



*A Spirit-Filled Movement for Stewarding,  
Expanding, and Multiplying the Kingdom of God*

# **Acts 12:24 Churches** **Pastoral Training Program**

*Leading People, Following Jesus*

[Acts1224Churches.com](http://Acts1224Churches.com)

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## **Table of Contents**

Overview of the Acts 12:24 Churches Pastoral Training Program	Page 3
Introduction & How to Start the Program	Page 5
The 15 Free Methodist Outcome-Based Ordination (OBO) Criteria	Page 6
The CMC Interview	Page 7

## **The Acts 12:24 Churches Pastoral Training Program**

Hands-Module 1	Page 9
Head-Module 2	Page 10
Heart-Module 3	Page 11
Other Training Program Requirements	Page 12
The Ordination Interview	Page 13

## **Appendix**

Additional Mentorship Information	Page 15
Building Your Prayer Shield	Page 17
How to Pray for One Hour	Page 19
The Special Circumstances of Divorce Clearance	Page 23
Descriptions of Acts 12:24 Churches Roles and Responsibilities	Page 24
The Program as a Checklist, for your Record Keeping	Page 25

### **List of Links:**

<https://acts1224churches.com/ordination/links/>





# **Overview of the Acts 12:24 Churches Pastoral Training Program**

## **Preparing to Start the Program:**

- Be received as a Local Ministerial Candidate
- Pass Free Methodist History & Polity course
- Take Strength Finders 2.0 assessment
- Take UniquelyYou assessment
- Complete the Application for Ministry
- Lead Pastor completes a CMC Recommendation
- Schedule a CMC Interview with your Regional MEG Board

## **Steps to Complete the Program:**

### *Hands-Module 1:*

- Select a Mentor
- Assemble a Prayer Team
- Attend a CDN Encounter
- Form a New Group

### *Head-Module 2:*

- Leading the Church in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century.
- Communication Skills
- Old Testament Survey
- New Testament Survey
- Inductive Bible Study
- Introduction to Christian Theology
- Wesleyan Theology 1
- Caring for the Flock
- Homiletics

### *Heart-Module 3:*

- Spiritual Formation & Prayer
- Wesleyan Theology Spiritual Holiness Retreat
- Christian Family
- Biblical Hospitality & Encouragement

## **Other Training Program Requirements:**

- Attend District Meetings
- Attend the Acts 12:24 Annual Conference
- Submit an Annual CMC Progress Update
- Progress & Ministry Interviews with Regional MEG

## **Ordination Interview Request:**

- Create Written Ministry Plan
- Complete Theological Assessment
- If married, spouse completes the spouse questionnaire
- Mentor completes an Ordination Recommendation
- Ordination Interview with Regional MEG

*You will find a checklist for your record keeping on the last page of this document.*



## **Introduction to the Program**

The purpose of the Acts 12:24 Churches Pastoral Training Program is to provide training and a pathway to ordination as an Elder in the Acts 12:24 Churches conference of the Free Methodist Church. We call this program Leading People, Following Jesus (LPFJ). Opportunities for coursework can be found on the Acts 12:24 MEG Website.

Completion of the training program does not guarantee that you will be ordained. The decision to ordain is made by the conference and Regional MEG at the end of the training program. This decision will be based on whether you have demonstrated the gifts, graces, knowledge, & skills for ordained ministry based up on the Outcomes-Based “Hands, Head, Heart” qualifications listed by the Free Methodist Church, USA. You will find these criteria on the following page.

## **Preparing to Start the Program**

**Local Ministerial Candidate** – The primary focus of this stage is being exposed to a variety of assessment tools and experiences to help you understand who you are and how God has gifted you. Start by meeting with your local church pastor to discuss the call to vocational ministry & if the pastor believes you may have the gifts and graces for ordained ministry.

