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Local Leadership Focus Assignment Sparks New Ministry



Rachel and Rev. Matt Holman
with Maggie

The first time my wife and I had to buy formula for our daughter, I could not believe how expensive it was. When you add in the cost of diapers, bottles, clothes... it all adds up. AND FAST!

With that being the case, when I was tasked by Leadership Focus, in the process of my ordination, to organize a service project of sorts, and began to pray about what, exactly, I should do, it wasn't long before I began to remember that first time in Walmart, looking at the

shelves of formula, and counting the cost up in my mind! If we were stunned by the cost, how many more people must be? How many more young moms and dads, in situations more difficult and taxing than ours must be feeling the same stress and anxiety about supplying their baby's basic needs?

So, from that personal experience, and the leading of the Holy Spirit, a diaper drive was born! (Pun intended!)

My wife, Rachel, is a counselor/case manager with an agency called East Tennessee Recovery, and they, in addition to other recovery resources they offer, have a food bank of sorts, and have opened their doors for us to distribute the items collected during the drive, from their offices!

As these things have continued to grow, I have been contacted by other organizations, like "Embrace Grace" who offers a 12-week counseling and education program

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Neace's Pieces



Dr. Bob Neace COGVA
 State Minister

By the time you read this, Thanksgiving 2020 will be a memory. So will a lot of things from this year. Our minds are now beginning to turn, if not already

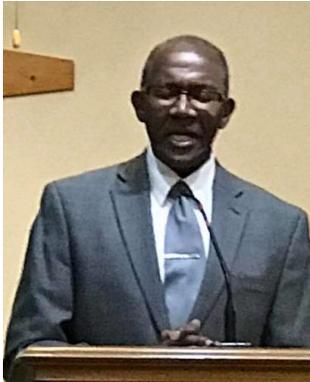
somewhat focused on Christmas. Years passed have displayed the irony of a day set aside for giving thanks, pausing to list those things for which we are grateful, basking in the love and warmth of family and friends, and then a mad dash to display the greed within our hearts as we desire to glean the wonderful financial discounts in products put out by corporate America who are perfectly willing to feed our greed in an effort to feed their own. It's a vicious cycle. This year, however, seems to be different. As of this writing, we are hearing governors across the country implementing shutdowns in order to slow the spread of COVID 19. Our own governor has decreed social gatherings should be 25 people or less. In my home state of Illinois, I read the governor there has reduced from 50% capacity down to 25% of capacity for the

“big box store” retailers such as Wal-Mart and Target. He has also shut down the casinos throughout Illinois. All this to take effect the Friday before Thanksgiving week.

Add to this stress the civil unrest in our country, the contentiousness of the recent presidential/congressional elections, uncertainty about whether we can gather for worship services for those who have been able to do so and when will our churches be able to open their doors for the first time through this pandemic, and a host of other things, and one can become quite cynical. Our natural tendency seems to be a bent toward the negative. An ease to which we seem accustomed to hearing the bad in any given situation. In all of this, we as Christians need to be reminded of the One who brings peace. The Word speaks of peace in a myriad of places, but I'd like to remind each reader of the words of the Apostle Paul in his letter to the Philippians – “do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus. Finally, brothers, whatever
 (Continued on page 7)

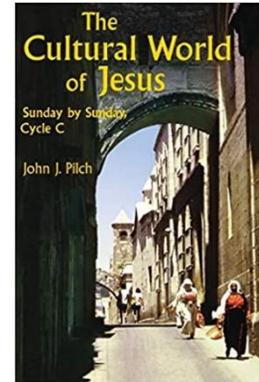
COGVA LEADERSHIP COLLEGE

Will meet via ZOOM until further notice each Second Saturday monthly at 9:00:am. The link or call in opportunities can be found highlighted at the end of this article
 The books being studied for the Fall Semester are:



The Cultural World of Jesus' Cycle C
 by John J. Pilch

Taught by
 Rev. Calvin Peterson



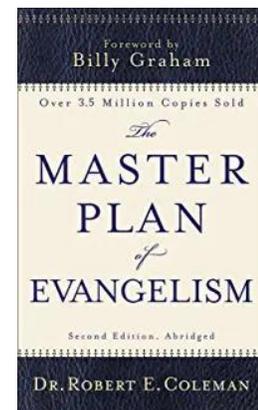
The Master Plan of Evangelism 2nd
 Edition by Dr. Robert E. Coleman

Taught by
 Rev. Silas Oliver



Each student is responsible for purchasing their own books and prior to the session on the 2nd Saturday in January 2021, new books of study will be announced. Here is an added blessing:

There will be no tuition for this school year.



