



Introduction to Christian Ministry

Fall 2026

Teacher: Dr. Darren T. Williamson & others

Location: Dominion House, Newberg, Oregon

Times: Saturday, 7:30-9:30am (10 weeks)

Dates: September 5 - November 21 (see outlines for details)

The course is a practical introduction to the work of Christian Ministers, individuals called to “do the work of an evangelist.” (II Tim. 4:5). Every Christian is a *minister* in a general sense. But scripture teaches certain men have a special calling to serve as a *Minister* (also known as evangelist & preacher) in a local congregation and engage significantly and regularly in authoritative and public preaching & teaching, exhorting & rebuking, and comforting & strengthening of the entire body (1 Tim. 4:6-16; 2 Tim 4:1-5). This course explores the Biblical and historical work of the Minister with a very practical focus. Several seasoned Ministers will be featured as guest teachers throughout the term.

This course is for at least three kinds of people. First, the course benefits men who are currently engaged in full-time congregational ministry and would appreciate a refreshing review of ministry basics. Second, the course benefits men who serve in formal ministry (paid or not) but have never had a formal course in congregational ministry. Third, this course benefits all church servants (Elders, Deacons, workers) and will help them minister to others wherever and however God calls them to do so. Finally, this course is especially designed to help the young men in the NWSD Dominion program.

Required Texts

- Charles Spurgeon, *Lectures to My Students* (Pantianos Classic edition, 2018)
- Jim McInteer, *Minister's Manual for Churches of Christ* (21st Century Christians, 2007)

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Class Outline - Fall 2026

Week	Date	Class Title	Discussion Topics	Readings
1	9/5	The Minister and His Calling	The role and work of a Minister and discerning the call to ministry.	Spurgeon, Lecture 2 – <i>Call to Ministry</i>
2	9/12	The Minister and Pastoral Care	Informal comfort, encouragement, correction, and disciplining of the flock. Guest Speaker: Ron Murphy	Spurgeon Lecture 12 – <i>Ordinary Conversation</i>
3	9/19	The Minister's Self Watch and Prayer Life	Spiritual self-care and the complete reliance upon God for fruitful ministry. Guest Speaker: Ron Murphy	Spurgeon, Lecture 1 – <i>Self Watch</i>
Sept 26 - Off Week – Dominion in Aberdeen for Young Adult Retreat				
4	10/3	The Minister and Weddings	Pre-marital counseling & conducting a Christian wedding.	Spurgeon, Lecture 16 - <i>Need for Decisions for the Truth</i> McInteer, 31-51.
Oct10 - Off Week – Dominion serving at Apple Cider Press				
5	10/17	The Minister and Visitation	Practical guidance for visitation. The easy visits, the hard visits, the importance of visitation.	Spurgeon, Lecture 3 – <i>Private Prayer</i> McInteer, 87-119.
6	10/24	The Minister and Pastoral Counseling	Principles, practices, and boundaries of pastoral counseling. Guest Speaker: Jim Maxwell	TBD
7	10/31	The Minister and Evangelism	Methods and practices of individual and communal evangelizing. Guest Teacher: Gregg Strawn	McInteer, 31-52. Spurgeon, Lecture 23 – <i>On Conversion as our Aim</i>
8	11/7	The Minister and Leadership	Leadership skills, pitfalls to avoid, relationship with Elders & Deacons, etc.	McInteer, 9-29; Spurgeon, Lecture 22 – <i>Blind Eye and Deaf Ear</i>
9	11/14	The Minister and Funerals	Comforting the grieving, preparing for funerals, and conducting funerals. Guest Teacher: Rick Edgemon	McInteer, 137-202. Spurgeon, Lecture 21 – <i>Earnestness: its marring and Maintenance</i>
10	11/21	The Minister's Family	Caring for one's first "congregation" and refusing to neglect the family.	TBD