Bible is the Word of God given through men by the inspiration of the Holy Spirit.
 - A. The Scriptures are trustworthy, inerrant, infallible and authoritative.
 - B. The Scriptures are sufficient to reveal God, the way of salvation, and the will of God for men.
 - C. The Scriptures are clear enough to be understood by any Christian using ordinary means with the aid of the Holy Spirit.
- II. Justification is God reconciling sinners to Himself in Christ.
 - A. Justification is God's declaring the believer forgiven of all his sins on the basis of Christ's bearing the guilt and penalty of his sins on the cross.
 - B. Justification is God's declaring the believer righteous on the basis of the imputation of Christ's righteousness to him.
 - C. Justification springs from God's free grace and is received by faith alone.
 - D. A proper understanding of justification leads to:
 1. A Christian's continual acknowledgment that his acceptance by God is based totally on the work of Christ.
 2. A Christian's understanding that justification is the foundation for all subsequent Christian life and experience.
 3. A Christian's knowledge that sanctification necessarily flows from justification.
- III. Sanctification is God conforming sinners to the image of Christ by the work of His Spirit.
 - A. In sanctification the believer is increasingly enabled to die unto sin and live unto righteousness.
 - B. In sanctification the believer is progressively renewed in the whole person after the image of Christ.
 - C. A proper understanding of sanctification leads to:
 1. A continual engagement by the believer in the means of grace, including scripture, prayer, meditation, mortification of sin, worship and fellowship.
 2. A recognition by the believer that the means of grace are means by which he is aided in his responsibility to seek holiness.
 3. An attitude of dependence upon the Holy Spirit for growth in grace.
 4. A clear understanding of the dynamic tension between justification and sanctification; that is, sanctification springs from justification and justification is the continual ground for sanctification.
 5. A confidence that God will bring the work of sanctification to completion in glorification.

FOCUS

Reformed Youth Ministries exists to serve the church and extend the kingdom through ministry to junior and senior high school students, youth leaders, and parents.

I. Purpose

A. Purpose Statement

1. Students

The basic purpose of Reformed Youth Ministries is to aid the local church (through conferences, training, internships, and resources) in reaching junior and senior high school students for Christ, equipping them to understand the Scriptures, the ministry of the Holy Spirit, and the principles of sanctification (growth in Christian living), so that they may:

- a. Grow in the grace of God.
- b. Have fellowship with other Christians and be effective in service.
- c. Be effective in evangelism and develop a heart for missions
- d. Develop a Biblical world-and-life view.

2. Youth Leaders

Reformed Youth Ministries aims to assist youth leaders in carrying out ministry to youth and families in the context of the local church and community through conferences, training, internships, and resources so that the church may become more effective in her ministry to youth and families.

3. Parents

Reformed Youth Ministries aims to assist the church in helping parents through conferences, training, and resources fulfill their scriptural mandate of raising their children in “the fear and admonition of the Lord.”

B. Posture of Organization

Reformed Youth Ministries has the following basic commitments: (1) the church has a responsibility to effectively minister to covenant children; (2) the church must have a heart for reaching un-believing students in her community; and (3) the church in all its aspects should be based upon the principles of the Reformed faith.

DATING GUIDELINES

I. THE GUIDELINE

A church intern may not date students in the local church where he or she is serving/ministering.

II. THE REASON FOR THE GUIDELINE

Confusion in the minds of the students concerning the role of the church intern could produce difficulties for the ministry of the campus intern.

III. THE RATIONALE FOR THE GUIDELINE

- A. Students to whom the church intern would normally be ministering are adolescents, while the campus intern should be considered an adult.
- B. Parents would normally frown upon or object altogether to their children dating an adult.
- B. It would be more advisable for the church intern to maintain social relationships within his or her peer group.
- C. In the function of ministry to adolescents, the factor of romance often confuses proper spiritual discernment by the church intern.
 - 1. Obviously, the discernment of a high school student could also be adversely affected.
 - 2. Experience indicates that students are normally incapable of integrating the emotions of romance and the incisiveness of Biblical doctrine.
- D. Should a dating relationship between a church intern and a student be allowed to continue for any time, the church intern's ability to minister to students could be adversely affected if:
 - 1. the relationship is severed - hard feelings or "broken hearts" would normally result, creating more talk, disappointment, and criticism.
 - 2. the relationship continues - because too much discussion of the specifics of the relationship will probably occur among the students in the group and in the church at large.
- E. Any action of the church intern has direct effects upon other individuals and the group. The effect is particularly evident when dating relationships are involved. Perceptions, conclusions, and generalizations concerning dating relationships can potentially cause misunderstandings between the church intern and the person being dated, and others in the group and beyond.

