

Aspire: Leadership Development at Imago Dei

*The saying is trustworthy: If anyone **aspires** to the office of overseer, he desires a noble task*

Overview: In seeking to be a 2 Timothy 2:2 Church, IDC started Aspire. Aspire is IDC's pastoral internship program for men that desire to be pastors and church planters. These interns meet weekly with the Elders of Imago Dei for a time of instruction and discussion on a portion of the Pastoral Epistles and assigned resources.

Aspire Curriculum Breakdown:

Semester One: The Pastor

- **Resources:**
 - 1 Timothy
 - Witmer, Timothy Z. *The Shepherd Leader: Achieving Effective Shepherding in Your Church*
 - Baxter, Richard. *The Reformed Pastor*
 - Carson, D.A. *The Cross and Christian Ministry*
 - Tripp, Paul. *Dangerous Calling*
 - Selected Audio of Gospel Centered Preachers (For the specific syllabi we use email nate@idcraleigh.com)

- **Assignments:**
 - Weekly discussion of the Pastoral Epistles and the resources listed
 - A book review on *The Shepherd Leader*
 - A position paper on “*Divorce and Remarriage*” (Position papers are 2 pages, single spaced and to be written in such a way they could be handed to a pastoral search committee to represent the interns position)
 - Gain practical experience in baptizing, administering the Lord's Table, overseeing a wedding service, and preaching a funeral service

Semester Two: The Church

- **Resources:**
 - 2 Timothy
 - Tripp, Paul David. *How People Change*
 - Dever, Mark. *9 Marks of a Healthy Church*
 - Hammett, John. *Biblical Foundations for Baptist Churches*
 - Merkle, Benjamin. *40 Questions about Elders and Deacons*
 - Selected articles and audio on ecclesiology

- **Assignments**
 - Weekly discussion of the Pastoral Epistles and the resources listed
 - A book review on *Biblical Foundations for Baptist Churches*

- Position papers on the topics “*Is Church Membership Biblical and how should it look?*” and “*Church Polity: What Church Government is Most Biblical*”
- Gain practical experience in developing budgets, procedures (i.e. childcare and building use), and a membership process

Semester Three: The Mission

- Resources:

- Titus
- *Total Church* by Steve Timmis and Tim Chester
- *The Trellis and the Vine* by Collin Marshall and Tony Payne
- *Center Church* by Tim Keller
- *Let the Nations Be Glad* by John Piper
- Selected blogs and audio on mission and church planting

- Assignments:

- Weekly discussion of the Pastoral Epistles and the resources listed
- A book review of *Total Church*
- A position paper on *The Church and Gender Roles*
- Develop a Church Planting Prospectus

Semester Four: Preaching

- Resources:

- Merida, Tony. *The Christ-Centered Expositor*
- Keller, Tim. *Preaching*

- Assignments:

- Preach a 25 minute sermon from any OT book
- Preach a 25 min sermon from a Gospel
- Preach a 25 min sermon from a NT Epistle

Note: *Interns can receive up to 21 hours of credit towards a Masters of Divinity at Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary through Aspire*