

SCHOOL OF MINISTRY ALLIANCE



SOMA

**"Gospel-Centered Equipping
for Transformational Ministry"**

STUDENT HANDBOOK

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Letter from the SOMA Director

Dear Future Students,

Welcome! God has a wonderful plan for your life. In fact, it's the plan He's always had for all of His people for thousands of years: to display and declare the stunningly good news about Himself for the joy of all peoples.

We pray that SOMA will help equip you to better engage God's great plan for His Name and His world. Through SOMA courses we want you to see the panoramic storyline of God's Word, the passionate priorities of the New Testament church, the life-transforming realities of the gospel, and the real-life practicalities of relational ministry.

SOMA doesn't provide training for ivory tower theologians. Instead, it's for everyday followers of Christ who want to be better equipped moms and dads, co-workers, church leaders, or neighbors.

For the 2011-2012 school year, courses will be offered at two locations: **Tuesday nights at New Life Church (Gahanna)** and **Thursday nights at Grace Bible Church (Canal Winchester)**. Classes begin at 7:00 p.m. and last until 10:00 p.m. For more information or to sign up, go to www.somacolumbus.org.

The SOMA course line-up unites the best of serious biblical and theological study with practical ministry and leadership experience. Your approach to SOMA can be flexible; and we hope you understand that you have curricular options. You may take courses via any one of three plans or "tracks."

In the following pages, we outline Tracks One through Three, which are designed to help you respond to God's call with the right amount of training. Courses may be taken *a la carte*, one at a time (Track One: *Pick-and-Choose*), however participating in the full *Equipping for Ministry* program (Track Two) provides the complete, hands-on SOMA experience, including the mentoring relationship and ministry involvement. Finally, for the person who senses God's call to serve on a church planting team, within the next few years we look forward to offering Track Three: *Equipping for Church Planting*.

As you consider which track to take, we pray that you would review the following pages and allow God to speak to you about how SOMA can equip you for His great and global purposes.

Grace to you,



Champ Thornton

PS: Please feel free to contact me either via email (champthornton@gmail.com) or via phone (614-395-5223). Forms and additional information are also available online at www.somacolumbus.org.

School of Ministry Alliance (SOMA): Vision and Values

SOMA is a college-level ministry training school which offers high-quality equipping resources to local churches and individual believers. In partnership with Columbus area churches, we seek to train devoted servants of Jesus who will serve in their local fellowships, communities, and wherever God calls them.

Partnering with mentors from students' churches, SOMA offers a two-year series of intensive micro-courses (*EFM*) designed to strengthen the students' grasp of God's Word and their skill in serving their church and the world. We also aim to equip those whom God is calling into church planting (*ECP*). To these ends, SOMA provides the Biblical understanding and the practical wisdom that only comes from combining classroom training, one-on-one mentoring, and experience in serving guided by experienced and Spirit-led ministry staff.

We strongly believe that ministry training cannot and should not take place solely in the classroom. Practical application, character development, spiritual formation, and ministry training all require personal relationships and real life experiences. As a result, SOMA requires students to meet with a pastor or mentor in their local church on a regular basis to assist in applying truth to life and ministry in their church. This mentor requirement is a part of our commitment to partner with churches in the greater Columbus area.

SOMA exists because the Bible calls all believers to be equipped and to serve Christ in the world and in their own churches, exercising their gifts and displaying the love and dedication shown by the Lord Jesus (Ephesians 4:11-16).

We embrace a set of distinctives that give SOMA a unique flavor. Our educational approach, in its complete form, aims to be:

- God-centered,
- Jesus-focused,
- Gospel-driven,
- Spirit-led,
- Kingdom-minded, and
- Action-oriented.

This means we believe that personal transformation occurs through a deepening awareness and application of the gospel. Our goal is not simply information transfer, but heart transformation. This transformation includes the entire person:

- Head: growing in understanding of Christ,
- Heart: growing in affection for Christ, and
- Hands: growing in service to Christ.

We pray that your experience in SOMA will 'fan into flames' the vision that God has put in your heart to serve Him. Our deep desire is that we might co-labor together in gospel ministry for the glory of God.

Curriculum Tracks

Each of SOMA's three tracks feature a progressive series of interactive micro-seminars, classes, and workshops designed to equip believers with the knowledge, skills, inclination, and passion to engage in transformational spiritual ministry to others.

Track One—*Pick-and-Choose*

Track One is for the individual who would like to select certain courses in Year One or Two 'buffet-style,' without committing to an entire program. Course selection might be based on personal growth objectives, ministry improvement goals, or interest in particular subjects. The student is free to take any individual course within Modules 1 through 8—or an entire Module—without commitment to take the exam offered at the end of each course or to fulfill the ministry and mentoring requirements.

How to Start? Students wanting to take courses via Track One do *not* need to complete the *EFM* Admission Application. Registering and paying for courses of your choice is all that is required. Students should register online at www.somacolumbus.org (or by filling out the Course Registration Form later in this handbook).

Track Two—*Equipping for Ministry (EFM)*

EFM (Equipping for Ministry) is a two-year program designed to equip believers to minister more effectively in both their church and the world. For the individual who wants to commit to the entire Two-Year *EFM* Track, hands-on requirements include ministry involvement and a mentoring relationship. Those who complete Track Two will receive a certificate of completion. The *EFM* course overview is outlined below.