I have read the "Dating Guidelines" and agree to follow them by not dating a student in the local church or community where I will be serving/ministering. I understand that breaking this policy is grounds for termination from my internship with Reformed Youth Ministries.

Church Intern

RYM Executive Director

Date Signed

Date Signed

DRINKING GUIDELINES

I. THE GUIDELINE

A church intern may not drink alcoholic beverages with students.

II. THE REASON FOR THE GUIDELINE

Most high school students are minors and cannot "legally consume" alcoholic beverages.

The perception/misperception of onlookers (students and others) could be that RYM is authorizing drinking by minors.

III. THE RATIONALE FOR THE GUIDELINE

A. Students to whom the intern would normally be ministering are adolescents. They cannot "legally consume" alcoholic beverages.

B. In the function of ministry to adolescents, the factor of drinking often confuses proper spiritual discernment by the church intern.

Obviously, the discernment of a high school student could be adversely affected, also.

C. Any action of the church intern has direct effects upon other individuals and the group. Perceptions, conclusions, and generalizations concerning drinking can potentially cause misunderstandings between the church intern and the students, and others in the group and beyond.

I have read the "Drinking Guidelines" and agree to follow them by not drinking with students. I understand that breaking this policy is grounds for termination from my internship with Reformed Youth Ministries.

Campus Intern

RYM Executive Director

Date Signed

Date Signed

APPENDIX A
READING LIST FOR RYM CHURCH-INTERNS APPLICANTS

An individual seeking a position as intern with Reformed Youth Ministries should have read the following materials or similar ones before he or she meets with the Training and Internship Committee to be examined and approved as an intern:

Engaging the Soul of the Youth Culture by Walt Mueller
Discipline of Grace, by Jerry Bridges
What Is Reformed Theology?, by R.C. Sproul
The Christian Life, by Sinclair Ferguson
The Westminster Confession of Faith and Catechisms with Proof Texts
A Faith to Live By, by Donald Macleod
A Call to Prayer – JC Ryle

The purpose of the reading is to ensure that the applicant meets the qualifications for a church intern: a growing Christian, one who has a general understanding of the Reformed faith, one who is teachable, and one who understands the purpose and goals of the ministry.

APPENDIX B

READING LIST FOR RYM CHURCH-INTERNS

2-YEAR INTERNSHIP (NON-SEMINARY TRACK)

I. Year One

A. Year One Bible Reading Plan (to be completed by May 15, 2009)

Every Day in the Word (ESV)

http://www.gnpcb.org/esv/devotions/every_day_in_the_word/

This plan features a reading from the Old Testament, New Testament, Psalms, and Proverbs each day. In one year, you read the Old Testament, New Testament, and Proverbs once, and the Psalms twice.

B. Year One Reading Plan

1. To be completed by August 15, 2008

- a. Instruments in the Redeemer's Hand, by Paul David Tripp
- b. Hurt: Inside the World of Today's Teenagers – by Chap Clark
- c. Knowing Scripture, by RC Sproul
- d. Putting Amazing Back into Grace, by Michael S. Horton
- e. Evangelism and the Sovereignty of God, by JI Packer
- f. The Five Points of Calvinism Defined, Defended, and Documented, by Steele/Thomas
- g. The Valley of Vision, by Arthur Bennet

2. To be completed by December 15, 2008

- a. The Contemplative Pastor – Eugene Peterson
- b. Disconnected: Parenting Teens in a MySpace World – by Chap Clark
- c. In Christ Alone – by Sinclair Ferguson
- d. Leading Bible Discussions – Nyquist & Kuhatschek (IVP)
- e. Summary of Christian Doctrine – Louis Berkhoff
- f. Westminster Shorter Catechism in Modern English – Douglas Kelly
- g. Westminster Shorter Catechism Study Guide – GI Williamson
- h. Pray with Your Eyes Open – by Richard Pratt

