

## River City University Pastoral Leadership Institute

PLI courses are designed to provide a solid biblical foundation to help equip you for leadership within the church or in preparation for the mission field. The Pastoral Leadership Institute learning track is for River City staff or lay leaders who want to:

- Pursue a ministerial license (Level 1 Courses) or ordination (Level 2 Courses) with our fellowship of churches - The Missionary Church
- Complete college level biblical courses at an affordable cost
- Audit college level classes for personal knowledge, growth, and equipping for ministry.

All courses are on-line with a live instructor. They include required reading, assigned writing, and hands-on projects. The classes are 10-weeks long - 2 hours per session and are offered 4 times per year.

**Tuition per course: \$200 plus books**

**Audit any course for just \$100**

No grade or credit; submission of assignments not required if auditing the class.

### RCU's Pastoral Leadership Level 1 Required Courses

Licensing Leadership Track	Non-Licensing Leadership Track
Required Courses	Required Courses (Audit classes)
1. Old Testament Survey	Old Testament Survey
2. Biblical Interpretation	Biblical Interpretation
3. New Testament Survey	New Testament Survey
4. Biblical Theology	Biblical Theology
5. Systematic Theology I	Systematic Theology I
6. Pastoral Care	Pastoral Care
7. Fundamentals of Christian Leadership	Fundamentals of Christian Leadership
8. Coaching Towards Discipleship	Coaching Towards Discipleship
<b>9. Internship</b> (for those pursuing licensing - runs concurrent with course work)	
Cost per course: \$200 plus books	Cost per course: \$100 <b>(audit class)</b> plus books
*Certification: RCCC PLI Certificate with opportunity to pursue licensing	Certification: RCCC PLI Certificate

\*Licensing process includes required Level 1 courses plus:

- Pastoral recommendation
- Completed Exam and Licensing application with Missionary Church
- Panel Interview process
- Internship is completed in the context of the student's normal ministry within the church.

**Go to [reallife.org](http://reallife.org) to register and pay for the course.**

**In addition you will need to:**

- Pay for the text book
- Take assessments: (APEST) & Spiritual Gifts Assessment at [reallife.org/serve](http://reallife.org/serve)
- Fill out the PLI Student Application (Licensing track only)

## **Level One Course Descriptions**

- **PL111: Biblical Interpretation**  
an introduction to methods of Bible study and to the principles of biblical interpretation, with an emphasis on an inductive approach to biblical interpretation.
- **PL121: Old Testament Survey**  
In this course students are introduced to the literature, message, background, geography, archaeology, and relevance of the Old Testament for constructing a biblical worldview and way of life.
- **PL141: New Testament Survey**  
A study of the literature, historical background, geography and significance of the books of the New Testament, this course emphasizes learning the structure, main themes, and interpretation of key verses and passages in each NT book as well as basic terms & facts.
- **PL271: Fundamentals of Christian Leadership**  
This course explores the principles of Christian leadership that create the underpinnings of every successful local church. Students will examine principles of leadership from a biblical basis - learning to apply those principles to their specific local church situations so that they become adept at exercising active leadership.
- **PL211: Systematic Theology I**  
This course exposes students to theology through a systematic approach, with a focus on the doctrines of God, Christology, pneumatology, creation and man.
- **PL311: Pastoral Care**  
This course will teach students the basic skills of pastoral care -- caring for the congregant as well as for the pastor himself and his family.

- **Disciple Making**  
This course will teach River City leaders how to reach our community and make disciples who make disciples.
- **PL641: Coaching Towards Discipleship**  
With a holistic approach to coaching, this course will examine biblical foundations, issues, and principles of coaching applied within the Body of Christ. It will also demonstrate the need and provide practical skills to enable spiritually mature men and women to coach younger believers to become fully-devoted servants of Jesus Christ who will in turn invest in the growth of others.