- a. Become familiar with this guide, [Leading People, Following Jesus](#).
- b. You should receive ministry assignments from your pastor to test for fruitfulness. If you and your pastor agree that the ministry assignments are proving fruitful, you will meet with the local church Leadership Board to share your spiritual journey, how you accepted Jesus, and your sense of a call to ordained ministry. If they agree, they will approve and affirm you as a [Local Ministerial Candidate](#). Find out more in the FM Book of Discipline ¶6500.
  - i. Ministry assignments could be many things including preaching opportunities, visiting the sick, evangelism, leading a small group or bible study.
  - ii. Discovery Bible Study (DBS) is an effective ministry tool. You can receive free DBS training through the [Church Development Network \(CDN\)](#) or there are many free training opportunities online.
- c. Take a [Free Methodist History & Polity](#) course. You can take classes from approved Ministry Education Centers in the Acts 12:24 Churches, the Free Methodist Center for Pastoral Formation, Bible Institutes or Seminaries. A listing of approved Ministry Education Centers can be found, with a link to their course offerings, on the Acts 12:24 MEG website.
- d. Take the [StrengthsFinder 2.0](#) and [UniquelyYou](#) assessments and include the results of these in your Application for Ministry. You can purchase the Strengths Finder book which includes the assessment or purchase the assessment online at [Gallup.com](#). You can locate the UniquelyYou DISC/Spiritual Gifts assessment at [UniquelyYou.org](#).
- e. Fill out the [Application for Ministry](#) online at the [Acts 12:24 MEG Website](#). This will register you with the conference office database.
- f. Request that your pastor complete the “Recommendation for a CMC” form on the Acts 12:24 MEG Website.
- g. When all these steps are complete, you can request a CMC Interview through the form on the Acts 12:24 MEG Website.

## **The 15 Free Methodist Outcome-Based Ordination Criteria**

**Hands** - The “hands” criteria place the focus on increasing skills and increasing the capacity to expand the Kingdom of God on earth by making disciples and reproducing Jesus-centered groups:

- 1. Demonstrates fruitfulness in ministry.**
- 2. Cultivates the expansion of God’s Kingdom.**
- 3. Operates as a servant-leader.**
- 4. Empowers others to discover and function within their God-given design.**
- 5. Leads with creativity and vision.**

**Head** - The “head” criteria place the focus on gaining an adequate foundation of knowledge and on developing the necessary habits of learning:

- 1. Demonstrates biblical understanding.**
- 2. Demonstrates a Wesleyan theological integration.**
- 3. Has sufficient theological education.**
- 4. Clearly and humbly states deeply held biblical understandings, listening respectfully, and pursuing shared goals whenever possible.**
- 5. Possesses the ability to practically apply learning.**

**Heart** – The “heart” outcomes focus on the spiritual condition and personal lifestyle of a follower of Jesus:

- 1. Characterized by spiritual maturity and a strong sense of a call to ministry.**
- 2. Demonstrates a high level of self-awareness.**
- 3. Lives a well-balanced life that can sustain the demands of ministry.**
- 4. Lives a life shaped by love for others.**
- 5. Models humility.**



## **CMC Interview with the Regional MEG Board**

**What to Expect** – The Conference Ministerial Candidate (CMC) Interview with the MEG will review your family, spiritual history/journey, your ministry fruitfulness, & your sense of a call to ordained ministry. The purpose of this interview is to discern if your life might demonstrate the gifts & graces for ordained ministry in Jesus' Church. Gifts may include teaching, administration, or people skills. Graces may include having a teachable heart, a submissive spirit, a love for Jesus, and a love for people. The MEG is working to get a sense if you will benefit from entering Acts 12:24 Pastoral Training Program. The interview will include many topics & questions relating to the OBO Criteria such as:

### **Hands:**

- a.* Tell us about someone you recently led to Jesus and have been discipling.
- b.* How do you balance the needs of your family and ministry?
- c.* How have you taught a new disciple to share their faith and testimony?

### **Head:**

- d.* How have you worked through theological areas that are hard to understand?
- e.* Why do you want to join the Free Methodist Church?
- f.* Do you agree with the Free Methodist position on Marriage?

### **Heart**

- g.* Share the story of how you came to follow Jesus & how you sense Jesus calling you to ordained ministry.
- h.* How do you care for your soul? What spiritual disciplines do you practice?
- i.* Where have you struggled in your faith journey?

After the interview, the MEG will pray for you and dismiss you from the meeting. They will then spend time praying together, reviewing your interview and submitted information, and determine your next steps. Possibilities include:

- a.* Approval to be received as a CMC at the next Acts 12:24 Churches Annual Conference and to begin the Acts 12:24 Pastoral Training Program.
- b.* Recommendation to spend additional time working to address some specific areas that caused the MEG hesitation for approval.
- c.* Redirection to non-ordained ministry in the local church with feedback and recommendation for growth areas.

If you are approved to be received as a CMC & enter the Pastoral Training Program, you will need to attend the next Acts 12:24 Churches Annual Conference to be received.



## Acts 12:24 Churches Pastoral Training Program

**Hands-Module 1:** The “hands” criteria place the focus on increasing skills and increasing the capacity to expand the Kingdom of God on earth by making disciples and reproducing Jesus-centered groups:

1. Demonstrates fruitfulness in ministry.
2. Cultivates the expansion of God’s Kingdom.
3. Operates as a servant-leader.
4. Empowers others to discover and function within their God-given design.
5. Leads with creativity and vision.