3. To be completed by May 15, 2009

- a. Mere Christianity – by CS Lewis
- b. Real Sex: the Naked Truth about Chastity – by Lauren Winner
- c. True Spirituality – Francis Schaeffer
- d. The Holiness of God – by RC Sproul
- e. The Enduring Community (2nd Edition) – Brian Habig & Les Newsome
- f. When People Are Big and God Is Small – by Ed Welch
- g. Tell the Truth – by Will Metzger
- h. Spiritual Disciplines for the Christian Life – by Donald Whitney

II. Year Two

A. Year Two Bible Reading Plan (to be completed by May 15, 2010)

Daily Chronological Bible Reading Plan (ESV) - <http://www.bibleplan.org/c2/esv/>
Read the events of the Bible as they occurred chronologically. For example, the Book of Job is integrated with Genesis because Job lived before Abraham. This reading plan is a copyright of Back to the Bible.

B. Year Two Reading Plan

1. To be completed by August 15, 2009

- a. On Being Presbyterian – by Sean Lucas
- b. Concise Theology – JI Packer
- c. Relationships: A Mess Worth Making – Ted Tripp & Tim Lane
- d. Holiness by Grace – by Bryan Chapell
- e. The Enemy Within: Straight Talk About the Power and Defeat of Sin – by Kris Lundgaard
- f. Chosen by God – by RC Sproul

2. To be completed by December 15, 2009

- a. The Pilgrim's Progress in Modern English, Updated Edition by John Bunyan, Edited by Edward Hazelbaker
- b. The Screwtape Letters – by CS Lewis
- c. Back to Basics – by David Hagopian
- d. The Christian Ministry – by Charles Bridges
- e. Ministries of Mercy – by Tim Keller
- f. Desiring God – by John Piper
- g. God at Work: Your Christian Vocation in All of Life – by Gene Edward Veith
- h. Every Thought Captive – by Richard Pratt

3. To be completed by May 15, 2010

- a. The Supremacy of God in Preaching – by John Piper
- b. The Heart of Evangelism, by Jerram Barrs
- c. Getting the Message – by Dan Doriani
- d. The Quest for Godliness – by JI Packer
- e. Francis A. Schaeffer Trilogy: The God Who Is There; Escape from Reason; He Is There and He Is Not Silent
- f. Dynamics of the Christian Life – by Richard Lovelace

APPENDIX C

*READING/COURSE LIST FOR RYM CHURCH-INTERNS

3-YEAR INTERNSHIP (MASTER OF ARTS TRACK IN PARTNERSHIP WITH **COVENANT THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY)

I. Intern-Applicant Reading

A. To be completed prior to beginning internship

1. Engaging the Soul of the Youth Culture by Walt Mueller
2. Discipline of Grace, by Jerry Bridges
3. What Is Reformed Theology?, by R.C. Sproul
4. The Christian Life, by Sinclair Ferguson
5. The Westminster Confession of Faith and Catechisms with Proof Texts (Hardcover)
6. A Faith to Live by, by Donald Macleod
7. A Call to Prayer – JC Ryle

II. Year One

A. Year One Bible Reading Plan (to be completed by May 15, 2009)

Every Day in the Word (ESV) –

<http://www.gnpcb.org/esv/devotions/every.day.in.the.word/>

This plan features a reading from the Old Testament, New Testament, Psalms, and Proverbs each day. In one year, you read the Old Testament, New Testament, and Proverbs once, and the Psalms twice.