Regular dates for COGVA Leadership School are every month on the Second Saturday of each month

Nov 14, 2020 09:00 AM

Dec 12, 2020 09:00 AM

Jan 9, 2021 09:00 AM

Feb 13, 2021 09:00 AM

Mar 13, 2021 09:00 AM

Apr 10, 2021 09:00 AM

May 8, 2021 09:00 AM

Jun 12, 2021 09:00 AM

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89129322078>

Call-in Number: 1 646 558 8656

Meeting ID: 891 2932 2078

Passcode: 783920



September 10, 2020

There's a reason the calendar is dated from the birth of Jesus. He changed everything. We are in A.D. 2020 (or, technically, *anno Domini nostri Jesu Christi* = *in the year of our Lord Jesus Christ*). All of the years before the manger scene in Bethlehem are dated B.C. ("before Christ"), and all of the years after are dubbed A.D. That's the way it is with Jesus. Once He steps onto the stage of your life, your town, your world, everything changes. He who said, "Behold, I make all things new," (Revelation 21:5) is not in the business of keeping things the same.

Jesus doesn't just do change for change's sake, though. He's in the game of changing everything He touches for the better. Where there is darkness, He brings light. Where there is despair, He brings hope. Where there is ignorance, He brings knowledge. Where there is brokenness, He brings wholeness. Where there is injustice, He brings justice. Where there is shame, He brings forgiveness. Where there is death, He brings life.

Christian Women Connection (CWC) is leading the way this Christmas, as the Church of God embraces this truth that can empower us for the whole year: Jesus is the **World Changer**. Experience the Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, and Prince of Peace (Isaiah 9:6) together with us, walking through Advent, meeting at the manger, and walking away from Bethlehem knowing that we, too, can change the world. For the good. For Jesus' sake.

CWC's Christ Birthday Observance includes devotional content for each week in Advent, inspiring stories of how Jesus is changing the world right now through the Church of God, and a chance to give, making the new year to come actually transformed with new life. The Christ Birthday Offering helps fuel the ministry of CWC (calling women to Kingdom service and advocating for women in desperate places); it also plays a critical role in the funding of the Church of God at home and abroad (providing essential underwriting for our four universities, our global mission footprints, Leadership Focus, disaster relief, CARE initiatives, and so much more). A portion even benefits Servants Solutions, too.

As we turn the page from one year to the next this Christmas, join the Movement celebrating, worshipping, and honoring Jesus, with CWC and the Christ Birthday Observance. Be bold and be changed.

Jim Lyon

Mental Health Q. & A. with



Cameron Ashworth MA
Vice-President of Operations
<https://genesiscounselingcenter.com>

Monday Dec. 7 at 4:30 pm via ZOOM

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84721211589>

Call in numbers for those not using a computer

1.301.715.8592 ID # 84721211589#

Cameron Ashworth brings an extensive background with over 15 years of successful business management and proven leadership. His experience includes organizational development, business planning, developing and delivering a compelling vision, business model design and implementation, developing and implementing strategic goals and mission delivery, building effective teams, creating and managing budgets, operations, restructuring, business coaching and consultation, and human resource management. Cameron has a B.S. in Religion with a minor in Business Administration and graduated Summa Cum Laude. He also has an MA in Human Services with an Executive Leadership cognate from Liberty University and graduated with high distinction. He is passionate and committed to making a lasting difference in the lives of others; helping them to reach their maximum potential.

(New Ministry Continued) to new moms and dads, during unexpected pregnancy. They receive counseling throughout the pregnancy, practical learning, and at the end of the program, a baby shower!

We have seen overwhelming response, and my church office is overflowing with donated items, since the drive began on October 15th! God has blessed the efforts and donations so far, and we know He will bless those who will receive the items that have been/will be collected!