### **The Hands Module includes:**

- Select a Mentor.
- Assemble a Prayer Team.
- Attend a CDN Encounter.
- Form a New Group.

**Select a Mentor** – Your mentor will be an important part of your work in the Pastoral Training Program. You should work with both your lead pastor and Regional Superintendent to select your mentor. In many cases, this may be your lead pastor, however you might, for a variety of reasons, decide to select a mentor other than the lead pastor. The mentor should be someone that has the skills to guide you on your path, the wisdom to shape your heart, & a willingness to push you in areas that may be uncomfortable.

You will need to set a regular rhythm for meeting with your mentor to debrief your ministry experiences and to review your progress toward your goals. Your mentor might want you to participate with them in ministry and will help you find preaching & other ministry opportunities. You can learn more about this on page 15.

**Assemble a Prayer Team** – You will ask a group of people to offer prayer support for you during this discernment journey & your ministry. You can find a guide for this from the College of Prayer International on Page 17.

**CDN Encounter** – You will need to attend a Church Development Network Encounter. You can sign up at <https://ChurchDevelopment.network>. The Encounter is designed to teach you the strategies and principles of church planting, rapid kingdom expansion, and multiplication.

**Form a New Group** – As a part of the Encounter you will create a plan to form a new group in your local ministry setting. This may take some time to see fruitfulness and you should work with your mentor to guide you in the process. It is expected that you will form a new group, implement the 5 strategies, lead people to Jesus, & disciple them to obey his teachings.

## **Acts 12:24 Churches Pastoral Training Program**

**Head-Module 2:** The “head” criteria place the focus on gaining an adequate foundation of knowledge and on developing the necessary habits of learning:

1. Demonstrates biblical understanding.
2. Demonstrates a Wesleyan theological integration.
3. Has sufficient theological education.
4. Clearly and humbly states deeply held biblical understandings, listening respectfully, and pursuing shared goals whenever possible.
5. Possesses the ability to practically apply learning.

**Coursework** – We want you to establish a lifestyle of rigorously studying the Bible, studying works of theology, and studying how God works and reveals himself in all of creation. You should intentionally include educational courses in your plan and goals that strengthen you in needed areas of knowledge and skill.

You can take classes from approved Ministry Education Centers in the Acts 12:24 Churches, the Free Methodist Center for Pastoral Formation, Bible Institutes or Seminaries. A listing of approved Ministry Education Centers can be found, with a link to their course offerings, on the Acts 12:24 MEG website.

### **The Head Module Includes these Courses:**

- Leading the Church in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century.
- Communication Skills
- Old Testament Survey
- New Testament Survey
- Inductive Bible Study
- Introduction to Christian Theology
- Wesleyan Theology 1
- Caring for the Flock
- Homiletics

## Acts 12:24 Churches Pastoral Training Program

**Heart-Module 3:** The “head” outcomes focus on the spiritual condition and personal lifestyle of a follower of Jesus:

1. Models humility.
2. Demonstrates a high level of self-awareness.
3. Lives a life shaped by love for others.
4. Lives a well-balanced life that can sustain the demands of ministry.
5. Characterized by spiritual maturity and a strong sense of a call to ministry.

### **The Heart Module Includes 3 Courses and a Retreat:**

#### Courses:

- Spiritual Formation & Prayer
- Christian Family
- Biblical Hospitality & Encouragement

#### Retreat:

- Wesleyan Theology 2 Spiritual Holiness Retreat

**Spiritual Holiness Retreat** - Spending time in prayer and retreat teaches us to have a submissive spirit, draw close to Jesus, and be transformed. The outpouring of your ministry to others will be fed by the inpouring of Jesus into your heart through the word and prayer. Personal spiritual retreat is crucial to the life of all Christians for the vitality of their personal spiritual life. The Wesleyan Theology 2 Spiritual Holiness Retreat is designed to bring you to a deep experience of holiness. You will find information about the availability of this retreat on the Acts 12:24 MEG Website.

**Other Retreats** - A part of every pastor’s life should include a rhythm of regular prayer and retreat. While not explicitly required as a part of this Training Program it is strongly recommended that you will endeavor to spend time in private retreat with the Holy Spirit. You can find a guide for this on page 19, or your mentor can recommend a guidebook for spiritual retreats.

