

# Prospectus

# Academy

equipping church leaders & planters





# A Welcome Letter from the Academy Presidents

Building the Church of Jesus Christ has always been the biggest of privileges, and each September, we invite people passionate about the local church to join us for a year of training and equipping at Valley Academy.

Valley Academy is all about seeing people trained to launch new ministries and congregations of believers, and taking them forward into their God-purposed potential, be that in a multi-site church through campuses and extension services, or autonomous church plants. Even if this does not become your future, we believe this training will equip you for whatever God has for you.

We believe that the local church is the hope of the world, and that it is God's 'plan A' for seeing the gospel preached, and people won for Jesus Christ.

We'd love to invite you - whether you see yourself as a potential church leader, launch team member, or someone who simply wants to grow in their faith - to apply for Valley Academy and see what God will do in and through you!

Please enjoy reading the rest of the prospectus. God bless, and we'll see you in September.

Ed & Michele Carter  
Academy Presidents

*Ed & Michele*

# Basic Details

## Academy Start Date

21st September 2020

## Term Schedule

Term 1: 20th September 2021 - 6th December 2021

Term 2: XX January 2022 - XX March 2022

Term 3: XX April 2022 - XX July 2022

## The Typical Timetable

Sunday: Serving at one service and attending the other services.

Monday: Arriving at 09:00 for staff meeting, lectures, ministry until 16:00.

Tuesday: Arriving at 09:00 for tutorials, lectures, ministry until 16:00.

## Academy Graduation Date

Sunday XX July 2022

## Course Cost

£1000 per individual

For married couples, your spouse can join the course as well for £550.

## Payment Structure

£100 payable with application. Make cheques payable to Valley Church, or contact us for bank details to pay by bank transfer. This amount is fully refundable in the case of a rejected application.

The balance of £900 (£450 for spouses) can then be paid either in full upon acceptance or spread over three terms, with three payments of £300 (£150 for spouses) being due (payable by the start date of each term: XX September, XX January, XX April).

## How To Apply

Fill in the online application form found at [valleychurch.eu/nextsteps/academy](http://valleychurch.eu/nextsteps/academy).

Deadline for applications for domestic students is the 31st August 2021 and for overseas students, 19th July 2021 to allow for visa applications. However, the sooner your application is submitted, the sooner an interview can be arranged, and the more likely you will be to secure a place.

Interviews will happen within approx. 2 weeks of each closing date (subject to availability). There are limited spaces, so the sooner you apply, the more likely your application is to be accepted. Video interviews will be conducted for overseas students, and may be offered for domestic students who have far to travel.

## Working During the Academy Programme

Valley Academy runs from September to July. You are encouraged to seek or continue part-time work around the academic course, but we recommend that working hours do not exceed 20 hours each week, so that you can keep up with the demands of the course. The course will include both day-time and evening sessions as well as practical church involvement.

## Accreditation

There is no official accreditation available, however at the end of your time at Valley Academy you will receive a certificate and a reference from Valley Church upon request. This will only be available should you have fulfilled the requirements of the academy programme.

## Sickness

If you are sick during the programme you must inform the Dean of Students before 8:30am on the day of your absence. You must call in the afternoon the same day to inform the office whether you will be in the next day. If you are sick more than 2 weeks we will need a doctor's note from you to verify your inability to participate in the programme.

## Transport

You are expected to make the necessary travel arrangements. A car would be very useful, however the public transport system would be a good alternative.

## Other requirements

A laptop to work on will be essential for assignments, reading and general participation in the programme.

# Course Structure

The Academy consists of six major areas:

- 1 Classroom Modules**
- 2 Practical Assignments**
- 3 Tutorials**
- 4 Leadership Intensives**
- 5 Assessments and Exams**
- 6 Regular Church Involvement**

## 1 - Classroom Modules\*

There are eight classroom modules:

- Biblical Survey
- Campus & Extension Service Planting
- Christian Worldview
- Church Leadership
- Communication
- Evangelism
- Ministry Development
- Personal Leadership

\*Classroom Module details are attached below. These are subject to change by the leadership dependent on student needs.