With that being said, we are still collecting! Donations will be received until December 14th, and will be delivered to East Tennessee Recovery at that time (If you don't get a donation in in time, fret not, we will continue this as long as people wish to participate!)

We are looking for:

Diapers, Wipes, Formula, Bottles,
 Clothing

I prefer not to accept cash donations, unless ABSOLUTELY necessary, we can work out deliveries, and pick up within reason, AND we have an active Amazon list with reasonable prices, should you wish to follow the link, and shop from that list. Items purchased on Amazon will be delivered directly to my doorstep!



We are believing God to meet a serious need through the items listed above, and with YOUR help, we know those efforts will be blessed! Throughout the process of collecting so far, I have been reading over 2nd Corinthians 9:10 regularly:

“He who supplies seed to the sower and bread for food will supply and multiply your seed for sowing and increase the harvest of your righteousness.”

The opportunity to serve in this way has lifted my heart in what has certainly been an unusual time, and I appreciate your consideration in joining me!

My phone number is 276-780-7840, my email is matt.holman.2009@gmail.com, and the Amazon link to the list of items is

https://www.amazon.com/hz/wishlist/ls/3NQEKJUSOGK3W?ref_+wl_share

Thanks in advance!

(Neace's Pieces Continued) is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is commendable, if there is any excellence, if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things. What you have learned and received and heard and seen in me—practice these things, and the God of peace will be with you.

(4:6-9 ESV,)

An admonition not to be anxious... Easier said than done unless we follow the next phrase – in everything by prayer and supplication. As our spirits experience anxiety, find solace in spending time alone with the Father in prayer and making our needs known. Not that God needs reminded, but He does tell us to make our pleas known before Him. As we pray, be sure to spend time in giving thanks, not only for that which we have already received, but also for that for which we ask, knowing our hope in Him is complete. As we trust in Him, knowing His presence is near and His desire is for His creation, then we can avail ourselves of the peace of God that can guard our hearts and minds. In other words, as the world frets about the present and future, we can look at the history of God's faithfulness and know as long as we center ourselves in His

will, we have no reason to stress as "others who have no hope."

Hope has been defined as the expected fulfilment of promises made. Think about that. Not a wishy/washy thought process, but a confidence that the God who created the universe cares for His creation and promises PEACE to all those who trust in Him! And that peace of God will protect our hearts and minds. I feel a shout right about here!

Knowing we have access to this peace, what hinders us from enjoying it? The same worries and concerns mentioned above, along with many others. What can we do about it? A couple of things come to mind. One, a discipline on which I constantly must work. Identify the source of angst. A constant barrage of news from national, global, and local sources tends to grab my focus. I have learned some things about these sources. It is ok to turn them off walk away from them for a while. This will not eliminate the societal problems, but it will allow me to face them in a better frame of mind once my focus has shifted to the source of peace. When you turn these news sources on again, I promise, they will be like the soap operas of which my grandmother used to be so fond. You will be able to pick up on the plot pretty quickly. Sometimes our

(Continued on page 8)

Obituary



Minister Samuel L. Briggs

Minister Samuel Leon Briggs, 71, of Salem, departed this life on Saturday, November 14, 2020. A public viewing was held Sunday, November 22, 2020, from 1 p.m. until 5 p.m. at Hamlar-Curtis Funeral Home & Crematory. Funeral services were held privately. Interment will be in Sherwood Memorial Park. Condolences may be sent to www.Hamlar-Curtis.com.

(Neace's Pieces Continued) minds need to have a time of re-focus and refreshing. So, again, it is OK to turn off the television news, especially if we fill that time with things that nourish the soul. Things like quiet meditation on God's word, some time of worship with the family or alone, and simply, as our text reminds us, be prayerful and thankful.

Another tool is found in verse 8b. Be intentional on that which claims our focus. Anything worthy of praise. Think on these things. And look at the promise made in verse 9 – what we know, have been taught, and seen in example after example of Godly women and men, practice these things, and the God of peace will be with you.

Not that you need it from me but run with permission to pause and take some time to refresh and refocus our minds on Christ. Please, for the time between now and the new year, spend some time taking a deep breath, knowing God is still God, He is our source of peace, and take the advice of Helen Lemmel, who in 1922 penned the words, "Turn your eyes upon Jesus, look full in His wonderful face, and the things of earth will grow strangely dim, in the light of His glory and grace."

