

BCM PASTORAL

Programme Outline



Are you feeling called to pastoral ministry, desiring to nurture your ability to provide compassionate care and support within both your church and wider community? If so, we extend a heartfelt invitation for you to journey alongside us in the Pastoral stream of the BCM course.

Our Pastoral stream is crafted to be an immersive experience, aiming to equip you with the necessary insights and skills to navigate the complexities of pastoral contexts with grace and effectiveness. Let us delve deeper into the aims and outcomes of each session, inviting you to envision the transformative impact each one can have:

Session 1: Listening

In this foundational session, we embark on a journey of self-reflection, contemplating the essence of true listening and the significance it holds within pastoral care. Through engaging discussions and practical exercises, we will not only assess our current listening skills but also explore new techniques to cultivate a deeper understanding and connection with those we seek to serve.

Session 2: Family Matters

Families are the cornerstone of both society and the church, yet they often face multifaceted challenges requiring pastoral support and guidance. In this session, we embark on a thought-provoking exploration of the concept of family, drawing from personal experiences, societal norms, and the timeless wisdom of Scripture. Together, we will discern how best to minister to families within our congregations and extend our care to those on the fringes or outside of traditional church communities, armed with a deeper understanding and empathy.

Session 3: Growing Older

As we journey through life we are confronted with the inevitability of aging, a process laden with both joys and challenges. In this session, we confront societal perceptions of aging and contrast them with the timeless truths found within the pages of Scripture. Through reflection and dialogue we will explore how our ministries can serve as beacons of hope and encouragement for those navigating the later stages of life, fostering a community where aging is embraced as a positive part of the human experience.

Session 4: Managing a Visit

Visitation is a cornerstone of pastoral ministry, offering a sacred opportunity to extend comfort and support to those in need. In this session, we evaluate various approaches and techniques to ensure our interactions are infused with sensitivity, empathy and genuine care. Through role-playing and practical exercises, we will hone our skills in navigating the stages of a visit, equipping ourselves to be vessels of God's love and compassion in moments of vulnerability.

Session 5: Death, Dying & Bereavement

Death is a topic often met with discomfort yet it is an inevitable part of the human experience calling us to journey alongside those facing its reality with grace and compassion. In this session, we create a sacred space for reflection and prayer, acknowledging the inherent challenges of discussing death and exploring ways to support individuals facing the end of life. Drawing from the rich tapestry of Christian tradition, we will delve into the unique issues surrounding death, dying and bereavement, equipping ourselves to provide comfort and solace to those in need, even as we prepare ourselves for the inevitable journey ahead.

Session 6: Courageous Conversations

As ambassadors of Christ we are called to engage in courageous conversations about matters of faith, inviting others into a deeper understanding of God's love and grace. In this culminating session we explore practical strategies and approaches for navigating conversations about faith with confidence and humility, empowering ourselves to be agents of transformation within our communities.

So join us on this enriching journey as we delve into the heart of pastoral care and ministry. By participating in the BCM Pastoral Course, you will not only deepen your understanding of pastoral work but also develop practical skills to make a meaningful difference in the lives of others.

We look forward to welcoming you and exploring the rich tapestry of pastoral ministry together.