How to Start? Students wanting to enroll in Track Two (*EFM*) must be accepted into the program by completing the *EFM* Admission Application. Students must also identify a ministry and a mentor in their local church and indicate both of them on the Mentor Contract, which should be submitted to SOMA as part of the application process. The *EFM* Admission Application and Mentor Contract are available online at www.somacolumbus.org and later in this handbook. After applying, all Track Two (*EFM*) students must also register and pay for courses online (or via the Course Registration Form which is provided later in this handbook).

Track Three—*Equipping for Church Planting (ECP)*

Though *not* offered during the 2011-2012 year, *ECP*, combined with *EFM*, creates a three-year program designed for men and women who sense a calling to become equipped to serve on a church-planting team or in other church leadership roles. The *ECP* track includes the *EFM* track plus one additional year of instruction. In addition to a mentoring relationship and classroom requirements, *ECP* also includes the formulation and execution of two leadership projects. The *ECP* course overview is outlined below.

Upon completion of all Track Two (*EFM*) coursework, exams, and ministry/mentoring requirements, the student may apply for admission into the *ECP* Track or take occasional *ECP* courses without commitment to complete the exams or leadership projects.

Where to Begin?

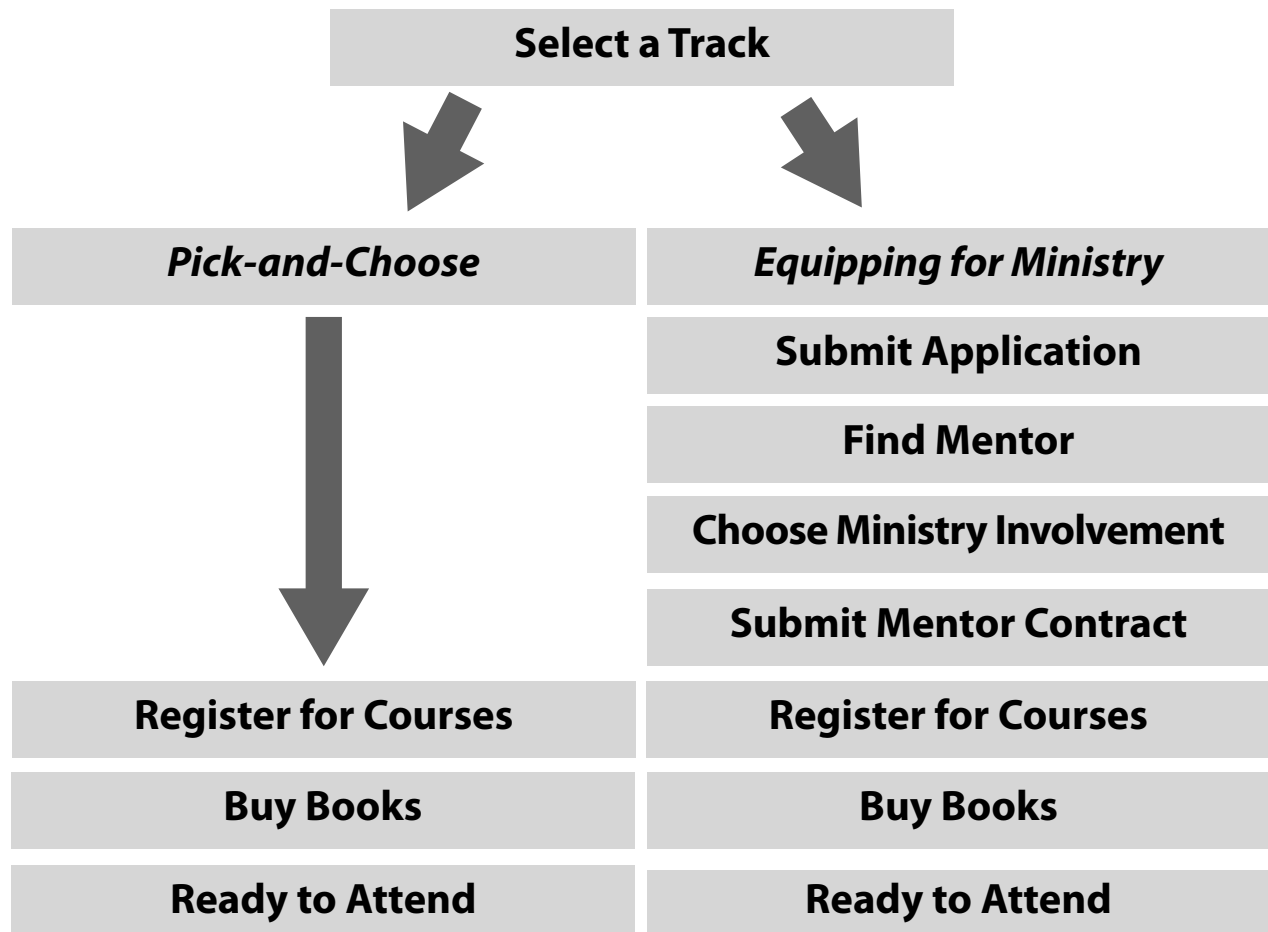
If you are interested in **Track One (*Pick-and-Choose*)**, you only need to register and pay for the courses of your choice. You should register and pay for courses online at www.somacolumbus.org (or by completing and submitting the Course Registration Form provided later in this handbook).

If you are interested in **Track Two (*EFM*)**, you must complete an *EFM* Admission Application and be accepted into the program. Students should apply online at www.somacolumbus.org (or by completing and submitting the *EFM* Admission Application provided later in this handbook). After applying, all Track Two (*EFM*) students must also register and pay for courses online (or via the Course Registration Form provided later in this handbook).

All students in either track should register for individual courses ahead of time.

