



LDT GUIDELINES FOR INTERSHIP PROPOSALS



BCO § 19-7 requires all candidates for the gospel ministry to complete an internship of at least one full year. This internship may be taken as a separate component of training or it may be done while engaged in formal theological training. It is both a time of practical training and a testing by the presbytery. The presbytery shall closely supervise the intern in this training. It is important to note that an internship may be undertaken before being licensed but always being under care of the presbytery is required. Before having an internship plan approved, the candidate shall give to the Presbytery a written and/or oral statement of his inward call to the ministry. Each intern shall report regularly, but at least annually, to the presbytery, as shall those who are instructing him. These reports shall report upon his deportment, diligence, and progress in study. **No one should be ordained to the gospel ministry until he has demonstrated to the overseeing session and the presbytery his ability both to edify and to rule in the church.**

Internship is an important opportunity for the candidate to serve as an apprentice to test his faithfulness and fruitfulness in ministry. The more intentional and focused the internship, the better. It is important to keep the intern's progress and growth before the presbytery so that they can become acquainted with the candidate. During the internship phase **and** after being licensed the candidate may be involved in the actual planting of a new church under the oversight of an ordained minister.

Each intern's proposal will vary according to the ministry situation in which he is serving and his own goals and needs. All internships, however, are to involve the intern in the *full scope of the duties of any regular ministerial calling*. Therefore, any internship proposal should include the following headings unless special cause can be demonstrated for any to be omitted. The supervising church or ministry will determine the amount of time and responsibility allocated to any one activity. Should the intern be serving outside of a church ministry, he should arrange with his endorsing church to serve in areas that would otherwise be missing.

1. Teaching/Preaching
2. Pastoral Care: Visitation (home, shut-in, hospital), Counseling, Wedding/Funeral.
3. Evangelism/Outreach
4. Worship: Planning & Leading
5. Leadership/Administration: Session, Diaconate, Church Committees, Presbytery
6. Supervision & Documentation
7. Relevant Studies
8. Other Ministry

The supervisor and the intern should decide together how these areas are to be performed. The intern may not necessarily perform some of the activities, such as a wedding or funeral, but opportunity should be given for observation and some kind of participation.

All proposals must include the following specifications:

1. How regular supervision and documentation will take place.
2. Time involvement (overall weekly expectation).
3. Remuneration agreement.
4. Starting and completion dates.
5. Supervisor (include address and phone number).

Note: Completion of internships requires a minimum of one year of full-time ministry or two years of half-time ministry.