B. Year One Reading/Course Plan

1. To be completed by August 15, 2008

- a. Instruments in the Redeemer's Hand, by Paul David Tripp
- b. Hurt: Inside the World of Today's Teenagers – by Chap Clark
- c. Knowing Scripture, by RC Sproul
- d. Putting Amazing Back into Grace, by Michael S. Horton
- e. Evangelism and the Sovereignty of God, by JI Packer
- f. Chosen by God, by RC Sproul
- g. The Valley of Vision, by Arthur Bennet

2. To be completed by December 15, 2008 via distance education

- a. **CH310 Ancient and Medieval Church History** – Christianity from the Early Church to the dawn of the Reformation, with source material readings. Emphasis on the uses and applications of church history to life and ministry – 3 hours
- b. **CC310 Apologetics and Outreach** – An analysis of the philosophical, religious, and scientific beliefs and ideas (deism, humanism, existentialism, Marxism, mysticism, and Christianity) which have shaped different cultures and which are now reshaping our multicultural and

pluralistic society. Differences in attitudes to the value and purpose of life, sexual identity and roles, racial and cultural differences, God, good, and evil, superstition, etc. are discussed – 3 hours

3. To be completed by January 30, 2009 on site for one week in January term

- a. **CO310 Introduction to Counseling** - Survey of the main emotional and behavioral problems encountered in counseling. Theoretical frameworks for counseling. Principles of care and counseling, with strong emphasis on basic counseling skills and the ability to relate to others. Concentration on areas such as assertiveness and anger, guilt, forgiveness, perfectionism, depression, sexual orientation, pastoral care, etc. Lecture, role play, video, and discussion – 3 hours

4. To be completed by May 15, 2009 via distance education

- a. **CH320 Reformation and Modern Church History**—Christianity from the Reformation to the present, with source material readings; Emphasis on the uses and applications of church history to life and ministry – 3 hours
- b. **NT220 Life and Teachings of Jesus**—A study of the life and teachings of Jesus, focusing on the work He accomplished in salvation. Examines the historical setting of His ministry and the special emphasis of each Gospel – 3 hours (additional work will be required to upgrade this to an MDIV level course after the intern has completed Greek)

III. Year Two

A. Year Two Bible Reading Plan (to be completed by May 15, 2010)

Daily Chronological Bible Reading Plan (ESV) - <http://www.bibleplan.org/c2/esv/>

Read the events of the Bible as they occurred chronologically. For example, the Book of Job is integrated with Genesis because Job lived before Abraham. This reading plan is a copyright of Back to the Bible.

B. Year Two Reading/Course Plan

1. To be completed by August 15, 2009

- a. The Contemplative Pastor – Eugene Peterson
- b. Real Sex: the Naked Truth about Chastity – by Lauren Winner
- c. The Enemy Within: Straight Talk About the Power and Defeat of Sin – by Kris Lundgaard
- d. The Holiness of God – by RC Sproul
- e. Leading Bible Discussions – Nyquist & Kuhatschek (IVP)
- f. Summary of Christian Doctrine – Louis Berkhoff
- g. Westminster Shorter Catechism in Modern English – Douglas Kelly
- h. Westminster Shorter Catechism Study Guide – GI Williamson

2. To be completed by December 15, 2009 via distance education

- a. **PT330 Christian Worship** - Public worship and the administration of the Sacraments. The pastor's personal responsibilities in community and denomination – 2 hours

- b. **ST586 Christian Ethics** - An audiotape course (lectures by James M. Grier) taken by independent study under a supervising professor – 3 hours
3. **To be completed by January 30, 2010 on site for one week in January term**
- a. **PT310 Spiritual and Ministry Formation** - Seminar instruction designed to help students understand, develop, and assess personal ministerial gifts, skills, and character. Focus on identifying strengths, weaknesses, and means of growth in the areas of being a disciple, servant/leader, and proclaimer of the Gospel of grace. Couples are encouraged to attend together – 2 hours
4. **To be completed by May 15, 2010 via distance education**
- a. **WM310 God's World Mission** - Biblical, theological, and historical consideration of God's redemption of His world, including integration with other coursework and unavoidable personal involvement – 2 hours
 - b. **NT319 New Testament History** – Intertestamental period and the New Testament's Greek, Roman, and Jewish backgrounds. Survey of Christ's life. Study of Acts and reading of New Testament epistles in their historical settings – 3 hours

IV. Year Three

A. To be completed by August 15, 2010

1. Mere Christianity – by CS Lewis
2. The Enduring Community (2nd Edition) – Brian Habig & Les Newsome
3. When People Are Big and God Is Small – by Ed Welch
4. Tell the Truth – by Will Metzger
5. Relationships: A Mess Worth Making – Ted Tripp & Tim Lane
6. The Pilgrim's Progress in Modern English, Updated Edition by John Bunyan, Edited by Edward Hazelbaker
7. Back to Basics – by David Hagopian