All Track Two (*EFM*) applicants will receive confirmation that their application has been received. A formal response to your application will be emailed within one week. A \$15 non-refundable application fee is required with the application. The fee should be paid online at www.somacolumbus.org (or mailed to the address below, with checks being made payable to “New Life Center—SOMA”).

All forms and checks may be mailed to: **SOMA—3690 N. Stygler Road, Gahanna, OH 43230.**



Course Overview—*Equipping for Ministry (EFM)*

(EFM takes two years, contains 96 total hours of instruction, and includes ministry involvement and a mentoring relationship.)

EFM Year One (2012-2013)

Module 1: Laying Ministry Foundations (24 hours of instruction)

- LMF 101 – God-Centered Ministry (6 hours)
- LMF 102 – Gospel-Driven Ministry (6 hours)
- LMF 103 – Jesus-Focused Ministry (6 hours)
- LMF 104 – Spirit-Led Ministry (6 hours)

Module 2: Learning the Big Story (24 hours of instruction)

- LBS 101 – The Story of the Old Testament (9 hours)
- LBS 102 – The Story of the New Testament (6 hours)
- LBS 103 – The Story of the Church in History (9 hours)

Module 3: Loving the Savior (24 hours of instruction)

- LTS 101 – Jesus in the Gospel of John (15 hours)
- LTS 102 – Jesus in the Book of Ephesians (9 hours)

Module 4: Modeling Gospel Ministry (24 hours of instruction)

- MGM 101 – Ministering to the Person in Front of You (3 hours)
- MGM 102 – Applying the Gospel to Life (6 hours)
- MGM 103 – Praying for Others (3 hours)
- MGM 104 – Serving Christ by Serving His Body (3 hours)
- MGM 105 – Spiritual Shepherding (3 hours)
- MGM 106 – Discipling into Maturity (3 hours)
- MGM 107 – Imparting Your Life (3 hours)

EFM Year Two (2011-2012)

Module 5: Joining God's Mission (24 hours of instruction)

JGM 101 – God's Mission in the Old Testament (6 hours)

JGM 102 – God's Mission in the New Testament (6 hours)

JGM 103 – God's Mission in the Church Today (6 hours)

JGM 104 – God's Mission in Displaying and Sharing the Gospel (6 hours)

Module 6: Living As a Community (24 hours of instruction)

LAC 101 – Life in the Local Body (12 hours)

LAC 102 – Life in the Christian Family (12 hours)

Module 7: Reading Paul's Letters (24 hours of instruction)

RPL 101 – Paul's Life, Letters, and Gospel (6 hours)

RPL 102 – Paul's Letter to the Romans (18 hours)

Module 8: Growing in Grace (24 hours of instruction)

GIG 101 – Growing in the Gospel of Grace (12 hours)

GIG 102 – Growing in the Discipline of Grace (12 hours)

Course Overview—*Equipping for Church Planting (ECP)*

(In addition to *EFM*, *ECP* takes an additional year, contains 96 total hours of instruction, and includes a leadership project, ministry involvement, and a mentoring relationship. *ECP* will not be offered during the 2011-2012 school year.)

Module 9: Foundations of Ministry Leadership (6 hours of instruction)

FL 106 – Kingdom-Minded Ministry (3 hours)

FL 105 – Transformational Ministry (3 hours)

Module 10: Introducing Bible Doctrine (30 hours of instruction)

BD 101 – The Doctrine of Scripture (6 hours)

BD 102 – The Doctrine of God (6 hours)

BD 103 – The Doctrine of Man & Sin (3 hours)

BD 104 – The Doctrine of Christ (3 hours)

BD 105 – The Doctrine of Redemption (6 hours)

BD 106 – The Doctrine of the Church (3 hours)

BD 107 – The Doctrine of the Future (3 hours)

Module 11: A Healthy Church—A Reading Seminar (36 hours of instruction)

Module 12: Church Planting (24 hours of instruction)

CP 101 – Why Church-Planting? (3 hours)

CP 102 – The Call to Church-Planting (3 hours)

CP 103 – Intro to Church-Planting Teams (3 hours)

CP 104 – Team Formation & Models (3 hours)

CP 105 – Discipling (3 hours)

CP 106 – Network DNA (3 hours)

CP 107 – Church Planting & Your Family (3 hours)

CP 108 – NLC Resources (3 hours)

Church-Planting Practicum

CP 109 – Church Planting Internship

CP 110 – Church Planter Assessment

Class Schedule (2011-2012)

Classes run from 7:00-10:00 p.m. on the two following nights of the week:

- **Tuesdays** at New Life Church, Gahanna =**NLG below** (enewlife.com)
- **Thursdays** at Grace Bible Church, Canal Winchester =**GBC below** (gracebiblecw.com)

Module Five: Joining God's Mission (24 hours total instruction)

| NLG | GBC | Course | Hours |
|------------|------------|--|--------------|
| 09-13-11 | 09-15-11 | God's Mission in the Old Testament | 06 |
| 09-20-11 | 09-22-11 | God's Mission in the Old Testament | |
| 09-27-11 | 09-29-11 | God's Mission in the New Testament | 06 |
| 10-04-11 | 10-6-11 | God's Mission in the New Testament | |
| 10-11-11 | 10-13-11 | God's Mission in the Church Today | 06 |
| 10-18-11 | 10-20-11 | God's Mission in the Church Today | |
| 10-25-11 | 10-27-11 | God's Mission in Displaying and Sharing the Gospel | 06 |
| 11-1-11 | 11-3-11 | God's Mission in Displaying and Sharing the Gospel | |

