



## **LIFEPOINT INSTITUTE**

PROGRAM OVERVIEW | SEMESTER ONE

JANUARY 2022 – MAY 2022

# LifePoint Institute Mission

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The LifePoint Institute is a two-year intensive program designed to develop and deploy ministry leaders to plant, re-plant, and revitalize churches in the Greater Houston Area. The goal of this program is to empower everyday followers of Christ to be fully equipped for ministry leadership in the church. We aim to produce students who are

- Christ Centered
- Biblically Bold
- Family Focused
- Discipleship Driven
- Mission Minded

This program overview will be the tool used to guide you through the first semester in the institute. It includes all of the information necessary for successful completion of the program. Assignments, schedules, and syllabi are included in the academic overview.

The LifePoint Institute is designed for bi-vocational ministry students. Our curriculum is a balanced blend of biblical/theological study and leadership development, designed to prepare you for effective ministry in the Greater Houston Area. We aim to produce faithful church leaders who with calling, character, and competency.

Year One begins with a focus on biblical and theological foundations. The reading and writing assignments focus on the gospel, God's word, foundations for ministry, leadership, and theology.

In addition, each resident will complete designated field experiences—ministry assignments of a practical nature which are assigned alongside academic work. Field experience assignments will vary depending upon a resident's area of ministerial focus, but they will include reports on discipleship relationship and leadership reflections. The LifePoint Institute is cohort-based educational structure that aims to develop and deploy church leaders through the local church.

In order to become a student in the LifePoint Institute an individual must provide character references, complete an online application, sign the character commitment, interview and be granted admission to the program by the LifePoint Institute team.

Students who successfully complete and pass semester one will receive summer assignments and a syllabus for year two.

# Leadership Team

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## **Stephen Kimpel, D.Min.**

### **LifePoint Institute Director | LifePoint Church**

Originally from Pittsburgh, Stephen joined LifePoint Church in 2019. He is the Executive Director of the Institute at LifePoint Church. Stephen loves to learn, teach, and grow alongside others in the church. He earned his Master of Divinity degree from Palm Beach Atlantic University and his Doctor of Ministry degree from Liberty University's School of Divinity. He and his wife, Shelby, have been married for six years.

## **Josh Sharpe**

### **Lead Pastor | LifePoint Church**

Josh is a native of Florida and has been serving as the Lead Pastor at LifePoint since June 2018. He led our church to adopt the vision of becoming a reproducing neighborhood church that plants, re-plants, and revitalizes churches throughout the Greater Houston Area. Although Josh will not have direct oversight of the LifePoint Institute, he does give spiritual leadership to LifePoint Church as a whole. He earned his Bachelor of Arts degree in Ministry Leadership from Palm Beach Atlantic University. He and his wife, Katlyn, have four children.

# Contact Information

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We are here not only to help equip you for ministry, but to serve as a resource and an encouragement for you and your family during this season of life. If there is ever a time where we can serve you or be of assistance, please don't hesitate to contact us.

Stephen Kimpel      832-864-2246  
[skimpel@golpc.org](mailto:skimpel@golpc.org)

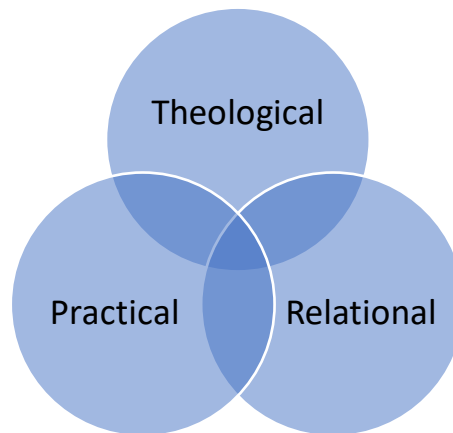
Josh Sharpe      832-864-2246  
[jsharpe@golpc.org](mailto:jsharpe@golpc.org)

# Program Overview

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## Leadership Development Strategy

The LifePoint Institute has a threefold approach to developing and deploying leaders who are feeling called to ministry. The three areas of focus for students in the institute are academic learning, practical ministry experience, and mentorship/coaching. Each of the aforementioned emphases will help to shape ministers who are called, competent, and high character.