## **Other Training Program Requirements**

### **Other Training Program Requirements:**

- Attend District Meetings
- Attend the Acts 12:24 Annual Conference
- Submit an Annual CMC Progress Update Report
- Progress & Ministry Interviews with Regional MEG

**District Meetings** - A part of the Free Methodist structure includes geographic districts where our Pastors and CMCs meet together for encouragement, accountability, & fellowship. Most districts meet monthly and are led by an appointed district leader. If you have work constraints or concerns about attending your District Meetings, speak with your Regional Superintendent

**Annual Conference** - You will also need to attend Annual Conference each year. If you have any concerns about attending Annual Conference, speak with your regional superintendent.

**Annual Progress Update** - Each spring you will need to submit an annual report to your Regional MEG to report any updates on your Hands, Head, & Heart progress. You will have space to report on your ministry work and any courses you have completed.

**MEG Interviews** - Your Regional MEG will also request that you attend occasional interviews and provide you with guidance on your progress in the training program.

# **Ordination Interview with the Regional MEG Board**

**What to Expect** – The entire development and training journey, and all the work you have done through this training program, yields to one question, “What is the call of God in your life?” The Regional MEG will meet with you to listen to the voice of the Holy Spirit about this question. After the completion of Training Modules 1, 2, & 3, and with the approval of your mentor, you may engage the process to schedule an Ordination Interview.

## **The Process for Requesting an Ordination Interview:**

1. Create a written ministry plan to cast vision for the next several years of your ministry. This does not need to be complex or overly detailed. The purpose of this ministry plan is to help you intentionally think through plans for your upcoming time in ministry. You could try to answer the questions, “Where do I want my ministry to be in 5 years?” & “How will I get there?” You will submit this online, on the Acts 12:24 MEG Website.
2. Complete the Acts 12:24 Theological Questionnaire, available on the MEG Website. This is a detailed, theological assessment. This is not a pass/fail assessment, rather it is meant to give your Regional MEG Board an idea of how you have developed theologically. This is an “open book” assessment, and you can take your time. You will submit this online, on the Acts 12:24 Churches website.
3. Request that your Mentor complete an “Ordination Recommendation” on the MEG Website. As a part of their recommendation, your mentor will request that your Regional MEG Chair schedule an Ordination Interview.

**The Ordination Interview** - The Ordination Interview may take as much as 2 hours and include many topics & questions, including:

### **Hands:**

- a. How have you recently seen God work in an “everyday” situation?
- b. Tell us about a recent faith conversation you have had with someone.
- c. What ministries have you been involved in that are life giving? Life draining?

### **Head:**

- d. What are some unique Wesleyan and/or Free Methodist distinctives that draw you to our denomination?
- e. Tell us about your understand of living a holy, or totally sanctified, life.
- f. What areas of the Free Methodist Church structure or doctrine cause you discomfort?

### **Heart:**

- g. Tell us about how you practice spiritual gifts & how do you cultivate them in others?
- h. How have you seen your personal walk with Jesus provide a leading for your family?
- i. What have you done in the past year to develop your prayer life?

**After the Interview** - The MEG will pray for you and dismiss you from the meeting. They will then spend time praying together, reviewing your interview and submitted information, and determine your next steps. Possibilities include:

- a.* To recommend that you be received as a member of Acts 12:24 Churches and be Ordained as an Elder.
- b.* Recommendation to spend additional time working to address some specific areas that caused the MEG hesitation for approval.
- c.* Redirection to non-ordained ministry in the local church with feedback and recommendation for growth areas.

As mentioned, Ordination is not guaranteed by the completion of these modules. Neither is the recommendation to non-ordained ministry to be construed as a failure. Acts 12:24 Churches wants to deploy many people into the harvest fields so that we can reach many people for Jesus. However, we only want to ordain elders that Jesus has called into the ordained ministry. Non-ordained options for ministry are very diverse and highly necessary in the Church of Jesus.

We want all disciples of Jesus to work “with all their might” (Eccl. 9:10) for Jesus. It is our prayer that many leaders will be raised up to do a mighty work for Jesus so that “the earth will be filled with the knowledge of the glory of God, as the waters cover the sea.” (Has. 2:14)



# Appendix

## Additional Mentorship Information

Why do the trades have apprenticeships and medical professions require internships? Because personal attention from experienced practitioners helps learners master essential skills, attitudes, and knowledge.

An Acts 12:24 Churches mentor serves in guiding pastoral candidates in their training and discernment journey. This role is called a mentor but involves coaching as well. A mentor is a person that has experience and some level of expertise in a subject area and can offer wisdom and advise to someone that is not as far along in their journey. A coach, on the other hand, is involved in the process of inspiring, motivating, empowering, & commissioning someone to reach their potential. It has been said this way, a mentor pours in; a coach pulls out.