## 2 - Practical Assignments

In order to prepare you for real-life ministry situations, the practical assignments undertaken will give you grassroots experience in the modules studied in the classroom. This will involve actual preparation for launching new ministries, and Campus and Extension Service planting.

## 3- Tutorials

Weekly tutorials exist to cultivate community and support throughout the year for all Year In students. Time will be set aside to discuss Academy specific issues, as well as your personal spiritual and leadership development.

## 4 - Leadership Intensives

Several times throughout the year, we will take a break from the regular classroom modules to focus on various leadership topics for a full day. These will be delivered by church leaders from Valley Church, as well as our friends in church leadership across the UK and abroad.

## 5 - Assessments and Exams

There will be various assessments and exams which will ensure you have understood, grasped and become competent in the classroom and practical content. These will take the form of practical appraisals in activities such as event planning and management, individual and group presentations, as well as the assessment of coursework and formal exams.

## 6 - Regular Church Involvement

All of the skills you will be learning and developing at Valley Academy will be immediately applicable in your weekend ministry involvement. If you attend another church, and wish to keep serving there, please get in touch to discuss options via the contact us page on the website.

# Overseas Students

## Interview

Once you have submitted your application we will arrange an interview with you via telephone or preferably Google Hangouts. Our office will be in contact to make necessary arrangements for this.

## Visa

You will need to apply for a Tier 5 (Temporary Worker – Religious worker) visa. Please check if you are eligible and requirements by following the link

[www.gov.uk/tier-5-temporary-worker-charity-worker-visa/overview](http://www.gov.uk/tier-5-temporary-worker-charity-worker-visa/overview)

You can apply for your visa up to 3 months before your date of travel to the UK. You should get a decision on your visa within three weeks.

## Accommodation & Transport

There are two options for accommodation, please discuss your preference at interview.

**Renting** - You could share-rent a house whilst you are staying in the UK which would cost between £300 and £500 per month, all bills included. You will need to consider transport costs depending on the location of the property.

**Lodging** - You could possibly find a family within church with whom you could lodge during your stay.

## Working during Valley Academy

You must ensure that during your time in the UK you comply with the terms and conditions laid out in your Visa, which means that you cannot accept any paid work (unless it is within the sponsor organisation, under 20 hours a week in the same sector, or on the Tier 2 shortage list - see [www.gov.uk/guidance/immigration-rules/immigration-rules-appendix-k-shortage-occupation-list](http://www.gov.uk/guidance/immigration-rules/immigration-rules-appendix-k-shortage-occupation-list) - also under 20 hours a week). You also cannot accept public funds during your stay.

## Attendance

You must ensure that you attend the programme as regulated by your visa. Failure to comply may result in you having to leave the programme and the UK.

## Sponsorship

In accordance with your visa requirements you will need to have proof of funds as laid out in the terms and conditions of your visa. We would also recommend that during your stay you will have a sponsor to have you help with general living costs. We will discuss this with you further at interview.

# Biblical Survey

## Purpose

This unit introduces the Old and New Testaments, exploring the structure, literature, content and themes of the Bible, providing foundational skills for interpretation and understanding its message.

## Course Objectives

- To understand the importance of the Bible.
- To develop familiarity with the literary shape, historical-cultural backgrounds and canonical placement of the individual books of the Bible.
- To develop an understanding of the overall structure, events and themes of the Bible.
- To explore the relevance of the whole Bible for living today.
- To understand the value of the Bible as the Word of God.
- Basic exegetical and hermeneutical skills.
- To develop an appreciation for the diverse yet unified nature of the whole Bible.
- To explore informed use of the Bible within personal and ministry contexts.

