CHURCH PARTNERSHIP PACKET

An invitation to equip leaders and build the local church together

EQUIPPING LEADERS
STRENGTHENING CHURCHES
ADVANCING THE KINGDOM

Website edition / Complete the fillable response on page 13.

https://river-city-1c6537.webflow.io/church-partnerships

A LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT An invitation to build the local church together

River City School of Leadership was founded with a clear mission: to equip and develop leaders who will build the Kingdom of God through the local church.

We believe deeply in the local church and in the pastors God has called to lead it. We recognize that many pastors carry a God-given vision for their churches but often lack the equipped leaders needed to help bring that vision to life.

Our heart is to come alongside local church pastors, helping them develop the leaders God has already placed within their churches. We want to see churches thrive, pastors strengthened, and leaders equipped with the knowledge, tools, and confidence they need to fulfill their calling.

Whether through intentional leadership development pipelines, ministerial training for pastoral staff, or foundational theological education for your congregation, River City exists to provide practical, biblical, and transformational training that strengthens the local church.

We believe the greatest impact happens through strategic, relational partnerships built on trust, shared vision, and a genuine desire to see the local church flourish. Our goal is not simply to provide education but to partner with pastors in developing leaders who will help carry the vision and move their churches forward.

If you have a desire to invest in the next generation of leaders within your church, we would be honored to partner with you.

At River City School of Leadership, our heart is simple: to serve pastors, equip leaders, strengthen churches, and advance the Kingdom of God—together.

OUR SHARED MISSION A partnership centered on the people and mission of the local church.

River City School of Leadership exists to come alongside local churches through accessible biblical education, leadership development, and practical ministry preparation.

OUR CONVICTION

The school is not a replacement for the local church. It is a resource to help churches equip, disciple, and develop emerging leaders.

01 BIBLICAL FOUNDATIONS Scripture-centered learning for life and ministry.

02 LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT Practical growth for serving people and leading well.

03 FLEXIBLE LEARNING Online and live Zoom options, depending on the course.

04 PRACTICAL MINISTRY EXPERIENCE Practicums that help students learn practical ministry within your church and help you develop ministry within the vision God has given you.

WHAT YOUR CHURCH GAINS The local church remains the center of leadership development.

River City exists to support a pastor’s vision—not compete with the ministry, relationships, or discipleship already taking place in the home church.

01 Develop emerging leaders Build a practical pathway for volunteers and future ministry leaders to grow in biblical understanding and responsibility.

02 Strengthen biblical foundations Give team members structured opportunities to engage with Scripture, theology, and faithful interpretation.

03 Prepare people to serve Help volunteers connect classroom learning to communication, collaboration, and ministry readiness.

04 Mentor future ministers Use local-church practicums to help students learn with pastors and trusted leaders in real ministry settings.

05 Extend your training capacity Offer your people a structured educational resource without having to create and staff a Bible school in-house.

THE GOAL: Stronger leaders serving within the vision God has given your church.

BENEFITS OF RIVER CITY Practical value for churches, pastors, and emerging leaders.

01 EXPERIENCED PASTORAL FACULTY Leadership and theological development from proven pastors, including faculty with master’s and doctoral degrees.

02 COST-CONSCIOUS EDUCATION Accessible training designed to offer a cost-conscious pathway for biblical and leadership development.

03 UNIVERSITY ARTICULATION Articulation relationships with Southeastern University and SUM Bible College and Theological Seminary.

04 A CLEAR LEADERSHIP PATHWAY A structured leadership track and ministry standards to help equip pastoral staff and ministry leaders.

05 FLEXIBLE LEARNING OPTIONS Convenient online and in-person learning opportunities, depending on the course and semester.

06 TEACHING EXCELLENCE Our professors have longevity in ministry as pastors as well as legitimate credentials in leadership and theological disciplines.

* Credit transfer and eligibility are determined by the receiving institution.

THE LEADERSHIP PATHWAY Two certificate milestones. Biblical instruction paired with ministry practice.

Students progress through coursework and ministry practicums at a pace shaped by course availability, enrollment, and individual scheduling.

FOUNDATION CONTINUED DEVELOPMENT

Certificate of Leadership Advanced Certificate

6 in-class academic courses 6 classes + Practicum 1 + Practicum 2

An introduction to biblical foundations, A broader and deeper exploration of theological study, and leadership biblical concepts and leadership practice. principles.

THE ROLE OF PRACTICUM

Practicum assignments are designed to connect classroom learning with local-church ministry. Students work with church leadership to apply what they are learning in the context of their calling and their pastor’s vision.

IMPORTANT PROGRAM NOTES

River City is not institutionally accredited and does not issue degrees. University transfer is subject to receiving-school requirements. Program timing depends on course availability and individual enrollment; confirm current requirements before enrolling.

Details: https://river-city-1c6537.webflow.io/programs

WHAT STUDENTS WILL STUDY Coursework that connects sound biblical teaching with everyday ministry.

BIBLICAL FOUNDATIONS

Basic Doctrine 1 & 2 Apologetics

Romans Life of Christ

INTERPRETATION & COMMUNICATION

Hermeneutics Homiletics

Pauline Epistles The Writings of John

LEADERSHIP & MINISTRY

Biblical Concepts of Leadership Practical Leadership

Relational Leadership Pastoral Care

Students select available courses according to program requirements and published semester offerings. Some advanced subjects have prerequisites; courses are not necessarily offered every term.