Module Six: Living As a Community (24 hours total instruction)

| NLG | GBC | Course | Hours |
|------------|------------|------------------------------|--------------|
| 11-08-11 | 11-10-11 | Life in the Local Body | 12 |
| 11-15-11 | 11-17-11 | Life in the Local Body | |
| | | THANKSGIVING BREAK | |
| 11-29-11 | 12-1-11 | Life in the Local Body | |
| 12-06-11 | 12-08-11 | Life in the Local Body | |
| 12-13-11 | 12-15-11 | Life in the Christian Family | 12 |
| | | CHRISTMAS BREAK | |
| | | CHRISTMAS BREAK | |
| 01-03-12 | 01-05-12 | Life in the Christian Family | |
| 01-10-12 | 01-12-12 | Life in the Christian Family | |
| 01-17-12 | 01-19-12 | Life in the Christian Family | |

Module Seven: Reading Paul's Letters (24 hours total instruction)

| NLG | GBC | Course | Hours |
|----------|----------|----------------------------------|-------|
| 01-24-12 | 01-26-12 | Paul's Life, Letters, and Gospel | 06 |
| 01-31-12 | 02-02-12 | Paul's Life, Letters, and Gospel | |
| 02-07-12 | 02-09-12 | Paul's Letter to the Romans | 18 |
| | | VALENTINE'S BREAK | |
| 02-21-12 | 02-23-12 | Paul's Letter to the Romans | |
| 02-28-12 | 03-01-12 | Paul's Letter to the Romans | |
| 03-06-12 | 03-08-12 | Paul's Letter to the Romans | |
| 03-13-12 | 03-15-12 | Paul's Letter to the Romans | |
| 03-20-12 | 03-22-12 | Paul's Letter to the Romans | |

Module Eight: Growing in Grace (24 hours total instruction)

| NLG | GBC | Course | Hours |
|----------|----------|------------------------------------|-------|
| 03-27-12 | 03-29-12 | Growing in the Gospel of Grace | 12 |
| | | EASTER BREAK | |
| 04-10-12 | 04-12-12 | Growing in the Gospel of Grace | |
| 04-17-12 | 04-19-12 | Growing in the Gospel of Grace | |
| 04-24-12 | 04-26-12 | Growing in the Gospel of Grace | |
| 05-01-12 | 05-03-12 | Growing in the Discipline of Grace | 12 |
| 05-08-12 | 05-10-12 | Growing in the Discipline of Grace | |
| 05-15-12 | 05-17-12 | Growing in the Discipline of Grace | |
| 05-22-12 | 05-24-12 | Growing in the Discipline of Grace | |

(A detailed description of each course in Modules 1-8 is included later in this handbook.)

Make-up Classes

If a class session is ever *officially cancelled*, it will be re-offered the next Monday evening in Room 206-07 at New Life Church, Gahanna, between 7:00 and 10:00 p.m.

If you are unable to attend a weekly class at one SOMA location, you may attend the same class at the other site. Please notify the SOMA director if you will be attending class at the other SOMA site (champthornton@gmail.com).

Student Requirements

Ministry Involvement

Students in Track Two (*EFM*) must identify their chosen ministry involvement on their Mentor Contract. Additionally, there must be documented reports of time spent in this ministry along with periodic evaluations of ministry effectiveness. These reports will be due from your mentor by December 31 and May 31. Special emphasis will be given to the student's ability to work cooperatively with other ministry team members and improve the quality of his/her ministry to others. Ministry grades are determined by the mentor and will be recorded as Pass or Fail. For more information, see the Mentoring Relationships section.

Mentoring Relationships

The mentoring relationship is arranged by mutual agreement between the student and the mentor, and it should be formalized by completion of a Mentor Contract. A mentor should be a strong spiritual leader in the student's church, ideally someone on the church staff or in a similar capacity. (For a copy of the Mentor Contract, see below or go online to www.somacolumbus.org.)

Though much of our education is academic in nature, we strongly believe that ministry training cannot take place solely in the classroom. Practical application, character development, spiritual formation, and ministry experience all require personal relationships and real life experiences.

As a result, every student in *EFM* and *ECP* is required to meet with a pastor or mentor in his/her local church *three times per month*. This mentoring requirement is a part of SOMA's commitment to partner with churches in the Greater Columbus area. As students learn about the Bible and its implications for life and ministry, their mentors will help see that these insights are applied in everyday life. In addition, this mentor will ensure that, through involvement in a selected area of ministry, each student is serving as a vital part of the life of his/her local church.

Twice per school year (by December 31 & by May 31), the mentor will evaluate each student's personal spiritual growth, commitment to the local church, and hours spent in ministry involvement. Special emphasis will be given to the student's ability to work cooperatively with other ministry team members and improve the quality of their ministry to others. These evaluation forms will be emailed to the mentors by the SOMA director, and this ministry accountability and assessment is an important part of nurturing each student's progress.

Exams

At the end of each course, those enrolled in Track Two (*EFM*) will be given access to the on-line exam. The grade for each course will be based on the results of the exam. The exams will be brief and directly related to the course's objectives. Students are on their honor to take exams without using texts or notes. Exams may take from 15 to 30 minutes to complete.

Books

The following texts are required reading for 2011-2012 courses (Modules 5-8). Assigned reading will average about 50 pages per week. For those not able to buy books online, these texts may also be purchased at the New Life (Gahanna) bookstore.