## Recommended Reading

- LaSor, William S; Hubbard, David A; Bush, Frederich W., Old Testament Survey: The Message, Form and Background of the Old Testament (Cambridge: Wm. B. Eerdmans, 1996).
- Elwell, W.A. & Yarbrough, R.W., Encountering the New Testament (Baker Publishing Group, 2005).

## Areas Covered in This Module

- A book by book survey of the Old and New Testaments
- An in-depth study of an Old Testament book
- An in-depth study of a New Testament book
- A guide through the journeys of Paul

# Campus & Extension Service Planting

## Purpose

This unit introduces students to the practical and theoretical requirements needed to develop and establish new Campuses and Extension Services.

## Course Objectives

- To understand the Campus and Extension Service model of Valley Church.
- To introduce the skills and knowledge necessary for planting Campuses and Extension Services.
- To understand the Great Commission and the requirement on all Christians to “make disciples”, and the role of church planting in this mission.
- To explore the biblical foundation of the local church.
- To examine current trends, methods, ideas and movements in church planting.
- To look into the principles, practices and processes involved in providing Campus and Extension Service leadership.

## Recommended Reading

- Darrin Patrick, Church Planter (Illinois: Crossway, 2010).
- Rick Warren, Purpose Driven Church (Michigan: Zondervan, 1995).

## Areas Covered in This Module

- Reproducing vision, values and culture
- The mission of the Campus and Extension Service
- Launching and building in new locations
- Planning meetings, research, demographics and local connections
- The skills of a launch team

# Christian Worldview

## Purpose

This unit introduces the concept of the Christian Worldview and the Christian mind. The module will include both an introduction to the way that Christian belief impacts all Christian thinking as well as an analysis of major challenges to the Christian worldview such as atheism, naturalism, postmodernism and consumerism.

## Course Objectives

- To understand the role of a Christian Worldview in a believer's life.
- To understand the intellectual coherence and force of a Christian Worldview.
- To understand how a truly Christian mind affects one's total life experience.
- To value the power of thinking Christianly in all things.
- To model a Christian mind integrated with action in the church and society.
- To gain a theological understanding of one's Christian Worldview and its application within a Christian setting.
- A basic understanding of apologetics.

## Recommended Reading

- Philip Graham Ryken, *Christian Worldview* (Crossway, 2013).
- William Lane Craig, *On Guard* (Eastbourne, East Sussex: David C. Cook U.K., Kingsway Communications, 2010).

## Areas Covered in This Module

- Apologetics and basic philosophy
- Epistemology
- Christianity and World Religions
- Ethics
- Responding to un/anti-Christian worldviews as Christ would
- The four pillars of Christian Worldview: God, Sin, Grace and Eternity

# Church Leadership

## Purpose

This module seeks to provide the student with an understanding of the skills necessary for exercising leadership and influence in a church context, including vision, example, mentoring and coaching, motivating and teamwork. It involves learning how to work towards an agreed vision using teamwork.

## Course Objectives

- To understand the church leadership structure, style and philosophy of Valley Church.
- To understand the common principles of leadership and management.
- To examine these in a local church context.
- To identify common problems associated with leadership, management in a local church setting, and skills to cope.
- To gain an appreciation of one's own leadership makeup, and those of others.
- To gain a theological understanding of leadership and its application within a church setting.

## Recommended Reading

- Bill Hybels, *Courageous Leadership* (Michigan: Zondervan, 2002).
- J Oswald Sanders, *Spiritual Leadership* (Chicago: Moody Bible Institute, Updated Edition, 2007).
- Frank Damazio, *Strategic Church: A Life-Changing Church in an Ever-Changing Culture* (Michigan: Baker Books, 2012).

## Areas Covered in This Module

- Building leadership skills
- Reproducing vision
- Creativity in leadership
- Problem solving
- Strategy and planning
- Team building
- Mentoring and one-on-ones.
- Interpersonal skills
- 360 degree leadership

# Communication

## Purpose

This unit introduces the skills necessary to communicate in today's society using various methods, including preaching, teaching, video, social networking, podcasting, multimedia and more.