## Level Two Course Descriptions

*After completing the 8 Level One courses, completion of eight Level Two courses (from either the pastoral or missional track (or a blend of both) as well as the second half of the PLI Internship earns a **Pastoral Foundations Certificate** and meets the educational requirements for **ordination** in the Missionary Church (subject to approval by the district).*

### Pastoral Track

- **PL531: Biblical Theology**  
This course gives the student a foundational introduction to the content, discipline and practical application of biblical theology to serve as the foundation for practical ministry, systematic theology and the construction of a biblical way of understanding things, a biblical world view.
- **PL221: Systematic Theology 2**  
With an historico-systematic approach this course explores the theological study of the doctrines of the work of the Holy Spirit, the gifts and fruit of the Spirit, the church and its order and ordinances, and the end times. Systematic Theology 2 attempts to give a coherent explanation of the doctrines of sanctification, ecclesiology, and eschatology, based primarily upon the Bible, from the context of culture, using current idiom, and related to issues in life.
- **PL251: Homiletics**  
This course attempts to produce the best beginning preachers possible outside of a conventional classroom and within a short course period. The student will learn the fundamentals of the theology (purpose) of preaching as well as the practical aspects of expository preparation and preaching, storytelling, use of illustrations, and culturally sensitive preaching.
- **PL371: Missions and the Church**  
This course will demonstrate that God's ultimate purpose in the world is the establishment of his kingdom by the healing of the nations (Rev. 22:2), and that the church is the instrument of that healing.

- **PL351: Teaching Methods and Christian Education Administration**  
This course covers the pedagogical and administrative issues related to effective Christian education, combining theoretical, theological, educational, and philosophical understandings of Christian education with practical experience in using creative methods. Particular emphasis is placed on developing the skills necessary for effective teaching and leadership in the local church setting.
- **PL331: Principles of Church Administration**  
This course examines basic principles of administration and management of the local church. The student will examine the difficult balance between a spiritually focused organism of ministry and maintaining proper order and structure to keep the organization functioning smoothly. This study will focus on the "how to's" of leading the local church.
- **PL471: Church Health & Redevelopment**  
Students will discover what makes a healthy church and how to develop health in an existing church.
- **PL315: Fundamentals of Christian Counseling**  
Basic counseling, behavior and psychological pre-diagnosis, and referral techniques are presented in this course.
- **PL451: Church Multiplication & Planting**  
This course will ask the student to freshly re-examine Christianity in regard to evangelism and the proactive multiplication of disciples, leaders, and churches. The student will also examine the demography of the unchurched and explore the biblical, philosophical, and missional concept of church planting.
- **PL431: Strategic Leadership Principles & Practices**  
Students will receive a basic understanding of the strategic process of leadership.
- **PL491: Year Two Internship** (10 -15 hours weekly)  
"hands on" training under the tutelage of a mentoring pastor

## **Missional Track**

- **PL611: Disciple Making 1**  
The first of two courses based on Richard Greene's Keystone materials, this course focuses on the individual's responsibility to fulfill the Great Commission by making disciples who make disciples.
- **PL621: Disciple Making 2**  
Building on the foundation laid in the previous class, this course challenges pastors and church leaders to take a hard look at the "programs" of the church and "think outside the box" in creatively reaching their world for Christ.

- **PL651: Cultural Anthropology**  
This practical course focuses on acquiring specific skills necessary to share the Gospel cross-culturally. Besides analyzing major anthropological theories and concepts, students will be trained in participant observation, developing receptor-oriented communication skills related to evangelism and world missions.
- **PL631: Spiritual Warfare Ministry**  
An introduction to spiritual warfare ministry, this course includes both biblical and practical foundations for the application of spiritual warfare principles in ministry settings.
- **PL671: Spiritual Formation**  
Focused on a commitment to personal and corporate spiritual formation, students develop self-awareness and insight in their spiritual journey, learn to exercise inward and outward spiritual disciplines, and develop a personal growth plan.
- **PL681: APEST 5-Fold Ministry Team**  
This course dives into God's great strategy for best fulfilling His Great Commission -- Apostles, Prophets, Evangelists, Shepherds, and Teachers working together as a TEAM.