COGVA Giving 08/01/20-11/24/2020					
Church	Budget	Other	Kitchen Fund	KB	Total
					Giving
Abingdon	\$700.00				\$700.00
Atkins	\$700.00				\$700.00
Big Stone Gap					\$0.00
Birdsnest					\$0.00
Blacksburg First	\$600.00				\$600.00
Blacksburg Slussers	\$333.32				\$333.32
Bluefield					\$0.00
Boones Mill					\$0.00
Boykins					\$0.00
Bristol					\$0.00
Chesapeake					\$0.00
Chilhowie	\$1,976.33				\$1,976.33
Christiansburg	\$3,053.78				\$3,053.78
Cloverdale					\$0.00
Dublin	\$787.38	\$1,259.66			\$2,047.04
Emporia					\$0.00
Fredericksburg	\$1,983.00				\$1,983.00
Glade Spring					\$0.00
Goodview					\$0.00
Hampton Joynes Rd	\$400.00				\$400.00
Lynchburg Greenview	\$484.61				\$484.61
Lynchburg Mt. View					\$0.00
Marion	\$1,075.00				\$1,075.00
Martinsville					\$0.00
Newport News Cmnty					\$0.00
Newport News First					\$0.00
Norfolk Bellamy Ave	\$856.00				\$856.00
North Tazewell					\$0.00
Norton	\$1,406.37				\$1,406.37
Reedville	\$1,507.00				\$1,507.00
Rich Creek					\$0.00
Richmond First	\$1,044.25				\$1,044.25
Richmond 21st	\$800.00				\$800.00

Roanoke First	\$1,315.45			\$438.49	\$1,753.94
Roanoke Staunton Ave					\$0.00
Rural Retreat	\$431.19				\$431.19
Salem					\$0.00
Saltville Allison Gap	\$701.25				\$701.25
Saltville Broadford	\$150.00				\$150.00
Saltville Chatham Hill	\$100.00				\$100.00
Saltville MtnView					\$0.00
Spotsylvania	\$1,000.00				\$1,000.00
Staunton	\$794.87				\$794.87
Suffolk					\$0.00
VA Beach	\$800.00				\$800.00
Wise	\$7,600.00				\$7,600.00
Wytheville	\$650.00				\$650.00
Individual Donation	\$965.00				\$965.00
Faithlife giving					\$0.00
Brotherhood Mutual Refund	\$293.00				\$293.00
Credit Card Cashback	\$110.00				\$110.00
Total	\$32,617.80	\$1,259.66	\$0.00	\$438.49	\$34,315.95

COGVA Budget 8/01/20 – 11/24/20		Aug-Oct	Nov-Jan
		1st Qtr	2nd Qtr
Categories	Budget	Expenses	Expenses
1000 State Office			
1100 Business Office	\$ 3,500.00	\$ 1,078.08	\$ 270.69
1200 Insurance	\$ 14,000.00	\$ 3,375.50	\$ 3,581.47
1300 Office Manager	\$ 14,437.50	\$ 3,609.36	\$ 1,203.12
1400 Income Taxes	\$ 3,600.00	\$ 883.39	\$ 294.45
Subtotal	\$ 35,537.50	\$ 8,946.33	\$ 5,349.73
1500 Chair	\$ 400.00	\$ -	\$ -
2000 State Minister			
Salary	\$ 12,000.00	\$ 3,000.00	\$ 1,000.00
Reimbursement Fund	\$ 5,000.00	\$ -	\$ 144.50
Subtotal	\$ 17,400.00	\$ 3,000.00	\$ 1,144.50
3000 Executive Board/Standing Ministries			

