

Strengthening the Black Church for the 21st Century (SBC21)
Academy of Interns – 2013 – 2016

THE LEARNING COVENANT

The Learning Covenant is a critical element in shaping an effective and growth-producing Academy of Interns. The Covenant provides the focus and structure for intentional learning and development. It is collaboratively formulated to lead toward a Certificate in African American Church Leadership through Perkins School of Theology, Dallas, TX, in collaboration with Gammon School of Theology, Atlanta, GA and Garrett Theological Seminary, Chicago, IL. Intense courses are offered over the span of the two (2) year internship, with each seminary supporting the goals of the program.

This Learning Covenant requires the AOI to engage in intensive dialogue, written and oral reflections, critiques of readings and other resources. Specific training will be required to meet current challenges in: (1) Organizational Management; (2) Strategic Planning; (3) Church Leadership; and (4) Community Outreach.

This document is called a Covenant to signify the nature of the commitment that is being made between partners in the Academy of Interns; the church placement as they work collaboratively for the mutual benefit of one another; the sake of the Gospel; and the benefit of the communities in which the AOI serve. The Covenant is signed by the Intern and the Mentor pastor, the Board of Ordained Ministry, District Superintendent, Bishop, and the office of Strengthening the Black Church for the 21st Century.

The Covenant is designed to engender mutual accountability for the commitments that have been established. If circumstances change and the terms of the Covenant cannot be kept, the new terms must be collaboratively negotiated among all signing parties, rather than unilaterally made.

The Covenant is intended to be a fluid document that may need revision and modification over the course of the placement. New learning needs, goals, and priorities often arise in the midst of ministry. For this reason the Covenant should be revisited at several points during the year, especially at the end of the first year. Revisions to the Covenant need to be submitted to the Director of SBC-21 Office.

SIGNATURE PAGE

Having thoroughly read and prayed through every aspect, policy, and doctrinal belief of the United Methodist Church, and the SBC21 Contract/Questionnaire/Covenant, I hereby affix my signature to and agree with this Covenant and all of its contents.

Intern Name (please print): _____

Intern Signature: _____ Date: _____

QUESTION FOR SPOUSE:

Do you share the beliefs of your spouse as stated above, and will you cooperate and support him/her in every way to uphold the policies of the United Methodist Church Strengthening the Black Church for the 21st Century? Yes, I will cooperate and support my spouse in every way possible

No, I am unable to cooperate and support my spouse at this time

Spouse Name (please print): _____

Spouse Signature: _____ Date: _____

Placement Site Mentor (please print): _____

Signature: _____ Date: _____

Board of Ordained Ministry Representative (please print):

Signature: _____ Date: _____

District Superintendent (please print): _____

Signature: _____ Date: _____

Resident Bishop (please print): _____

Signature: _____ Date: _____

SBC21 National Director (please print): _____

Signature: _____ Date: _____