The role of a mentor is crucial to the Free Methodist Outcome Based Ordination discernment process. Use this chart to help you discern and decide on who to ask to be your mentor. You will need to consult your Lead Pastor, Regional Superintendent, or Regional MEG Chair to finalize this selection.

<p><b><u>Characteristics of Effective Mentors</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ They are real &amp; honest.</li> <li>○ They have earned respect.</li> <li>○ They are reliable.</li> <li>○ They are highly relational.</li> <li>○ They are willing to serve as role models.</li> </ul>	<p><b><u>Benefits of mentoring</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ <i>To the organization</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Increased productivity.</li> <li>▪ Increase rate of organizational growth, reduce turnover, and maintain organizational stability.</li> <li>▪ Increase organizational communication and understanding.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
<p><b><u>What Mentors Do</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Mentors share their lives.</li> <li>○ Mentors are willing to ask the tough questions:             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Investigative questions.</li> <li>▪ Discovery questions.</li> <li>▪ Provide networking resources.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ <i>To the mentor</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Enhanced self esteem.</li> <li>▪ Renewed passion for ministry.</li> <li>▪ Close personal relationships.</li> <li>▪ Larger sphere of influence.</li> <li>▪ Lasting legacy.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
<p><b><u>Pitfalls to Avoid in Mentoring Others</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Avoid giving advice</li> <li>○ Taking too much personal control</li> <li>○ Having unrealistic or unfulfilled expectations</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ <i>To the mentee</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Progress more rapidly</li> <li>▪ Experience better overall job satisfaction</li> <li>▪ Increase connection points within and outside an organization</li> </ul> </li> </ul>

## **Additional Mentorship Information**

### **In the Office**

- Become familiar with Leading People, Following Jesus.
- Set expectations for the ministry training.
- Set training goals and intended milestones for progress.
- The LMC/CMC should be the primary initiative takers in this process.

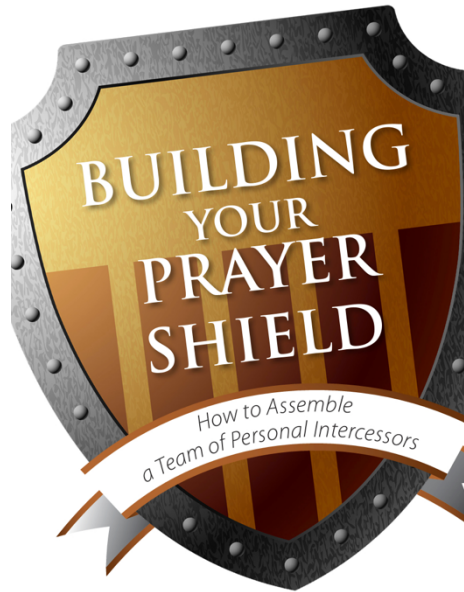
Regular & formally scheduled meetings should happen to:

- 1- Review any mentor-selected reading.
- 2- Intentionally debrief all active ministry roles.
- 3- Plan, review, & update your plan and process toward ordination.

### **In the Field**

- 1- The Mentor should consider bringing the LMC/CMC with them occasionally to do pastoral care, bible study, family home visits, etc. If the mentor is not in an active ministry role, they can still help the LMC/CMC to connect with a pastor that they might be able to shadow.
- 2- The mentor will help the LMC/CMC to locate multiple opportunities to lead in pastoral care, bible study, family home visits, etc. and debrief them on what happened.
- 3- The Mentor will be encouraging to them in their ministry training.
- 4- Help them to locate preaching or teaching opportunities in the church or community several times and discuss how it was received.

# Building Your Prayer Shield



"We require every College of Prayer Campus President to have a Prayer Shield, and we strongly urge every Servant Leadership Team member to

also have a Prayer Shield. When you're involved in a nation-discipling, kingdom-advancing ministry, you need protection and empowerment. I am most grateful for over 348 intercessors who faithfully pray for me."

Rev. Fred Hartley, III  
President

## HOW TO BUILD YOUR TEAM

### 1. Humble yourself before the Lord.

Admit to God that you desperately need intercessors; ask Him to help you build your team.

### 2. Listen to God.

Let God shape your vision. God will speak to you about whom to recruit for your prayer team. He will give you a clear vision and key Scriptures that will guide your prayer team.