TUITION & ENROLLMENT Clear next steps for students and partnering pastors.

$400 PER COURSE

Practicums are also charged as courses. Most students choose their course load based on their schedule. New students should also budget for published application and administration fees and any applicable technology fees.

THE STUDENT APPLICATION PROCESS

01 Apply online Complete the student application and pay the published $25 application fee.

02 Submit a short essay Provide the requested 250-word statement about why you want to attend.

03 Request a pastoral reference Ask a pastor from your home church to submit the reference form.

04 Receive an admissions decision The school reviews the completed application before enrollment.

START HERE / https://river-city-1c6537.webflow.io/admissions

OUR CORE VALUES How we educate, equip, and strengthen the local church

01 EDUCATION River City equips current and future church leaders through foundational doctrine and theology, helping them discover their purpose and serve the Body of Christ. With high standards for faculty and meaningful expectations for students, the school emphasizes academic excellence and enduring Biblical principles.

02 IMPARTATION Learning at River City is both educational and spiritual. Faculty include experienced pastors, church planters, and ministry leaders with established reputations locally and beyond. Students benefit from their Biblical understanding as well as their practical experience in leading and serving churches.

03 COLLABORATION River City partners with pastors and local churches to understand ministry needs and complement the work already happening in congregations. By equipping leaders in God’s Word and strengthening their capabilities, the school seeks to serve churches, pastors, and ministries through teaching and leadership development.

04 APPLICATION Students are encouraged to put their learning into practice. River City’s practicum connects students with their pastors and local churches in real service and leadership roles, using practical evaluation to support both students and congregations. The aim is healthy, Biblically grounded, Christ-centered growth.

Adapted from River City School of Leadership’s official Core Values webpage https://river-city-1c6537.webflow.io/academic-policies

LEARN FROM THOSE WHO LEAD Academic Excellence. Real-World Experience. Kingdom Impact.

At River City School of Leadership, our professors bring more than knowledge to the classroom. They bring decades of combined experience in ministry, organizational leadership, and the marketplace. Our faculty includes experienced pastors, ministry practitioners, educators, and business leaders who understand what it means to lead people, build organizations, navigate challenges, and make a lasting impact.

01 02 PASTORAL & MINISTRY LEADERSHIP CORPORATE & EXECUTIVE LEADERSHIP

Experience shepherding congregations, developing Practical experience leading businesses, managing ministry teams, teaching Scripture, and leading teams, developing strategy, and guiding churches. organizations.

03 04 ADVANCED ACADEMIC CREDENTIALS LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT & MENTORSHIP

Faculty with master's and doctoral degrees who bring Proven experience equipping emerging leaders, theological depth and academic rigor to the mentoring individuals, and building effective teams. classroom.

MORE THAN EDUCATION. IMPARTATION. Our students learn from individuals who have applied biblical leadership principles in churches, businesses, and communities.

Explore current faculty profiles on the River City School of Leadership website.

FIVE WAYS TO PARTNER Every church can participate in a way that fits its mission and capacity.

01 RECOMMEND & SEND Identify emerging leaders, staff, volunteers, and members who could benefit from courses or a certificate pathway.

02 SHARE THE OPPORTUNITY Include River City in announcements, newsletters, ministry training conversations, or leadership development recommendations.

03 TEACH & MENTOR Explore opportunities for qualified pastors and ministry leaders to teach, mentor, or support students in practical learning.

04 CREATE MINISTRY CONNECTIONS Help students apply their learning through meaningful local church ministry opportunities, subject to practicum requirements.

05 INVEST IN THE MISSION Support River City through prayer and financial partnership to help equip leaders and strengthen local churches.

A PARTNERSHIP IN PRACTICE An easy first step for pastors, leaders, and their churches.

There is no single model that every church must follow. We would love to learn about your ministry goals and discuss how River City can support the leaders God has entrusted to you.

01 START A CONVERSATION Tell us about your church, vision, and leadership-development needs.

02 IDENTIFY POTENTIAL STUDENTS Invite ministry staff, emerging leaders, or committed volunteers to explore a course.

03 SUPPORT THEIR DEVELOPMENT Encourage coursework, provide pastoral references, and help shape practical ministry opportunities.

04 STAY CONNECTED Collaborate around student progress, church-based learning, and future leadership needs.

TAKE THE NEXT STEP

Complete the “Let’s Build Together” response page in this packet, or contact River City to start a conversation.

LET’S BUILD TOGETHER. A simple invitation to explore what partnership could look like.

ABOUT THE SCHOOL

Students may take individual courses or pursue a school certificate. The general certificate pathway includes six courses and Practicum 1. Fall and spring semesters are 12 weeks; summer is 10 weeks.

ACADEMIC CONNECTIONS

River City has articulation relationships with Southeastern University and SUM Bible College and Theological Seminary. Transfer of credits is subject to the receiving institution’s policies and requirements.

START A PARTNERSHIP CONVERSATION

Church

Pastor / Contact

Email Address

Mobile Phone

Contact the River City team to discuss opportunities for your church.