3100 Executive Board	\$ 400.00	\$ -	\$ -
3200 Ministry of Church Service/Credentials	\$800.00	\$100.00	\$6.95
3300 Ministry of Christian Education	\$50.00	\$ -	\$ -
3600 Ministry of Program	\$50.00	\$ -	\$ -
3800 Ministerial Fellowship	\$50.00	\$ -	\$ -
3900 Church Property Team	\$50.00	\$ -	\$ -
Subtotal	\$1,400.00	\$100.00	\$6.95
5000 Property and Maintenance			
5110 Camp Bedford			
5110 Caretaker	\$5,250.00	\$1,312.50	\$437.50
5120 Campground Expenses (Maintenance)	\$1,000.00	\$ -	\$ -
Capital Improvements	\$500.00	\$ -	\$ -
Camp Bedford Mkt/Advertising	\$250.00	\$ -	\$ -
5140 Utilities	\$3,500.00	\$618.25	\$194.57
Subtotal	\$10,500.00	\$1,930.75	\$632.07
5200 Camp Christi			
5210 Caretaker	\$26,565.12	\$6,641.28	\$2,213.76
5220 Health Insurance	\$7,000.00	\$1,740.00	\$580.00
5250 Utilities	\$14,000.00	\$1,810.30	\$578.82
5260 Maintenance	\$1,500.00	\$375.00	125.00
5270 Capital Improvements	\$50.00	\$ -	\$ -
5280 Vehicle Maintenance	\$250.00	\$ -	\$ -
5300 Legal Fees	\$500.00	\$200.46	\$100.00
5400 Ministry Expenses	\$100.00	\$ -	\$ -
Christmas Bonus	\$1,500.00	\$ -	\$ -
Subtotal	\$51,465.12	\$10,767.04	\$3,597.58
Total Expenses	\$116,302.62	\$ 24,744.12	\$ 10,730.83
Total Income		\$28,581.10	\$3,926.70
Kingdom B. Transfer for State Minister Salary		\$3,000.00	\$1,000.00
Difference		\$6,836.98	\$(5,804.13)



3461 Fall Hill Avenue, Fredericksburg, VA 22401

(540) 548-0715

rchurch.net

Worship Leader Job Description

– Part Time – Paid

Riverside Vision and Mission

We believe that Riverside was strategically placed by the Lord in order to accomplish God's mission in this World. Our vision for everything is "Let's See What God Can Do."

The Riverside Mission is to be a place where people can to *Come to Jesus – Grow in Jesus – and Bring others to Jesus.*

Riverside Worship Leader Vision

Riverside Church is searching for that uniquely God-called person to join our Leadership Team in a part-time position with a specialty in the area of music, worship, and media. This person will help lead Riverside Church each week to experience the greatness of God and the power of the Holy Spirit. This person will have a great passion for people to come to know Jesus in a personal way. Our next Worship Leader will also be fully bought into our vision and our mission. Riverside's Worship Leader will become a key component in the adventure of what God is doing through Riverside Church.

Overview

Development of our Praise and Worship Team that

- Seeks out and develops gifted people in this ministry

- Helps the congregation understand and experience godly worship
- Assists in the development and oversee aspects of Worship that will strengthen the congregation's experience of God in support Riverside's Vision and Mission

The Right Candidate Must Possess These Primary Strengths/Gifts/Talents

- Strong relationship with Christ that allows one to mentor the congregation in Worship
- Solid background in music, including experience, education, giftedness, and creativity
- Humble acceptance of accountability and submission to the God-given authority of the Senior Pastor and Leadership Council as a member of church staff, ministering the Word of God
- Dependable, reliable, and able to maintain a schedule with little supervision
- Ability to manage others
- Team Player – working with the Leadership of Riverside to develop the ultimate goals of the Church
- Means and willingness to recruit and train volunteer musicians
- Communicate clearly (both in speech and in writing)
- Organizational skills
- Be familiar with or learn Pro-Presenter, Ableton Live, and Planning Center

Responsible to

Senior Pastor, Brian Harrell, and the Riverside Leadership Council

Specific Responsibilities Include

- The Worship Leader is responsible for the development and administrative oversight of the Worship Team and the Sunday morning Worship Service including:
 - **Plan** all elements of weekend services including supervision and coordination with the Media and Sound Ministry Team
 - **Schedule** and **Lead** rehearsals
 - **Communicate** with Senior Pastor, visiting speakers, and other staff to coordinate sermon topic and worship music in an effort to create thematically unified Worship Service elements
 - **Recruit** musicians for the Praise and Worship Team and volunteers for Multimedia Ministries
 - **Train** and **Mentor** all current and new Worship Team members with the goal of attaining a higher standard of musical ability and increase their ability to lead
 - **Attend** weekly Riverside staff meeting