B. To be completed by December 15, 2010 in residence at Covenant Seminary

1. **CE501 Educational Foundations**—An overview of the educational and training ministries of the local church, including biblical, theological and psychological foundations, the aims, methods, curriculum, organization, leadership, and evaluation of the teaching/learning process for various settings and age groups – 3 hours
2. **CE503 Educational Leadership/Administration in the Church**—No course description available – 3 hours
3. **ST200 God and His Word**—A Study of the doctrine of Scripture, including inspiration, inerrancy, and the principles of biblical interpretation, as well as the person, works, and attributes of God and His relation to the created order – 3 hours

3. **CE502 Teaching and Learning** - Outside pulpit ministry, how does/should the church communicate Gospel teaching to its members? This course investigates the role of both the teacher and the learner (of any age) and the variety of effective methods teachers can employ in the learning process in congregational life – 3 hours
4. **ST300 Covenant Theology I** – Biblical-theological study of God's self-revelation in the history of redemption, culminating in Christ and the Scriptures; Emphasis on the thematic unity of kingdom, covenant, and mediator; the inspiration and perfection of Holy Scripture; basic principles of biblical interpretation. Prerequisite: NT301 in progress – 3 hours

C. To be completed by January 30, 2011 in residence at Covenant Seminary

1. **CO320 Marriage and Family Counseling** - Designed to equip pastors for marriage and family counseling in the local church, this course surveys biblical, conceptual, and practical issues involved. Importance of a healthy marriage relationship is stressed. Prerequisite: CO310 – 2 hours

D. To be completed by May 15, 2011 in residence at Covenant Seminary

1. **ST220 Humanity, Christ, and Redemption** - A study of the creation and nature of mankind, sin, the person and work of Christ, and the application of salvation – 3 hours
2. **ST240 The Spirit, Church, and Last Things** – A study of the person and work of the Holy Spirit, the nature and purpose of the church, the means of grace, the return of Christ, and the eternal state. – 3 hours
3. **NT230 Life and Letters of Paul** – Study of Paul's theology and major epistles, with emphasis on application to modern life – 3 hours
4. **Capstone Orientation**—No course description available – 1 hour
5. **Capstone Project** – offers students a unique opportunity to synthesize Biblical teaching with ministry application under qualified supervision. This project encourages students to wed the training they have received with spiritual application of that training, both for the individual and the ministry in which that individual serves – 3 hours

*Note: RYM is also pursuing a partnering relationship with other Reformed Seminaries; as these relationships are formalized RYM will add additional reading/course lists to this Manual as course offerings will be slightly different according to seminary.

**Subject to minor revisions by RYM and Covenant Theological Seminary.

APPENDIX D

*READING/COURSE LIST FOR RYM CHURCH-INTERNS

4-YEAR INTERNSHIP (MASTER OF DIVINITY TRACK IN PARTNERSHIP WITH **COVENANT THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY)

I. Intern-Applicant Reading

A. To be completed prior to beginning internship

1. Engaging the Soul of the Youth Culture by Walt Mueller
2. Discipline of Grace, by Jerry Bridges
3. What Is Reformed Theology?, by R.C. Sproul
4. The Christian Life, by Sinclair Ferguson
5. The Westminster Confession of Faith and Catechisms with Proof Texts (Hardcover)
6. A Faith to Live By, by Donald Macleod
7. A Call to Prayer – by JC Ryle

II. Year One

A. Year One Bible Reading Plan (to be completed by May 15, 2009)

Every Day in the Word (ESV) –

<http://www.gnpcb.org/esv/devotions/every.day.in.the.word/>

This plan features a reading from the Old Testament, New Testament, Psalms, and Proverbs each day. In one year, you read the Old Testament, New Testament, and Proverbs once, and the Psalms twice.