The Mission of God's People by Christopher J. H. Wright (Module 5: Joining God's Mission, 101-102)

Marks of the Messenger by J. Mack Stiles (Module 5: Joining God's Mission, 103-104)

The Trellis and the Vine by Colin Marshall and Tony Payne (Module 6: Living As a Community, 101)

Building Strong Families edited by Dennis Rainey (Module 6: Living As a Community, 102)

Introducing Paul by Michael F. Bird (Module 7: Reading Paul's Letters, 101)

Romans: Celebrating the Good News by Douglas J. Moo and Karen Lee-Thorp (Module 7: Reading Paul's Letters, 102)

Death by Love by Mark Driscoll and Gerry Breshears (Module 8: Growing in Grace, 101)

You Can Change by Tim Chester (Module 8: Growing in Grace, 102)

Course Fees and Scholarship Availability

The cost of the courses is \$25 per three hours of instruction. Thus, a three-hour course would cost \$25; a 6-hour course would cost \$50; a nine-hour course would cost \$75; a twelve-hour course would cost \$100; and a 15-hour course would cost \$125.

Course fees should never be the deciding factor in taking or not taking a course. If there are financial concerns that limit a student's ability to take a course, limited scholarship funds are available and may be applied for by contacting the SOMA director, Champ Thornton (614-395-5223). The scholarship process is informal and brief. Usually a telephone interview is all that is required. A decision will be made within one week of the interview.

Leadership Projects (ECP only)

For those who move to the *ECP* Track (Year Three), the emphasis shifts from participating on a ministry team to *leading* a ministry team. Each student will be required to cooperatively formulate and execute two leadership projects under the supervision of a mentor or other ministry leader. These leadership projects will be designed to take 15-20 hours of time including the write-up. Specific instructions regarding the format of leadership projects will be provided to all students in the *ECP* Program. Grades will be given by the project supervisor/mentor. The first project will be due by December 31. The second project will be due by May 31.

SOMA Grading Procedures

Academic Grade Table

| <u>Exam Score</u> | <u>Grade</u> |
|-------------------|--------------|
| 100-94 | A |
| 93-90 | A- |
| 89-87 | B+ |
| 86-83 | B |
| 82-80 | B- |
| 79-77 | C+ |
| 76-73 | C |
| 72-70 | C- |
| 69-60 | D+ |
| 59-50 | D |
| 49-0 | F |

Grade Point Average Key

| |
|---------|
| A =4.0 |
| A- =3.7 |
| B+ =3.3 |
| B =3.0 |
| B- =2.7 |
| C+ =2.3 |
| C =2.0 |
| C- =1.7 |
| D+ =1.3 |
| D =1.0 |
| F =0.0 |

SOMA Code of Conduct

You are being equipped as a minister and/or leader—therefore, faithfulness is a valuable character trait. You are expected to attend all class sessions and mentoring appointments. If absences are thought to be excessive by the instructors, you may be asked to withdraw from SOMA.

You are expected to be honest in all behavior and conduct within the SOMA experience. Any form of cheating, plagiarism, or lying is a breach of ethical standards of SOMA.

You are expected to respect the personal property, rights, safety, and health of others. There will be no physical or verbal abuse of any individual. This includes, staff, and students. Disruptive behavior will not be tolerated.

You will refrain from any illegal acts. You will satisfy your financial obligations to SOMA.

Violation of any ethical standard may result in disciplinary action. This could take the form of a reprimand, probation, suspension, or expulsion from SOMA.

Course Descriptions—*Equipping for Ministry (EFM)*

Module 1: LAYING MINISTRY FOUNDATIONS

LMF 101 – God-Centered Ministry: A 6-hour mini-seminar that aims to orient students to a God-centered view of reality. Students will understand the two possible foundations for ministry, learn the scriptural support for God-centered ministry, and be able to describe key distinctives of God-centered ministry.

LMF 102 – Gospel-Driven Ministry: A 6-hour mini-seminar that will equip students with a scriptural understanding of the gospel of Jesus and convince them of its centrality in life and ministry. Students will be able to clearly articulate the gospel as well as identify popular false gospels and distortions.

LMF 103 – Jesus-Focused Ministry: A 6-hour mini-seminar aimed at helping students see Jesus as the focal point of the Bible and worship Him as the supreme Treasure of the universe. Students will understand key characteristics of the true Jesus, be able to identify popular misrepresentations of Him, and learn to minister out of a Jesus-focused perspective.

LMF 104 – Spirit-Led Ministry: A 6-hour mini-seminar aimed at introducing students to the Person and Work of the Holy Spirit as described in scripture, and equipping them to powerfully minister to others in dependence upon Him. Students will learn the basic tenets of Christian doctrine related to the Holy Spirit with an emphasis on the role of the Spirit in Christian discipleship and ministry.

Module 2: LEARNING THE BIG STORY

LBS 101 – The Story of the Old Testament: A 9-hour course designed to introduce the canonical and redemptive macro-structures of the Old Testament, as they ultimately point to Jesus Christ, emphasizing the unity of Scripture and the themes of God’s people, presence, and rule.

LBS 102 – The Story of the New Testament: A 6-hour course that shows how Jesus Christ is the fulfillment of the Old Testament promises and expectations. Students will learn the sequence of Christ’s life, the structure of the book of Acts, as well as a thematic overview of the entire New Testament.

LBS 103 – The Story of the Church in History: A 9-hour course that traces the history of the Christian Church from the first century to the present with a detailed account of the early heresies that developed and the councils that addressed these issues. Emphasis will be placed on the Reformation and the Church’s manifestations in the United States, such as the Great Awakening and Revivalism.