- Management of overall Worship experience, including oversight of the following areas of the worship team:
 - **Dress/Attire** - should be such that the Worship Service is always focused on God and not on what someone in the team is wearing
 - **Reflection** - all Worship Team members should remember that as leaders they are a direct reflection of Riverside Church and should be considered in all their actions, including social networking
 - **Consider** helping our Student Ministry in worship through leading and / or developing a program

Additional Responsibilities

- Lead the Worship Team devotionally during weekly practice times
- Attend & Help at other church events such as outreach, special services as able, etc.

Time Commitment

Negotiable

Compensation:

The compensation packages negotiable depending upon hours and other factors.

How to Apply

Send resume to Karla Breeden at office@rchurch.net attention *WORSHIP LEADER*



3461 Fall Hill Avenue, Fredericksburg, VA 22401

(540) 548-0715

rchurch.net

Director of Kids Ministry Job Description

– Part Time – Paid

Riverside Vision

We believe that Riverside was strategically placed by the Lord in order to accomplish God's mission in this world. We believe that having a dynamic Kids Ministry that is actively leading kids to Jesus, growing kids in Jesus, assisting parents in the spiritual development of their kids, and reaching out to the community is one of our core values of this mission. We want our next Kids Ministry Director to be passionate and a visionary about this mission as well. We have great volunteers, a newly developed space, a wide-open door, and a seasoned support staff to get the right person on their way to a successful ministry.

Riverside Kids Ministry Vision

To create a dynamic, safe, and loving environment where kids will learn to follow Jesus

Psalm 78:4-6 "...we will **tell the next generation** the praiseworthy deeds of the LORD, his power and the wonders he has done....which he commanded our ancestors **to teach their children so that the next generation would know** them....and they in turn would tell their children.

The four foundations of Kids Ministry: I belong – I am safe – I am known – I am loved

Overview

To lead the Kids Ministry of Riverside First Church of God

Responsible to

Senior Pastor

The Right Candidate MUST

- be in a growing and dynamic personal relationship with Jesus Christ
- have a personal passion to see kids come to a personal relationship with Jesus Christ
- have experience organizing teams of adults to accomplish program goals and objectives
- work well in a team environment
- be able to support and contribute to the overall mission of Riverside Church
- be a proactive person with a positive attitude

General Responsibilities Include

- *providing* spiritual leadership to Riverside Kids Ministry and Riverside Church
- *working* with our lead pastor *to achieve* the short and long-term vision of Riverside Church
- *communicating* the vision of Riverside Kids Ministry with Riverside leadership & family
- *providing* direct leadership to Riverside Kids Ministry
- *supervising* volunteers of Riverside Kids Ministry
- *developing* and *creating* a team of leaders for all aspects of Riverside Kids Ministry

Specific Responsibilities Include

- passionately *seeking* God and His call on your life
- *providing* leadership and intentional *oversight* to Kids Ministry in the areas of ministry, personnel, facilities, and finances
- *recruiting, equipping, and empowering* Riverside Kids Ministry Team
- *anticipating* and *addressing* current and projected facility needs
- *managing* financial resources for Riverside Kids Ministry
- *creating* and *implementing* ministry alignment plans and ministry goals for Riverside Kids Ministry that align with the vision and strategic plan of Riverside First Church of God
- actively *participating* in church-led events including Riverside Kids Ministry and / or family-specific, these being both in-reach and out-reach related

- *researching, obtaining, and assuring* our leaders are trained to use chosen curriculum
- recruiting, equipping, and empowering leaders and coaches to build a ministry team to accomplish the vision for Riverside Kids Ministry
- *shepherding* the leaders and coaches of Riverside Kids Ministry and *maintaining* manageable spans of care within the ministry structure
- *attending and participating* in all ministry meetings when requested
- *serving* as a member of our Riverside Ministry Team in other capacities as requested in order to live out and carry out the mission, vision, and values of Riverside First Church of God
- responsibly *completing and managing* other responsibilities deemed necessary by Riverside's Senior Pastor

Time Commitment

20 hours or negotiable