### Theological | Academic Learning | Strategy 1

Every student in the LifePoint Institute will be exposed to rigorous and consistent academic workload that will aim to expose them to topics beneficial for ministerial service. Involvement in the LifePoint Institute will include a steady supply of lecture content provided by doctoral level faculty and highly experienced pastors serving in ministry. Throughout the duration of each semester, students will be assigned quizzes, exams, projects, papers, presentations, scripture memory, and extensive readings.

### Practical | Ministry Experience | Strategy 2

Every student in the LifePoint Institute will be immersed in the world of everyday leadership and its accompanying challenges. The heartbeat of this program is to provide godly men and women with the opportunity to gain exposure to a wide variety of leadership experiences. A supervised field experience designed for men and women who are enrolled in the LifePoint Institute will aim to develop mature and competent ministers. The student will integrate his or her academic learning into practical ministry experience with special emphasis on care, discipleship, evangelism, leadership, teaching, and preaching.

### Relational | Mentorship and Coaching | Strategy 3

We do not believe that godly ministry happens in isolation from wise counsel, mentorship, and coaching. As such, students enrolled in the LifePoint Institute will not only experience a cohort-model of education, but they will receive regular coaching from a ministry mentor. In coordination with the field experience documents (Appendix C), the job of a ministry mentor is to challenge, encourage, and equip in a discipleship relationship.

## Program Details

### LifePoint Institute Physical Gatherings

Students participating in the LifePoint Institute will be expected to attend all scheduled classes. Students in the program will matriculate through the program together in a cohort. The program is designed to be experienced alongside like-minded believers in community together.

- Where: LifePoint Church, Student Room
- When: Monday Evening's from 6:00-9:00PM
- In order to allow time for families to be together, we will not meet on major holidays or when major church events conflict.

### COVID-19 Gathering Alterations

The impact of the coronavirus on our society is widespread and constantly changing. It is our desire to have all class sessions in person, but that may or may not be possible. Students should be prepared to meet online via a video platform (Zoom or similar). When we cannot meet face to face, we will meet online at the same day and time.

### Nightly Schedule

- **6:00-6:30PM** Shared Dinner
- **6:30-7:45PM** Lecture
- **8:00-9:00PM** Cohort Book Discussion

## Academic Credit

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Students who complete the LifePoint Institute may be eligible for a credit exchange arrangement and advanced standing for certain degree programs at Liberty University, Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary, and New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary. Contact Stephen Kimpel for more information on these opportunities.

We also work alongside the North American Mission Board (NAMB) and the Houston Church Planting Network (HCPN) to discover, develop, and deploy people into ministry leadership around the world. To learn more about this connection with NAMB, contact Stephen Kimpel.

## Cost

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The total cost of this program is **\$250 per semester plus books**. Scholarships are not promised but are available.

# Program Requirements

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## Church Membership

It is expected that students will be members of LifePoint or another Bible-teaching church. We expect that all students and their family members will be actively involved with LifeGroups and ministry teams for the purpose of personal growth, developing relationships, and engaging with the local community for the glory of God. Onramps for membership at LifePoint are provided monthly. Exceptions for membership can be made for those participating in the program who belong to other churches.

## Attendance

Active participation is a critical success factor; excessive or unexcused absences may result in termination from the program. It is expected that students will attend all Institute class sessions in order to complete the program. Regular and punctual attendance will be expected for all students. Although absences may be unavoidable at times, these occurrences should be rare. Students will provide prior notification to their instructor when an absence will be necessary. When a class is missed, it is the sole responsibility of the resident to obtain any information that was covered and/or make up any assignments. Work missed may be made up at the discretion of the course facilitator and/or program director. Consistent absences may be grounds for dismissal from the program.

## Character Statement

As part of the leadership team at LifePoint, all students will be expected to live above reproach. This means that students are required to understand and comply with the document entitled, “Leadership Character Commitment”. This commitment has been created to assist in protecting the reputation, character and integrity of the individual leader and LifePoint Church. As representatives of our Lord, Jesus Christ, it is imperative that all participants adhere to a policy of strict moral conduct.

(See Appendix A)

## Healthy Rhythm

The LifePoint Institute is a rigorous opportunity to deepen calling, character and competency. With that in mind, the program should not replace or usurp a resident’s responsibility to his or her family, LifeGroup, and ministry team. A prolonged season of unhealthy rhythm and priorities may be grounds for dismissal from the program.