B. Year One Reading/Course Plan

5. To be completed by August 15, 2008

- a. Instruments in the Redeemer's Hand, by Paul David Tripp
- b. Hurt: Inside the World of Today's Teenagers – by Chap Clark
- c. Putting Amazing Back into Grace, by Michael S. Horton
- d. The Enemy Within: Straight Talk About the Power and Defeat of Sin – by Kris Lundgaard
- e. Evangelism and the Sovereignty of God, by JI Packer
- f. Chosen by God – by RC Sproul
- g. The Valley of Vision, by Arthur Bennet

6. To be completed by December 15, 2008 via distance education

- a. **CH310 Ancient and Medieval Church History** – Christianity from the Early Church to the dawn of the Reformation, with source material readings. Emphasis on the uses and applications of church history to life and ministry – 3 hours
- b. **CC310 Apologetics and Outreach** – An analysis of the philosophical, religious, and scientific beliefs and ideas (deism, humanism, existentialism, Marxism, mysticism, and Christianity) which have shaped different cultures and which are now reshaping our multicultural and

pluralistic society. Differences in attitudes to the value and purpose of life, sexual identity and roles, racial and cultural differences, God, good, and evil, superstition, etc. are discussed – 3 hours

3. **To be completed by January 30, 2009 on site for one week in January term**
 - a. **CO310 Introduction to Counseling** - Survey of the main emotional and behavioral problems encountered in counseling. Theoretical frameworks for counseling. Principles of care and counseling, with strong emphasis on basic counseling skills and the ability to relate to others. Concentration on areas such as assertiveness and anger, guilt, forgiveness, perfectionism, depression, sexual orientation, pastoral care, etc. Lecture, role play, video, and discussion – 3 hours
4. **To be completed by May 15, 2009 via distance education**
 - a. **CH320 Reformation and Modern Church History** – Christianity from the Reformation to the present, with source material readings; Emphasis on the uses and applications of church history to life and ministry – 3 hours
 - b. **NT220 Life and Teachings of Jesus**—A study of the life and teachings of Jesus, focusing on the work He accomplished in salvation. Examines the historical setting of His ministry and the special emphasis of each Gospel – 3 hours (additional work will be required to upgrade this to an MDIV level course after the intern has completed Greek)

III. Year Two

A. Year Two Bible Reading Plan (to be completed by May 15, 2010)

Daily Chronological Bible Reading Plan (ESV) - <http://www.bibleplan.org/c2/esv/>

Read the events of the Bible as they occurred chronologically. For example, the Book of Job is integrated with Genesis because Job lived before Abraham. This reading plan is a copyright of Back to the Bible.

B. Year Two Reading/Course Plan

1. To be completed by August 15, 2009

- a. The Contemplative Pastor – Eugene Peterson
- b. Real Sex: the Naked Truth about Chastity – by Lauren Winner
- c. The Holiness of God – by RC Sproul
- d. Leading Bible Discussions – Nyquist & Kuhatschek (IVP)
- e. The Quest for Godliness – by JI Packer
- f. The Heart of Evangelism, by Jerram Barrs
- g. Westminster Shorter Catechism in Modern English – Douglas Kelly
- h. Westminster Shorter Catechism Study Guide – GI Williamson

2. To be completed by December 15, 2009 via distance education

- a. **PT330 Christian Worship** - Public worship and the administration of the Sacraments. The pastor's personal responsibilities in community and denomination – 2 hours

- b. **ST586 Christian Ethics** - An audiotape course (lectures by James M. Grier) taken by independent study under a supervising professor – 3 hours
- 3. **To be completed by January 30, 2010 on site for one week in January term**
 - a. **PT310 Spiritual and Ministry Formation** - Seminar instruction designed to help students understand, develop, and assess personal ministerial gifts, skills, and character. Focus on identifying strengths, weaknesses, and means of growth in the areas of being a disciple, servant/leader, and proclaimer of the Gospel of grace. Couples are encouraged to attend together – 2 hours
- 4. **To be completed by May 15, 2010 via distance education**
 - a. **WM310 God's World Mission** - Biblical, theological, and historical consideration of God's redemption of His world, including integration with other coursework and unavoidable personal involvement – 2 hours
 - b. **NT319 New Testament History** – Intertestamental period and the New Testament's Greek, Roman, and Jewish backgrounds. Survey of Christ's life. Study of Acts and reading of New Testament epistles in their historical settings – 3 hours

