

## MTS MODULAR COMPETENCIES

Approved by APC May 14, 2001

“Learning should cultivate scholarly discourse and result in the ability to think critically and constructively, conduct research, use library resources, and engage in the practice of ministry.” ATS 3.1.1.2

“Learning should foster, in addition to the acquisition of knowledge, the capacity to understand and assess one’s tradition and identity, and to integrate materials from various theological disciplines and modes of instructional engagement in ways that enhance ministry and cultivate emotional and spiritual maturity.” 3.1.1.3.

**Mission Statement for the MTS Modular Program:** To facilitate the spiritual formation, cognitive growth, and skill development of women and men, enabling them to critically assess and creatively respond to issues within their home, church, neighbourhood and workplace from a foundation rooted in the Christian tradition.

### **I. CHRISTIAN TRADITION**

#### **A. Biblical proficiency**

1. Understanding the content of the Old and New Testament books.
2. Understanding the history of Israel and the early church
3. Understanding the major themes and issues in Old and new Testament theology
4. Understanding standard approaches and methods related to biblical exegesis
5. Understanding some major approaches and issues in hermeneutics

#### **B. Theological-Historical Proficiency**

1. Understanding basic Christian doctrines as integrated into systematic expression
2. Understanding of the nature and mission of the church as people of God
3. Understanding key thinkers, texts and issues in Christian theology
4. Understanding some major approaches and methods related to theological study
5. Understanding the history of Christianity from early church to twentieth century
6. Understanding some major approaches and methods related to historical study
7. Understanding some major approaches and methods related to faith and vocation.

#### **C. Ministry skills**

1. Ability to provide reliable exegesis of a biblical text
2. Ability to reflect biblically, theologically and historically about one’s ministry context
3. Ability to critically examine the proclamation of the Gospel by the contemporary church
4. Ability to conduct biblical-theological-historical research using current scholarly tools
5. Ability to engage in critical evaluation of current scholarship and argument
6. Ability to organize the results of biblical-theological-historical research into a teaching or preaching outline
7. Ability to reflect critically on ethical issues related to one’s vocation.

- D. Spiritual formation & character development**
1. Cultivation of a growing confidence in the reality of the Gospel
  2. Cultivation of integrity and honesty in handling a biblical text or theological issue
  3. Cultivation of receptivity and openness in hearing God's voice in Scripture
  4. Cultivation of the practice on ongoing Bible reading and the discipline of biblical meditation
  5. Cultivation of a generous spirit toward those of differing theological convictions or ecclesial traditions
  6. Cultivation of a commitment to lifelong growth through disciplined and ongoing study

## **II. CULTURAL CONTEXT**

### **A. Cognitive proficiency**

1. Understanding of how biblical-theological models of the Gospel's witness through the church relate to our culture
2. Understanding of chief features of North American culture, including its late/post-modern expression
3. Understanding of major issues related to the Gospel's witness to an increasingly multicultural, multiethnic, pluralistic society

### **B. Ministry skills**

1. Ability to apply tools of cultural-social-moral analysis to a particular ministry context.
2. Ability to communicate the gospel across cultural barriers.

### **C. Spiritual formation & character development**

1. Cultivation of an awareness of, and appreciation for, the rich cultural-ethnic diversity of contemporary Canadian society
2. Cultivation of skills and practices which foster a sustained ability to monitor important indicators of cultural change and to assess their implications for ministry

## **III. SPIRITUAL FORMATION & CHARACTER DEVELOPMENT**

### **A. Cognitive proficiency**

1. Understanding of conceptual frameworks and major categories of spiritual theology
2. Understanding of major thinkers, texts and movements in Christian spirituality
3. Understanding of biblical, theological and historical dimensions of classical spiritual disciplines

### **B. Ministry skills**

1. Ability to articulate a coherent biblical-theological shape of the Christian life
2. Ability to practice and teach spiritual disciplines, both individual and corporate
3. Ability to identify personal goals and to develop practices which foster sustained personal transformation
4. Ability to engage in, and benefit from, peer mentoring and spiritual friendship

### **C. Spiritual formation & character development**

1. Cultivation of a growing love for God, neighbour, self and creation
2. Cultivation of personal character shaped by the values and virtues of God's Kingdom

3. Cultivation of a deepening ability to hear God's word in stillness and solitude
4. Cultivation of a commitment to accountable relationships focused on spiritual growth

#### IV. **CAPACITY FOR MINISTERIAL AND PUBLIC LEADERSHIP**

##### A. **Cognitive**

1. Ability to construct a local theology.
2. Ability to develop and articulate a coherent biblical-theological model of leadership
3. Ability to critically interact with leading approaches to leadership and management shaping the contemporary church and wider culture in North America
4. Ability to discern major dynamics and cultural challenges facing leaders in congregations and Christian organizations as well as Christians in the marketplace.
5. Ability to identify and develop mentoring situations with younger Christians.

##### B. **Skills**

1. Ability to strategically assess a particular situation in order to plan a creative approach to ministry suited to that unique context
2. Ability to work effectively with others in a team-based ministry
3. Ability to equip and mobilize others to use their gifts in some form of Christian service

##### C. **Spiritual Formation and Character Development**

1. Demonstrates self-awareness of ways in which his/her spiritual gifts, personality traits and acquired skills are expressed in their own leadership style
2. Demonstrates a leadership style which reflects a passion for Christ, a vision of the Kingdom of God, and the moral integrity that bears witness to the claims of Christian faith