

**Oak Park Baptist Church**  
Jeffersonville, Indiana

**Pastors in Training (PIT)**  
2023/2024 Cohort Group

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**Syllabus**

**Description**

Pastors in Training (PIT) is an intensive, one-year training program for aspiring pastors (whether vocational or lay) rooted in the local church for the nations. Through the study of the Bible, theology, and church history, alongside the practice of shepherding, these cohort groups are designed to further equip PIT members with the requisite competencies and character needed to excel in congregational leadership.

*Keep a close watch on yourself and on the teaching. Persist in this, for by so doing you will save both yourself and your hearers. – 1 Timothy 4:16*

**Required Reading**

*The Bible.* Translation of your choice unless otherwise stipulated. (Assigned portions include at minimum the pastoral epistles of 1&2 Timothy and Titus.)

Edwards, William; John Ferguson; Chad Van Dixhoorn eds. *Theology for Ministry: How Doctrine Affects Pastoral Life and Practice.* Phillipsburg, NJ: P&R, 2022. (Chapters TBD)

Sproul, R.C. *Knowing Scripture.* Grand Rapids: IVP, 2016.

Lloyd-Jones, Martyn. *Preaching and Preachers.* Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 2012.

Piper, John. *Let the Nations be Glad.* Grand Rapids: Baker Books, 2010.

Baxter, Richard. *The Reformed Pastor* (Updated and Abridged by Tim Cooper). Wheaton, IL: Crossway, 2021.

Allen, Lewis. *The Preacher's Catechism.* Wheaton, IL: Crossway, 2018.

Gibson, Jonathan. *Be Thou My Vision: A Liturgy For Daily Worship.* Wheaton, IL: Crossway, 2021.

Various articles TBD.

## Required Assignments

### 1. Attendance

Prompt and regular attendance for all PIT meetings. Meetings will be from 2:00 to 3:30 p.m. at the Pohlman home the last Sunday of each month (with the exception of December and March) through July 2024. **Meeting dates:** August 27; September 24; October 29; November 26; December 17; January 28; February 25; March 24; April 28; May 26; June 30; July 28.

It is also expected that each PIT member will be in a discipleship class and corporate worship every Sunday as well as every Wednesday evening prayer meeting (unless you're already serving in a Wednesday night ministry). In addition, participation in a Community Group is strongly encouraged.

### 2. Reading

Each book listed under "Required Reading" (with the exception of the Bible and *Theology for Ministry*) is to be read in its entirety and for comprehension. Books will form the basis of our discussions at regular PIT meetings. Each book is to be evaluated for its usefulness in your own pastoral ministry (current or future). What are the book's strengths and weaknesses? What are some helpful principles for ministry that can be drawn out of the book? Is this a book you would recommend to another pastor or PIT? Why or why not?

### 3. Reflection Paper on Pastoral Epistles

In a one–two page double-spaced paper, reflect on the pastoral epistles (1&2 Timothy and Titus) asking yourself, "What do I learn about pastoral ministry from these three letters?" Paper due at our December PIT meeting (**December 17**).

### 4. Wednesday Night Devotional Teaching

Each PIT member will be in the regular rotation for leading the devotional teaching during our Wednesday night men's prayer meeting (dates and subjects TBD).