- List the names of specific people you can invite to join your team.
- Let them know how you expect them to pray consistently.
- Clearly define the specific commitment you expect.
- Identify your commitment to them. (Write to them once a week; once a month, etc.)
- List specific requests you will pass on to your intercessors and ask them to continually cry out to God on your behalf. These requests should be specific, measurable, challenging and biblical.

### 3. Begin recruitment.

It is always good to make certain personal invitations by phone or in person to build a core group of intercessors and then cast your net to a larger group. Once your team is recruited, no matter how small it is, begin affirming them and communicating with them, sharing your struggles as well as your victories.

### 4. Honor your intercessors.

Most intercessors do not want to be acknowledged publicly by name but they like to know they are appreciated even by indirect reference. For your core intercessors, it is good to periodically give them a gift, treat them to dinner with you or in some way express your deep personal appreciation.

### 5. Select a leader.

If possible, select a leader for your Prayer Shield Team who will assist in overseeing communication.

### 6. Pray for your intercessors.

Each week, by name, pray for your intercessors. Just as you need their prayers, they need your prayers. There are few people in ministry with whom you will share a more intimate partnership!

## FIVE GOOD REASONS TO BUILD A PRAYER SHIELD

### 1. It's biblical.

The Apostle Paul built a prayer team as did countless other Christian leaders through church history.

### 2. It's efficient.

All God's works are done by prevailing prayer. All Christian leaders involved in Kingdom ministry would benefit from an effective team of personal intercessors.

### 3. It's humbling.

To ask for prayer is not egotistical. On the contrary, it is a way of humbling ourselves.

### 4. It builds teamwork.

God loves to draw His people into tighter relationship with each other. Rather than people randomly praying on their own, it is more helpful to build them into a group with a common purpose to pray in the same direction.

### 5. It's a blessing.

Calling people to prayer is calling them to spend time before the Father and nothing is a greater blessing than that. When people pray for our ministry, they share in the reward of the fruit Christ will produce through us.

[www.collegeofprayer.org](http://www.collegeofprayer.org)

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# **How to Pray for One Hour**

By: Supt. David Harvey

***“Could you not keep watch with me for one hour?” (Matt. 26:40)***

## **I. Getting Started**

Go into a room and close the door (Matt. 6:6). Take with you a pen and notebook to write down what God says to you during this time.

Begin by enjoying the words of the following prayer. Linger over these phrases until they change from being your words to being your desires.

“Almighty God, my heavenly father, unto whom all hearts are open, all desires are known, and from whom no secrets are hid. Cleanse the thoughts of my heart by the inspiration of your holy spirit, that I may perfectly love you and worthily magnify your holy name, through Christ my Lord. Amen”

## **II. Thanking**

*"Give thanks in all circumstances, for this is God's will for you" (1 Thes 5:18)*

Thank God for everything you can think of to thank him for in the last 24 hours.

Thank him for specific things he has done in history: your history, your family and friend's histories, and the history of the world. Pray Psalms like Psalm 91 or 103. Thank him for Bible heroes whose examples we follow.

Thank him for who he is. Name specific attributes such as: that his love never ends, that his mercy endures, that his faithfulness is great, etc. Thank him for what he has created. Use Psalms such as Psalm 8 and Psalm 90. Make your own list of Psalms to pray. 96, 46.

When you run out of things to thank him for, learn to be silent before God with a deep sense of gratitude to him. Allow him to bring to your mind other things for which you should give him thanks.

## **III. Offering**

*"Offer yourselves to God" (Rom. 6:13)*

Begin by reviewing your past 24 hours and confess to God anything in your life that was not pleasing to him and ask for forgiveness.

Offer all of you to all of God: Slowly and deliberately submit your body, mind, spirit, attitudes, words, thoughts, actions, and feelings to God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit. Allow him to heal any broken places in your life that he brings to mind as you offer yourself to him.

Submit fully your past, present and future to God. Name your fears and release them to him. Wait quietly before him and allow yourself to be immersed in his perfect love for you. Allow his perfect love for you to free you from your fears.

*"Let the peace of Christ rule your heart" (Col.3:15)*

*"The days of the blameless are known to the Lord, and their inheritance will endure forever." (Psalm 37:18)*

*"How much more should we submit to the father of our spirits and live." (Heb. 12:9)*

*"Perfect love casts out fear." (1 John 4:18)*

Pray that God will either reveal the parts of your past that are preventing you from loving purely so that you can submit them to him for his healing; or that he will enable you to submit these hidden parts of your past for healing even without you becoming aware of them.

