

## **Which Education Path For Ordination Preparation Is Right For Me?**

There are four educational paths available to guide you toward ordination.

1. Seminary Model
2. College/University Model
3. J-Term/Extension Classes/Correspondence/Institute Model
4. Apollos Model

**1. Seminary Model** – This is the best track for a younger person. A seminary education from a solid Biblical centered seminary will give deep roots in character, theology, and practical ministry application. It will also provide leadership that will give wisdom for the many years of ministry that you will have.

**2. College/University Model** – This is the next best, and is a good option. Either a Bible College or a Bible-centered Christian Liberal Arts College/University will serve well to prepare you. Obviously, if you attend a college/university to prepare for ministry, you will need to select a program that has ministry as a major. Make sure your degree is well-rounded with Bible, theology and practical studies.

**3. J-Term/Extension Classes/Correspondence/Institute Model -**

**This path was designed for second career persons**, such as someone in their forties or fifties that has retired and desires to serve the church with their remaining years. Often it is impossible or impractical to pull up roots to go away to a college. And if one is, say 55 years old, to spend seven or eight years in college or seminary may not be the best option.

**This path was not intended for younger persons as a short cut!**

For young persons or those in their teens or twenties, and even early thirties, you should consider a college/university or seminary option. You will be glad you did in the long run!

**4. Apollos Model** – This is the newest path in the Free Methodist Church and was born out of necessity as a result of aggressive church planting efforts.

This path is designed for someone such as an older pastor in a poverty area that does not speak English well and has started multiple churches. He has proven himself, yet language and financial barriers make it impossible to become ordained in a traditional way.

**Rarely will this model be allowed for most in their preparation.**

\* \* \* \* \*

**Important Note:** If attending a college/university or seminary in preparation for ordination in the Free Methodist Church, **be sure the core requirements** that are listed under each model are included in your studies. Core requirements are found on the “Guide For Entry Into The Ordained Ministry”. Often people graduating from Free Methodist colleges/universities with degrees in ministry do **not** have the basic courses needed to be ordained in the Free Methodist Church.