Module 3: LOVING THE SAVIOR

LTS 101 – Jesus in the Gospel of John: This 15-hour course will explore John’s Gospel. The student will be challenged to understand the text from the perspective of the writer’s stated purpose, which was to demonstrate that Jesus of Nazareth is the true Son of God. The miracles and teachings of Jesus will be linked. Jesus’ encounters with various individuals will be explored, as well as the escalating conflict be-

tween Jesus and the religious authorities. John's view of the crucifixion and what it accomplished will also be studied.

LTS 102 – Jesus in the Book of Ephesians: This 9-hour course will be an in-depth study of this epistle with emphasis on God's glorious plan to magnify His grace by crucifying and exalting His Son and offering salvation to all in Him. In addition to understanding the structure of the book, the themes of election, redemption, regeneration, reconciliation, grace, faith, salvation, holiness, and the church will also be traced through the epistle. The believer's lofty position 'in Christ' and resultant expectations of behavior will be explored. The student will also gain a general understanding of the occasion and purpose of this epistle.

Module 4: MODELING GOSPEL MINISTRY

MGM 101 – Ministering to the Person in Front of You: In this 3-hour mini-seminar the student will learn key ministry principles from the face-to-face encounters Jesus had with individuals as recorded in the Gospels. From this study, students will learn the value of demonstrating Christ-like love to others, acquire key skills for expressing that love, and develop an understanding of the sequence and relationship between meeting an individual's physical, emotional, relational, intellectual, and spiritual needs.

MGM 102 – Applying the Gospel to Life: In this 6-hour mini-seminar the student will learn that transformational ministry flows out of a correct and full-orbed understanding of the Gospel of Jesus Christ. The student will develop a working knowledge of how the benefits of the atonement can be effectively applied to sin issues in his/her own life and the lives of others. The primary roles of repentance and faith in all Gospel-centered ministry will be emphasized and explored.

MGM 103 – Praying for Others: In this 3-hour mini-seminar the student will learn the nature and power of intercessory prayer through a survey of the prayers of Paul recorded in his epistles. The student will learn a scriptural pattern for ministering to others through prayer, experience an intense prayer ministry session, and be challenged to begin ministering informally in this way.

MGM 104 – Serving Christ by Serving His Body: In this 3-hour mini-seminar students will acquire a love for Christ's church and a deep desire to offer their time, talent, and energy to serve His Body to the fullest measure possible. Students will gain an understanding of key scriptural passages that describe God's design for gift-based ministry (i.e., Romans 12; 1 Corinthians 12; Ephesians 4; and 1 Peter 4). The New Testament concept of servanthood will be explored and two local church ministry models—Member-Centered and Pastor-Centered—will be contrasted.

MGM 105 – Spiritual Shepherding: In this 3-hour mini-seminar the student will gain a scriptural understanding of the general concept of 'spiritual shepherding' and be able to define it succinctly from key biblical texts. Specific functions related to spiritual shepherding (e.g., oversight, care, leading, feeding, correcting, protecting, laying down one's life for others) will be explored in the context of local church ministry. The student will also learn the biblical art of spiritual correction, including a biblical model for church discipline, loving confrontation, and receiving forgiveness.

MGM 106 – Discipling Into Maturity: In this 3-hour mini-seminar the student will gain an understanding of the scriptural marks of spiritual maturity and three kinds of discipling relationships that can help believers make progress towards maturity—(a) coach-player, (b) mentor-mentee, and (c) peer ‘sharpening’ partners. The value of seeking out a spiritual partnership will be instilled and the student will be given guidelines for doing so. The importance of keeping the gospel of Jesus central to any and all discipling relationships will be emphasized.

MGM 107 – Imparting Your Life: In this 3-hour seminar the student will explore 1 Thessalonians 1-2 with a view towards learning principles of life-on-life discipleship from the apostle Paul. As part of this the ‘Dual Parent Model’ for spiritual ministry found in 1 Thessalonians 2:9-12 will be explored and emphasized. Students will be challenged to recommit themselves to engaging in life-on-life discipleship for the remainder of their lives for maximum gospel impact.

Module 5: JOINING GOD’S MISSION

JGM 101 – God’s Mission in the Old Testament: In this 6-hour seminar, the student will be able to articulate the unfolding of God’s mission to spread His glory through the entire world. Students will also gain understanding of the creation mandate, the call of Abraham, the Exodus, the Davidic covenant, the Servant of the Lord, the New Covenant, and the destiny of the nations.

JGM 102 – God’s Mission in the New Testament: In this 6-hour seminar, the student will learn the mission of Christ and His followers in the early church by tracing this theme through the Gospels, Acts, and the Epistles. Students will understand the content, goals, and methodology of New Testament mission.

JGM 103 – God’s Mission in the Church Today: In this 6-hour seminar, the student will become familiar with various topics in world missions today, including holism v. prioritism; incarnationalism v. representationalism; power encounter v. truth encounter; and common ground v. enemy territory. Students will also learn the general contours of the missionary movement over the last 100 years and key figures in the last 50 years.

JGM 104 – God’s Mission in Displaying and Sharing the Gospel: In this 6-hour seminar, the student will learn the biblical balance between living and telling the Gospel: that is, between doing good works and sharing good news. Primarily, students will grow in their own knowledge of the Gospel and how to communicate it naturally with others.

Module 6: LIVING AS A COMMUNITY

LAC 101 – Life in the Local Body: This 12-hour course will help students learn their responsibilities as a member of a local body of Christ. First, students will also see how the entire Bible demonstrates that love is the foundational attribute of God and His people. Then students will understand New Testament metaphors for the church and New Testament relational expectations for church members, including fellowshiping, edifying, worshiping, offering mercy, hearing God’s Word taught and read, giving, and praying together.