IV. Year Three

B. To be completed by August 15, 2010

- 1. The Enduring Community (2nd Edition) – Brian Habig & Les Newsome
- 2. When People Are Big and God Is Small – by Ed Welch
- 3. Tell the Truth – by Will Metzger
- 4. Relationships: A Mess Worth Making – Ted Tripp & Tim Lane
- 5. The Pilgrim's Progress in Modern English, Updated Edition by John Bunyan, Edited by Edward Hazelbaker
- 6. **NT301 and NT302 – Beginning Greek** - Grammatical study of biblical Greek. Prescribed for entering MDiv and MAE.T. students without previous Greek knowledge. Students seeking to complete the MDiv in three years or the MAE.T. in two years must take these courses in the summer session prior to beginning their regular program in the fall semester – 6 hours

B. To be completed by December 15, 2010 in residence at Covenant Seminary

- 1. **ST300 Covenant Theology I** – Biblical-theological study of God's self-revelation in the history of redemption, culminating in Christ and the Scriptures; Emphasis on the thematic unity of kingdom, covenant, and mediator; the inspiration and perfection of Holy Scripture; basic principles of biblical interpretation. Prerequisite: NT301 in progress – 3 hours
- 2. **CM310 Preparation and Delivery of Sermons** – Basic principles of homiletics; structure of various sermon types; practice in composition, delivery, and voice methods – 3 hours

3. **NT303 Greek in Exegesis** – Rapid review of grammar and reading; further study of morphology and syntax principles. Prerequisite: NT302 – 3 hours
4. **CC506 Epistemology Elective** - Examination of the fundamental epistemological questions whose proposed solutions affect every area of life, especially theological studies, apologetics and spiritual experience. Includes an historical overview and analysis, biblical exploration, and an evaluation of current philosophical and theological proposals, in order to develop and appropriate a basic working approach - 3 hours
5. **ST350 Ecclesiology and Eschatology** - The nature and purpose of the church; the means of grace, especially the sacraments of baptism and the Lord's Supper; biblical-theological study of the kingdom of God; the second coming of Christ and the complex of events associated with it, including the resurrection of the dead, the consummation of the kingdom, and the final judgment. Prerequisite: NT303 in progress – 3 hours

C. To be completed by January 30, 2011 in residence at Covenant Seminary

1. **CO320 – Marriage and Family Counseling—Taught by Zink** - Designed to equip pastors for marriage and family counseling in the local church, this course surveys biblical, conceptual, and practical issues involved. Importance of a healthy marriage relationship is stressed. Prerequisite: CO310 – 2 hours

E. To be completed by May 15, 2011 in residence at Covenant Seminary

1. **ST301 Covenant Theology II** - Biblical-theological study of God's self-revelation in the history of redemption, culminating in Christ and the Scriptures. Emphasis on the thematic unity of kingdom, covenant, and mediator; the inspiration and perfection of Holy Scripture; basic principles of biblical interpretation. Prerequisite: NT301 in progress – 2 hours
2. **NT320 Gospels** – The four Gospels' form and content as a distinct body of literature with exegesis of key passages. Prerequisite: NT303 in progress – 3 hours
3. **ST310 God and Humanity** – Doctrines of the Triune God and His relation to the created order; the divine decrees; the creation and fall of man; and sin. Prerequisite: NT303 in progress – 3 hours
4. **CM320 Elementary Homiletics Practicum** - Laboratory course in which students practice homiletical principles taught in CM310 as they preach two sermons. Prerequisite: CM310 – 2 hours
5. **NT330 Acts and Paul** - Purpose, theology and chronology of Acts; exegetical study of Paul's theology and major epistles, with exegesis of key passages. Prerequisite: NT303 in progress – 4 hours
6. **CC549 Movies and Theology Elective** – Film has become the premier story-telling medium of our postmodern culture, so, like Paul in the Athenian culture, Christians must develop discernment at the movies. While watching and discussing several films together, this course will explore ways in which film can be used as a window of insight into those who do not share Christian convictions and values, and as a point of contact to begin conversations about the Gospel – 2 hours