Pray earnestly for the grace to submit to God for his healing the parts of your past that are preventing you from loving purely in the present. Offer your whole self to God so that you do not have to live as a victim of any person, or any fear, or any circumstance, but you are free to love the way that Jesus loves the Father and loves people.

Pray for the freedom to forgive quickly. Pray that God will bless those who hurt you with grace that leads to righteousness.

Pray that you will "take no offense and offend no one."

Offer yourself to God by affirming to him that this day you will keep your heart free of any ill will toward any person. Affirm to him that if he reveals any ill will that you are harboring in your heart you will immediately deal with it through prayer, by asking for cleansing and forgiveness, and if necessary, by making amends with that person.

Allow yourself to be overtaken by a profound sense of joy as you submit fully to God.

#### **IV. Asking for Help**

*"The Holy Spirit helps us in our weaknesses" (Rom 8:26)*

"Save us and help us with your right hand, that those you love may be delivered" (Psalm 108:6)

Begin to discuss with God the need for his will to triumph in specific situations; be specific in your requests to God for help.

#### Pray for the Church

Pray that through the church, "the earth will be filled with the knowledge of the glory of the Lord as the waters cover the sea." (Hab. 2:14)

Pray that the Lord would send out workers into the harvest field so the church will multiply.

Pray that he would build his church, both locally and around the world.

Pray for an obedient church; pray especially that hospitality and encouragement would flow out of it.

Discuss with God specific issues in your church in which his help is needed.

### Pray for Others

Pray for lost people for whom you have been burdened to pray.

Begin to discuss with God the present and future of individuals you care about and have been called to pray for, and for earthly situations which need God's intervention. We are praying that God's grace will be lavished in these lives and situations; that God will redeem people and situations.

Pray that this individual would know the love of the God the Father, the grace of Jesus Christ, and the assistance of the Holy Spirit.

Pray that this person may be able to receive:

- Grace for repentance,
- Grace for healing,
- Grace for strength,
- Grace for peace,
- Grace for protection, and
- Grace for purity.

Pray that people would come to hate their sin; pray that issues that are keeping the will of God from prevailing would be exposed.

Pray that God's will would prevail in every person's life and in every situation. Pray that pure love would shape the situation.

Pray that you will be a source of encouragement in these lives and situations.

### Pray for Your Family

Pray using the guide in the above section that individuals would receive God's grace.

Pray for your heirs, to several generations in the future, including their future spouses.

Pray for the children in your family.

Pray for Godly fathering and mothering in your family.

Pray that Godliness and love would characterize each person, each home, and each generation.

Pray that none of your family would be missing in heaven.

### Pray for Yourself

Discuss your need for specific provisions for this day. Walk through your day with God, offer each event to him and ask for his assistance. Ask for the assistance of the Holy Spirit to make righteous decisions.

Ask for help in resisting temptation. Name your temptations to God.

Ask for grace for peace, protection, and for purity

## **V. The Next Steps**

*"If any of you lacks wisdom, you should ask God." (James 1:5)*

Spend time asking God about the next steps in your life:

- What is my next step in my relationship with my family?
- What is the next step in my spiritual growth?
- What is the next step in my ministry?

Pray for wisdom and for grace to submit to and obey what he has revealed to you in these prayers.

## **VI. Affirmation**

*"Be strong in the Lord, and in His mighty power" (Eph. 6:10)*

Affirm your desire to honor God with every part of your life in this day.

Affirm that you will walk in God's joy regardless of the difficulties of the day.

Pray all of this in the strong Name of Jesus.

*"But thanks be to God who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ." (1 Cor. 15:57)*



## **The Special Circumstances of Divorce Clearance**

Divorce is never part of God's perfect plan. That stated, some marriages, even among followers of Jesus do dissolve.

Having experienced a divorce or being married to someone who has experienced divorce does not automatically disqualify you from fruitful ministry; but the brokenness experienced in divorce must be addressed by forgiveness and healing.

Forgiveness and healing can only take place when those who have sinned confess it, ask for forgiveness from those they have harmed, and commit to the hard work of walking in wholeness. The same standard applies to those who have been sinned against in a divorce situation—finding healing, and both offering and experiencing forgiveness.

In the Acts 12:24 Churches we walk through a Divorce Clearance Process with individuals who seek to enter the Training Program or clergy who seek to transfer into the Free Methodist Church. A leader of the Acts 12:24 Churches will contact any potential CMC or pastor who has experienced divorce and describe the purpose and process of a divorce clearance. This process is also for a potential CMC or pastor whose spouse who has experienced divorce.