LAC 102 – Life in the Christian Family: In this 12-hour course, students will understand the Bible’s teaching on the following topics related to the family: biblical manhood and womanhood, the roles of a husband, the roles of a wife, singleness, and biblical wisdom, parenting of children from infants to young adults, with special attention given to how the Gospel impacts each topic. Students will also grow in familiarity with various opinions related to family-oriented churches.

Module 7: READING PAUL’S LETTERS

RPL 101 – Paul’s Life, Letters, and Gospel: These 6 hours of instruction will help students articulate the essence of Paul’s message and ministry. Students will also become familiar with the timeline and rationale of Paul’s life and ministry, including his letter-writing ministry. Students will also learn several foundational structures of Paul’s theology and teaching, such as: already/not-yet, indicative/imperative, and law/grace.

RPL 102 – Paul’s Letter to the Romans: In this 18-hour course, students will understand the context which gave rise to Paul’s letter to the Romans, the structure of the letter, important themes in the letter, and Paul’s worldview as seen through the letter. Particularly, students will learn the content and flow of thought of this epistle, giving special attention to its relevance for growing in knowledge and worship of Christ.

Module 8: GROWING IN GRACE

GIG 101 – Growing in the Gospel of Grace: In this 12-hour course, students will learn to see how the Good News is story, announcement, and community. Students will also grow in awareness of gospel counterfeits such as a therapeutic gospel, judgmentless gospel, moralistic gospel, quietist gospel, activist gospel, and churchless gospel. Students will also become familiar with various links in the “gospel chain,” such as justification, redemption, adoption, sanctification, and especially, union with Christ.

GIG 102 – Growing in the Discipline of Grace: During these 12 hours of instruction, students will learn to use the rubric of “spiritual idolatry” to understand the underlying motivations for their actions, to gain specific, practical help in changing long-standing patterns of behavior, and to grow in love for God and others. Students will also learn to use the “gospel grid” to address issues such as pretending and performing, legalism, repentance, physical handicaps, worship, forgiveness, racism, and conflict.

Course Registration Form

Note: If at all possible, please register and pay for courses online at www.somacolumbus.org.

Personal Information

First Name _____ Last Name _____

Address _____ ZIP _____

Email Address _____ Phone Number _____

Track?: Track One (*Pick-and-Choose*) _____ Track Two (*EFM*) _____

Location?: New Life Church (Gahanna) _____ Grace Bible Church (Canal Winchester) _____

Note: If you are a church staff member, small group leader, or approved scholarship student, please call the SOMA director, Champ Thornton (614-395-5223), before submitting in your Course Registration Form.

Registration Information

Before registering, double-check the Class Schedule to determine the dates on which courses will be offered. To register, **clearly check the blank** to select the courses you would like to take:

Module 5: Joining God's Mission (24 hours of instruction)

- _____ JGM 101 – God's Mission in the Old Testament (6 hours; \$50)
- _____ JGM 102 – God's Mission in the New Testament (6 hours; \$50)
- _____ JGM 103 – God's Mission in the Church Today (6 hours; \$50)
- _____ JGM 104 – God's Mission in Displaying and Sharing the Gospel (6 hours; \$50)

Module 6: Living As a Community (24 hours of instruction)

- _____ LAC 101 – Life in the Local Body (12 hours; \$100)
- _____ LAC 102 – Life in the Christian Family (12 hours; \$100)

Module 7: Reading Paul's Letters (24 hours of instruction)

- _____ RPL 101 – Paul's Life, Letters, and Gospel (6 hours; \$50)
- _____ RPL 102 – Paul's Letter to the Romans (18 hours; \$150)

Module 8: Growing in Grace (24 hours of instruction)

- _____ GIG 101 – Growing in the Gospel of Grace (12 hours; \$100)
- _____ GIG 102 – Growing in the Discipline of Grace (12 hours; \$100)

If you are mailing in a completed hard copy of the Course Registration Form, please send to the following address: **SOMA—3690 N. Stygler Road, Gahanna, OH 43230**

If you are registering via mail, please make all checks payable to "New Life Center—SOMA." Upon submitting your Course Registration Form, you should receive an email from SOMA confirming that your registration has been successfully received.



EFM Admission Application

Note: You may also download an electronic copy of this Application and pay the \$15 application fee at the SOMA website: www.somacolumbus.org.

Personal Information

Full name: _____

Date of birth (mm/dd/year): _____

Street address: _____

City, ZIP: _____ Email: _____

Gender: Male _____ Female _____

Home phone: _____ Cell phone: _____

Marital status: _____ Spouse's name: _____

Number of children at home: _____ Ages: _____

Which SOMA location will you attend?

New Life Church (Gahanna) _____

Grace Bible Church (Canal Winchester) _____

Briefly give an account of your conversion to Christ or the nature of your Christian experience:

Church Information

Church name: _____

Church phone: _____

Church address: _____

City, ZIP: _____

Who is your pastor? _____

Church phone number: _____

Are you a member of this church? Yes _____ No _____

Are you on staff at this church? Yes _____ No _____

Education

What is the most advanced degree you have earned thus far? High school _____

Bachelor's Degree _____ Master's Degree _____ Doctor's Degree _____ Other _____

Ministry Involvement

What experience do you have in leading and serving in a ministry? _____

Briefly discuss what you know about God's calling in your life, your vision of the future and how SOMA would assist in that: _____

At present, what are your top three ministry objectives, in order of importance to you? (E.g., church planting, high school ministry, etc.)