V. Year Four

A. To be completed by August 15, 2011 in residence at Covenant Seminary

1. **OT482 Pentateuch** – An audiotape course (lectures by Dr. R. Laird Harris) taken by independent study under a supervising professor. Credit, two units. – 2 hours
2. **PT340 Pastoral Theology** - A theological and practical study of the duties of the minister with special emphasis on the development and duties of the pastor as shepherd, and the personal care of the church and its people – 2 hours
3. **CC572 C.S. Lewis** A study of the life and writings of C.S. Lewis, aimed at critical appreciation of his work in literature, apologetics, and theology, and appropriating his contributions in these areas. Requirements include extensive reading of his best works – 3 hours
4. **CC544 Tolkien and Middle Earth** The Oxford professor and medievalist, J. R. R. Tolkien, is recognized as one of the greatest writers of the 20th century for his masterpiece, Lord of the Rings. This course will examine the background, major themes, and worldview of this literary classic – 3 hours

C. To be completed by December 15, 2011 in residence at Covenant Seminary

1. **CM330 Christ-Centered Preaching** - Preaching practicum with special emphasis on the place and uniqueness of the atonement in Christian preaching. Student will preach two sermons. Prerequisite: CM320 – 2 hours
2. **OT301 Hebrew** - Grammar fundamentals of biblical Hebrew – 4 hours
3. **ST330 Christ and Salvation** - The person and work of Christ, the mediator of the covenant of grace, with emphasis on the doctrine of substitutionary atonement. Doctrine of election and union with Christ, with special attention to effectual calling, regeneration, justification by faith, and sanctification. Prerequisite: NT303 in progress – 3 hours
4. **CE501 Educational Ministries of the Church** - An overview of the educational and training ministries of the local church, including biblical, theological and psychological foundations, the aims, methods, curriculum, organization, leadership, and evaluation of the teaching/learning process for various settings and age groups. (Previously PT520) - 2 hours
5. **NT350 Pastoral and General Epistles** - Continued study of Pauline corpus, through the Pastoral Epistles; exegetical study of general epistles and Revelation, emphasizing the contribution each makes to the New Testament canon. Prerequisite: NT303 in progress – 3 hours
6. **PT341 Ministry Leadership** - This course seeks to help students discern the mission of the church and develop appropriate ministries and programs to fulfill that mission. Topics include: leadership of self (personal management), church (developing lay leadership), staff (organization, management, working with volunteers), and finances (budgets) – 2 hours

- D. To be completed by January 30, 2012 in residence at Covenant Seminary**
- 1. OT301 Hebrew** - Grammar fundamentals of biblical Hebrew – 2 hours
- E. To be completed by May 15, 2012**
- 1. OT303 Hebrew in Exegesis** - Extensive reading, with grammar review; further study of Hebrew philology and syntax with a goal of greater accuracy in Old Testament exegesis. Prerequisite: OT302 in progress – 3 hours
 - 2. OT330 Old Testament Historical Books** - Survey and analysis of the historical books of the Old Testament in light of ancient Near Eastern history and historiography. Prerequisite: OT303 in progress. – 3 hours
 - 5. OT350 Prophetical Books** - Content and themes of the prophetical books of the Old Testament, with a focus on sound principles of interpretation. Includes detailed exegesis of key texts. Prerequisite: OT303 – 3 hours
 - 6. PT411 Preparation for Licensure and Ordination** - Designed to assist students in preparing for presbytery licensure and ordination exams. Review, memorization, and drill on commonly asked questions and answers. Fundamentals of PCA polity. Especially recommended for students seeking ministry opportunities in the PCA – 1 hour
 - 7. OT340 Psalms and Wisdom Books** Orientation to the nature of Hebrew poetry. Introduction to each poetic book within its ancient Near Eastern and biblical context. Survey and content sampling of each book. Prerequisite: OT303 – 3 hours

*Note: RYM is also pursuing a partnering relationship with other Reformed Seminaries; as these relationships are formalized RYM will add additional reading/course lists to the RYM Church Intern Manual as course offerings will be slightly different according to seminary.

**Subject to minor revisions by RYM and Covenant Theological Seminary.