

Student Minister Playbook

Vine Church exists to connect 1,000 people to the life, love and freedom Jesus offers. Our dream is to see more people worshipping Jesus in church on Sunday than at the Beresford Hotel next door on a Saturday night.

And the things you have heard me say in the presence of many witnesses entrust to reliable people who will also be qualified to teach others. (2 Tim. 2:2)

Position purpose

Vine Church offers the position of Student Minister to those who are studying at theological college who wish to be trained in leadership and church ministry in an urban environment.

We train and equip students in leadership and church ministry so that they are prepared for a lifetime of ministry.

We dream of seeing 100 pastors and Christian leaders thriving in ministry across Australia and the world, who feel better equipped after having being trained through a 2 year ministry experience at Vine Church.

Main responsibilities

- Leadership of a Community Group, and/or leadership of a Ministry Team (e.g. 'M' rep*, hosting team, Vine Kids, Vine Youth, Christianity Explored, one-to-one discipleship, leadership training, volunteer recruitment, newcomer follow-up, Bread of Life (homeless ministry), music team, Community Group leader coaching etc).

- Participation in two Sunday services (Friday or Sunday Kids & Youth counts in the place of one Sunday service).
- Participation in church events, weekly staff meeting and quarterly staff conference.
- Other responsibilities as required in working in a team environment as outlined below.

The position will require at least the same level of commitment expected from one of our core members in the church (i.e. leading a ministry), and for the spouse (if applicable), at least the same level of commitment expected from one of our members (i.e. in a Community Group and serving in a ministry team).

**M' reps represent a purpose area in one of the gatherings. We have five purpose areas: Magnification, Maturity, Membership, Ministry, Mission. For example: a 'Mission Rep' at 4.30pm will seek to engage this congregation in evangelising their friends, praying for missionaries, and building a team to run Christianity Explored.*

Training approach

We offer a hands on, fully involved training experience including

1. Preaching training
2. Participation in the staff team
3. Leading a ministry team
4. Guided reflection with a pastor
5. Training cohorts with 2 year training syllabus
6. Specific training by request

Preaching training

Students are provided 2 opportunities to preach in services throughout the year. For each sermon you preach, the Lead Pastor offers four individual training sessions which take you from exegesis → big idea → outline → draft → manuscript → delivery.

Participation in the staff team

Students are invited to participate in the weekly staff meeting, quarterly offsite planning meetings and annual staff conference. This provides students with an inside look into:

- how theological convictions are brought to bear on tactical and strategic decision making

- how a small-medium church runs
- how decisions are made
- how staff function as a team
- how the lead pastor leads the team

It is expected that all student ministers participate in the weekly tactical meeting (Monday afternoons) for the first 6 months of their position. This enables us to get to know you and for you to get up to speed on how church runs so that you can make a difference in your time with us.

Additionally, we strongly encourage all student ministers to attend all conferences which the full-time staff team attend throughout (including Reach Australia, Nexus etc). Apart from the direct training students will receive at the conference, they will also learn the challenge of how a team implements learnings.

Leading a ministry team

It is our conviction that a weakness in the training of pastors and ministers in our tribe is the lack of team leader training. To counter this, we expect all Student Ministers to take on the role of Team Leader (or Area Leader) for one of our ministries and learn the skill of leading people in achieving an outcome.

Team Leader opportunities include:

- Vine Kids or Vine Youth Team Leader
- Christianity Explored Team Leader
- Onboard (partners course) Team Leader
- Ministry Team Leader
- Hosting Team Leader
- Band Team Leader

Area Leader opportunities include

- Maturity Area Leader (coaching CGs)
- Ministry Area Leader
- Membership Area Leader

Guided reflection with a pastor

Each student minister will meet with a Vine Church pastor quarterly for a guided reflection on what you are learning, as well as prayer and encouragement.

Training cohort with 2 year training syllabus

The cohort of student ministers (usually three) will also meet together with the Lead Pastor four times per year as a training cohort to ask questions and receive focussed training in the following areas.

Specific training by request

Students are also invited to speak to Toby about any ministries or pastoral experiences they would value observing in their time at Vine Church. Some of these experiences include:

- Observing Parish Council meeting
- Running a funeral
- Visiting someone in hospital
- Senior staff meeting

The value we add to your training

Historically, the benefit of accepting a student minister position at Vine Church is you get team leadership experience and you see from the inside how a different church staff team operates. Additionally, many former student ministers have said the preaching training you receive with our Lead Pastor is the most helpful training they have ever received because it provides them with a clear framework for writing and delivering a sermon.

The value we don't add to your training

We don't provide our student ministers with a weekly, one to one, intensive mentoring relationship with a pastor. We work together as a team, and provide quarterly one to one meetings with a pastor each year. This role isn't like MTS. If you are looking for a more intensive one to one mentoring relationship with a pastor, we would encourage you to look at other churches who may be able to provide this.

Qualifications

- Deep love for Jesus and a strong commitment to seeing lives changed by the gospel via prayer and the word of God.
- Competence in teaching the Bible simply and clearly.

- Clear, humble and an engaging leadership style, calling people to make sacrifices for the cause of Christ.
- A willingness to work alongside others in a team and under the Lead Pastor.

Scholarship and application details

Unless you are in a special circumstance, scholarships for this position are not provided in 2021.

Candidates will be fully reimbursed for all church conferences and ministry expenses.

For expressions of interest, please include your resume along with a personal statement about your life and ministry. This should be sent directly to our Lead Pastor, Toby Neal (toby@vinechurch.com.au).