



# MATTHEW 28

## ABC-MI TO OFFER NEW CERTIFICATE IN THEOLOGICAL EDUCATION

The American Baptist Church of Michigan is pleased to announce a new opportunity in theological education for both pastors and lay leaders. In partnership with several other ABC regions, our region will be collaborating with Kairos University/Sioux Falls Seminary to make ATS-accredited theological training available to subscribers at an economically reasonable rate. For a \$25 per month subscription, students will be able to pursue a Certificate in Theology, by participating in online classes through Kairos University.

This opportunity, to be known as M28 (for Matthew 28/Great Commission), is a successor program to the region's Church Leadership Institute or CLI, which itself replaced a former program known as Certified Lay Ministry. As congregations and leaders face new challenges and opportunities today it is believed that this new initiative will offer current, accessible, and convenient training for those who participate.

The program itself is ideal for pastors who serve in bi or co-vocational ministry, who may not have had the opportunity to pursue traditional seminary training at the MDiv level. By completing this certification, those pastors will be positioned to pursue a level of ordination recognized regionally; meaning they will become better trained and credentialed for local ministry. In addition, lay leaders who chose to participate will benefit from seminary-level training at an affordable cost, and be able to enhance their own congregational service.

Kairos University utilizes a competency-based model of theological education. This means a student's prior competencies in education, leadership and ministry are considered during their initial assessment and the formation of a learning pathway. Each student's path will be crafted as the student, academic dean, and student mentor confer around the competencies needed for a successful and faithful ministry.

Students will take 9 required courses and 3 elective courses to complete their certification. Ministry competencies will be assessed by a student mentor, who is someone with an MDiv level of education, selected by the student and approved by the region. It is expected that a lay leader's pastor will serve as their mentor.

The Rev. Dr. Dan Cash has been appointed as the Academic Dean for this program by Executive Minister, Rev. Mark Thompson. In addition to working with students in their progression through certification, Dan will coordinate monthly Zoom calls to help build a sense of community among each cohort of participating students.

Other ABC regions participating in this endeavor include ABC of Indiana, Kentucky, Ohio, Great Rivers and Mission Northwest. Watch for more information on M28 in future news releases and social media posts, as well as through the ABCINKY website.



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