- 1. _____
- 2. _____
- 3. _____

What are your areas of gifting? _____

Student Agreement

I have read and agree with the SOMA Doctrinal Statement which is provided at the end of the Student Handbook: Yes_____ No_____

The above information is accurate to the best of my knowledge. I understand that any fabrication is grounds for dismissal. I also understand that my academic and financial records, in regard to SOMA, may be made available to my pastor. Yes_____ No_____

If you are mailing in a completed hard copy of the *EFM* Admission Application, please send to the following address:

SOMA—3690 N. Stygler Road, Gahanna, OH 43230

If you are paying via mail, all checks should be made payable to “New Life Center—SOMA.” Upon submitting your application and the \$15 application fee, you should receive an email from SOMA confirming that your application has been successfully received.

Mentor Contract

Though much of our education at SOMA is academic in nature, we strongly believe that ministry training cannot take place solely in the classroom. Practical application, character development, spiritual formation, and ministry training all require personal relationships and real life experiences.

As a result, every student in *EFM* and *ECP* is required to meet with a pastor or mentor in his/her local church three times per month. This mentor requirement is a part of SOMA's commitment to partner with churches in the Greater Columbus area. As students learn about the Bible and its implications for life and ministry, their mentor will help see that these insights are applied in everyday life. In addition, this mentor will ensure that, through involvement in a selected ministry, each student is serving as a vital part of the life of his/her local church.

Twice per school year (by December 31 & by May 31), the mentor will evaluate each student's personal spiritual growth, commitment to the local church, and hours spent in ministry involvement. Special emphasis will be given to the student's ability to work cooperatively with other ministry team members and improve the quality of his/her ministry to others. These evaluation forms will be emailed to the mentors by the SOMA director, and this ministry accountability and assessment is an important part of nurturing each student's progress.

By signing this form, you are agreeing to serve as a mentor for the student named below. We have a few requirements of what this mentor/student relationship should involve, but we want you to have freedom in how you structure your meetings, how frequently you will meet, and how you guide the student. By agreeing to serve as a mentor, you are agreeing to:

- Meet with the student regularly (at least three times per month).
- Guide the student in applying to life and ministry what he or she is learning in the classroom.
- Assess the student's character and ministry involvement and submit an evaluation form to SOMA by December 31 and May 31. (Evaluation forms will be provided by the SOMA director.)
- Work with SOMA on walking the student through character-formation or ministry-involvement issues.

For the Mentor to fill out: I agree to the above terms regarding the student/mentor relationship. I will commit to be the mentor for _____ over the course of the 2011-2012 school year. This person will also be involved in _____ ministry at our church during this time.

Mentor Signature: _____

Mentor Information

Name: _____ Title: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____ E-Mail: _____

Church Information

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

SOMA— 3690 N. Stygler Road, Gahanna, OH 43230

The SOMA Doctrinal Statement

There is one God, Creator and Lord of the universe, the Holy Trinity, eternally existing in three equally divine Persons: the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, who know, love, and glorify one another. This one true and living God, infinitely perfect both in His love and holiness, governs all things according to His will and is accomplishing His purposes in the world and in the church.

God has inspired the words preserved in the Scriptures, the sixty-six books of the Old and New Testaments, which are both the record and means of His saving work in the world. These writings alone constitute the verbally inspired Word of God, which is without error in the original writings, complete in its revelation of His will for salvation, sufficient for all that God requires us to believe and do, and final in its authority over every domain of knowledge to which it speaks.

All human beings, male and female, are created in God's own likeness and therefore have inherent value and equality before God. Through Satan's temptation, Adam, made in the image of God, fell into sin, which is any act, attitude, or disposition that, failing to measure up to the standards of God's righteousness, puts something else in the place of God. As a result of the fall, all human beings are subject to God's wrath and condemnation, are corrupted in every aspect of their being, and are alienated from God, from one another, and from His creation—apart from God's own gracious intervention.

Salvation from the guilt, penalty, and all other consequences of sin has been achieved solely through the historic work of Jesus Christ. By His virgin birth, sinless life, atoning death, and bodily resurrection, he acted as our representative and substitute. Jesus alone is truly God and truly human, the only mediator between God and humanity. There is salvation through no other person, creed, process, or power. Through union with Christ, each sinner is justified before God and reconciled to God only by divine grace appropriated through faith alone in Jesus Christ alone.

This salvation is applied to His people by the Holy Spirit, the third person of the Trinity. The work of the Holy Spirit is necessary for the individual's new birth and growth to maturity. The Holy Spirit is himself the down payment of the promised inheritance, and in this age indwells, guides, and empowers the church, enabling its continuous renewal in truth, wisdom, faith, holiness, love, ministry, power, and mission.

The church is the body of which Christ is the Head. The church is distinguished by her gospel message, her sacred ordinances, her discipline, her great mission, and, above all, by her love for God, and by her members' sacrificial love for one another and for the world. The church serves as a sign of God's future new creation when its members live for the service of one another and their neighbors, rather than for self-focus.

As the Lord Jesus ascended to His Father, so he will return personally, visibly, and in glory. He will raise from the dead both the just and the unjust—the unjust to judgment and eternal, conscious punishment in hell, and the just to eternal blessedness in the presence of God. Although God's kingdom is already present but not yet completely realized, at the end God will fully establish His kingdom and finish the new creation—a new heaven and a new earth from which all sin and its wretched effects will be excluded and in which God will be glorified forever.