## **Descriptions of Conference & FMC Roles/Responsibilities**

The **MEG Board** is responsible to see that godly, competent pastors make a maximum impact for the Kingdom of God at the front lines of ministry. The Regional MEG Boards also care for churches in times of crisis and/or transition. We do that by:

1. Carefully screening potential pastors,
2. Guiding the development of new pastors,
3. Matching qualified pastors to existing congregations and new church planting projects,
4. Providing care and support to these front-line leaders and local churches, and,
5. Providing guidance to churches and pastors who are in transition.

A Regional MEG Board is involved at strategic decision-making moments, giving guidance to the senior leaders (whom we refer to as Superintendents) and other staff members of the Acts 12:24 Churches.

The presiding **Bishop** is the designated Chair of a Ministerial Appointments Committee (MAC). The Bishop may choose to lead a meeting of the MAC but in customary practice, does not. The Conference Superintendent, as Vice Chair, leads meetings of the MAC, routinely communicating with the Bishop about the leadership of the Conference.

The Acts 12:24 Churches has one **elected Superintendent** and a flexible number of **appointed Regional Superintendents**, according to the needs of our system. The authority of the Superintendency resides with the Conference Superintendent who delegates authority to Regional Superintendents and an Executive Superintendent.

The Acts 12:24 Churches has created a **comprehensive system of regional leadership** with Regional Superintendents, Regional MEG Chairs, and Regional MEG Boards which serve as **Regional MACs**.

**When a Regional MEG convenes as the Regional MAC**, the Regional Superintendent has the delegated authority to lead the meeting, unless (s)he requests that the Regional MEG Chair lead the Regional MAC meeting.

The **Conference MEG Chair** provides oversight to all the Regional MEG Chairs and Regional MEG Boards of the conference. Under the leadership of the Conference MEG Chair, the Regional MEG Chairs and the Conference Superintendent serve as **the Executive Committee of the Conference MEG Board** – with full authority for MEG action. The Executive Committee of the Conference MEG Board may be convened as the Conference MAC.

The **Conference Board of Administration** (BoA) provides administrative oversight to the Acts 12:24 Churches. As specified in the Book of Discipline, the BoA may act on behalf of the Annual Conference between meetings of the full conference.

# Acts 12:24 Churches Pastoral Training Program Checklist

## **Prior to Starting the Program:**

*Date Completed*

- \_\_\_\_\_ Be Received as a Local Ministerial Candidate.
- \_\_\_\_\_ Pass Free Methodist History & Polity course.
- \_\_\_\_\_ Take Strength Finders 2.0 assessment.
- \_\_\_\_\_ Take UniquelyYou assessment.

*Date Completed*

- \_\_\_\_\_ Complete the Application for Ministry.
- \_\_\_\_\_ Requested that your Lead Pastor complete the CMC Recommendation.
- \_\_\_\_\_ Schedule a CMC Interview with Regional MEG.

## **Acts 12:24 Churches Pastoral Training Program:**

*Hands-Module 1:*

- \_\_\_\_\_ Select a Mentor.
- \_\_\_\_\_ Assembled a Prayer Team.

- \_\_\_\_\_ Attend a CDN Encounter.
- \_\_\_\_\_ Form a New Group.

*Head-Module 2:*

- \_\_\_\_\_ Leading the Church in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century
- \_\_\_\_\_ Communication Skills
- \_\_\_\_\_ Old Testament Survey
- \_\_\_\_\_ New Testament Survey
- \_\_\_\_\_ Inductive Bible Study

- \_\_\_\_\_ Introduction to Christian Theology
- \_\_\_\_\_ Wesleyan Theology 1
- \_\_\_\_\_ Caring for the Flock
- \_\_\_\_\_ Homiletics

*Heart-Module 3:*

- \_\_\_\_\_ Spiritual Formation & Prayer
- \_\_\_\_\_ Wesleyan Theology 2: Spiritual Holiness Retreat

- \_\_\_\_\_ Christian Family
- \_\_\_\_\_ Biblical Hospitality & Encouragement

## **Ordination Interview Request:**

- \_\_\_\_\_ Create Written Ministry Plan
- \_\_\_\_\_ Complete Theological Assessment
- \_\_\_\_\_ If married, spouse completes the spouse questionnaire

- \_\_\_\_\_ Mentor completes an Ordination Recommendation
- \_\_\_\_\_ Ordination Interview with Regional MEG

## **Additional Interview Dates with your Regional MEG:**

- \_\_\_\_\_ Progress Interview 1
- \_\_\_\_\_ Progress Interview 2

- \_\_\_\_\_ Progress Interview 3
- \_\_\_\_\_ Progress Interview 4