## Course Objectives

- To understand the role and philosophy of communication at Valley Church.
- To gain an understanding of common principles of communication.
- To practice using the tools and skills available to effectively communicate God's Word.
- To identify issues that hinder effective communication.
- To learn preparation and delivery skills.
- To gain a theological understanding of communication and its application in a church setting.
- To gain an understanding of the unique type of communication that is preaching.

## Recommended Reading

- Andy Stanley, *Communicating For A Change* (Colorado Springs: Multnomah Books, 2006).

## Areas Covered in This Module

- How to prepare and deliver a message
- Communicating to different age groups
- Communication skills
- Using a stage
- Body language, intonation and finding your unique voice
- Hindrances to effective communication
- Modern tools for communication
- Advertising and social media

# Evangelism

## Purpose

This module introduces the skills necessary to practice and organise successful evangelistic initiatives in a local church setting, including church-wide coordinated events, as well as personal evangelism and effective follow ups.

## Course Objectives

- To understand the importance and emphasis of evangelism.
- To understand the theology of evangelism and the importance of the Great Commission.
- To understand the connection between church planting and evangelism.
- To practice one on one and coordinated evangelism.
- To learn how to do follow ups effectively.
- To learn the 12 month discipleship process of Valley Church.

## Recommended Reading

- Bill Hybels, *Just Walk Across The Room* (Michigan: Zondervan, 2006).
- Reinhard Bonnke, *Hell Empty, Heaven Full* (E-R-Productions, LLC, 2006).

## Areas Covered in This Module

- Gathering people
- Getting the word out: advertising
- Facilitating personal evangelism in the church
- Coordinating church-wide evangelism efforts
- Hosting dinner parties for the purpose of evangelism
- Hindrances to effective evangelism
- Follow and integration processes
- New People and New Christians Ministry

# Ministry Development

## Purpose

This unit introduces basic principles of church management and ministry development, including: people, systems and processes, as well as training on Valley Church's current church management and ministry tools such as Planning Centre, ChurchSuite and Google Apps.

## Course Objectives

- To gain an understanding of the basic principles of church management and ministry development: people, systems and processes.
- To learn what tools are available, and how to use our current tools.
- To learn the necessary skills to organise a church effectively and efficiently.
- To gain a well-rounded understanding and to develop skills in major ministry areas such as Weekend Services, Pastoral Care and Discipleship.
- To learn the value of simplicity and focus in an organisation.

## Recommended Reading

- Eric Soon, Return on Ministry, A Guide To Church Management (Provided)
- June Hunt, Hope For The Heart

## Areas Covered in This Module

- Project Management
- People, Tools and Processes
- Fellowship One
- Planning Centre
- Connect Group systems
- Pastoral care and processes
- Safeguarding

# Personal Leadership

## Purpose

This unit introduces the importance of a leader's walk with God, lifestyle, health and example. It focuses particularly on the way in which we can experience and know God, and how that impacts the rest of our lives.

## Course Objectives

- To demonstrate familiarity with a range of expressions of Christian spirituality.
- To be able to describe and defend approaches to the experience of God.
- To appreciate the value and role of spiritual disciplines.
- To gain an understanding of the fruit of the Spirit in one's life.
- To learn how to lead yourself first as you lead others.
- To learn the importance of attitude and a soft heart in leadership.

## Recommended Reading

- John Maxwell, Developing the Leader Within You (Nashville: Thomas Nelson, 1993).
- Joyce Meyer, Battlefield of The Mind (London: Hodder and Stoughton, 1995).
- Dave Gilpin, Mind Map.

## Areas Covered in This Module

- Spiritual disciplines
- Discipling others
- The fruit of the Spirit
- The gifts of the Spirit
- Worship as a lifestyle
- Humility and teachability
- Tools for healthy living
- Emotional intelligence
- Identity in Christ

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