## Technology Requirements

Beginning in 2022, all students will need access to a computer with internet access, email, and the ability to access websites in order to complete the program. Due to unpredictable circumstances, many of our classes may be required to meet online rather than in person. As such, students will need equipment that allows them to participate in Zoom or other online sessions.

# Appendix A

## Leadership Character Commitment

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As a resident of LifePoint Church, I understand the calling that has been placed on my life by agreeing to be a part of the team and am willing to serve with a strong sense of integrity, morality and to be held to the highest standard. Recognizing the high commitment asked by our Lord Jesus Christ of those who would lead and serve in His church, I am committed to rise to the challenge of leadership and have indicated my commitment with my signature on the form to be retained by Human Resources.

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1. I am a faithfully attending, committed member of LifePoint Church (or other Bible-believing Church) and am in agreement with what we believe and practice. (*Acts 2:41-42*) I am also in agreement with the vision, mission and core values of LifePoint Church.  
\*See Statement of Faith
  2. I will protect the unity of my church. I support the church leadership and will exercise wisdom to register input in an appropriate place and manner. (*Hebrews 13:17; Ephesians 4:1*)
  3. I am in an active, growing relationship with Jesus Christ through personal Bible study and prayer as well as through my connection with the church community. I am in pursuit of God's design for my life as revealed in the Bible. (*2 Timothy 2:15; Philippians 4:6; John 14:21*)
  4. I understand the vision of taking the gospel to every neighborhood in the Greater Houston Area. I know that it is my responsibility to share the gospel with others. (*Matthew 28:19-20; Acts 1:8; Romans 1:16*)
  5. I am committed to practicing wisdom and discernment in my lifestyle choices so that I am not a stumbling block to anyone. In the biblical exercising Christian liberty, this includes my choices in the use of alcohol, the way I dress, social media practices, entertainment, etc. (*Romans 14*)
  6. I am committed to avoid plagiarism, cheating, and the falsification of information. (*Psalms 101:7*)
  7. I affirm LifePoint's beliefs on gender, marriage, and sexuality. I am committed to pursuing God's design of fidelity in marriage and abstinence in singleness. This includes, but is not limited to, my personal relationships as well as internet and social media practices. (*Titus 2:12; Romans 12:1-2; 1 Corinthians 8:9; 1 Corinthians 6:19-20*).

Printed Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

# Appendix B

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## SCRIPTURE MEMORY

Month	Passage
January	2 Corinthians 5:14-21
February	Titus 2:11-14
March	2 Thessalonians 1:11-12
April	Exodus 34:6-7
May	Psalm 1
June	Isaiah 53:1-6



# Appendix C

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## Field Experiences for Residency – Semester One

A supervised field experience designed for men and women who are enrolled in the LifePoint Institute will aim to develop mature and competent ministers. The student will integrate his or her classroom work into practical ministry experience with special emphasis on accountability, discipleship, evangelism, leadership, teaching, and preaching.

Full descriptions of these experiences, including their due dates, parameters, expectations, and reporting requirements, will be provided by the program director throughout the semester.

### Field Experience Objectives

- Examine call and role in ministry.
- Identify and affirm gifts and strengths for ministry.
- Increase ministerial competency in different areas.
- Grow in spiritual formation through mentorship meetings and opportunities for practical ministry experience.
- Integrate theological/classroom training and reading into ministerial practice.
- Develop meaningful suggestions to areas of ministry that could be improved.

### Field Experience Assignments – Semester One

- Meet with your ministry coach (3x)
- Disciple someone in their faith (6x)
- Have Gospel conversations with someone who is not a follower of Jesus
- Lead, facilitate, and/or launch a LifeGroup
- Teach a lesson and/or sermon (x2)

### Field Experience Grading

**(Point values for assignments)**

Mid-Term Ministry Reflection Paper	100 pts.	Due Mid-semester
Sermon Evaluation I	100 pts.	Due Mid-semester
Performance Evaluation I	100 pts.	Due Mid-semester
Update on Ministry Hours Worked	100 pts.	Due Mid-semester
Evangelism Reflection Paper	100 pts.	Due Semester's End
Sermon Evaluation II	100 pts.	Due Semester's End
Final Reflection Paper	100 pts.	Due Semester's End
Performance Evaluation II	100 pts.	Due Semester's End
Log of Hours Worked	200 pts.	Due Semester's End
<b>Total Points</b>	1000 pts.	