

## **GMDS Student Handbook**

Welcome to Gospel Mission Discipleship School! We believe that God has great plans for each day of your life. Psalm 139:16 tells us that our life was written in His book before we took our first breath. In order to understand God's will and heart for His people, we must be trained and established in truth. Our desire is to inspire you to come alive to God! Empowering you to build his kingdom through the local church!

We want you to make the most of your year with us, so we have established guidelines and boundaries to help reduce distraction and push you toward a pattern of accelerated growth. If you, your family, and/or caregivers have any questions or concerns about our policies we would be happy to address them.

### **What to expect**

Under the Leadership of Gospel Mission Church, **GMDS** is designed to be a discipleship and ministry training centre where students become rooted in God's Word and in their identity in Christ! A place to further develop your personal relationship with Father and learn to live in the fullness of Holy Spirit.

### **Our Mission**

Inspiring students to come alive to God and His kingdom as He builds the local church through them.

## **1. Requirements**

### **Basic**

- a. Be at least 18 years of age by the time you start school
- b. Have successfully completed high school, or have equivalent post-school life and work experience.
- c. Have access to sufficient financial resources to cover your Tuition, accommodation and living expenses.

## **Character**

- a. Be a committed Christian (for at least the last 12 months)
- b. Be a regular and active member of a local church (for at least the last 12 months)
- c. Be living a faithful Christian lifestyle consistent with the scriptures.
- d. Have the physical, emotional, psychological, intellectual health and capacity required to successfully undertake the demands of ministry training.
- e. Agree to the Terms and Conditions as outlined in our Student Handbook, and to conduct themselves according to its requirements, up too and during the period of their enrolment.

## **2. Core Values**

### **Establish**

The greatest gift that God has given us was the invitation to be His son's & daughter's, where we are called children of God through Jesus Christ. Through His love he has established and secured us in Him, giving us a new identity and a new life. We are called to live life by His grace and by being rooted in God's Word.

Galatians 4:6-7 (NIV) Because you are sons (daughters), God sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, the Spirit who calls out, "Abba, Father." 7 So you are no longer a slave, but a son (daughter) ; and since you are a son (daughter), God has made you also an heir.

### **Experience**

Gods greatest desire for us is to know Him personally; to have a personal relationship with Him. We all need to be encountered by Him and we all need to experience Him through prayer, scripture, worship and community so we can live lives to the fullest.

**1 John 1:2-3 (NIV)** The life (Jesus) appeared; we have seen it and testify to it, and we proclaim to you the eternal life, which was with the Father

and has appeared to us. 3 We proclaim to you what we have seen and heard, so that you also may have fellowship with us. And our fellowship is with the Father and with his Son, Jesus Christ.

### **Empower**

God has called us to live a life of purpose & significance through faith - to live for His fame and for His glory. This can only happen through the empowerment of Holy Spirit - when we expect Him to show up and empower us as He did the early church.

Acts 1:8 (NIV) But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth."

### **3. Student Growth**

**Most students come to GMDS for two reasons:**

- a. Develop a deeper relationship with Christ strengthening a foundation that will help them build strong lives.
- b. To become more self aware for the purpose to change areas that would keep them from the Christ-like character they desire.

**Through intentional discipleship and mentoring we are committed to work together with the you to help achieve these goals. These are some of the goals we have for you:**

- a. Walk in an intimate trusting relationship with Christ with a focus on maintaining daily interaction with Him throughout your lives.
- b. Learn how to read, study and love the word of God.
- c. Build the foundations of character and integrity.
- d. Understand the value of work and living a structured, disciplined life.
- e. Discover the value of the local church, and learn how to release the gifts that God has placed in each of them.

f. Develop clear patterns of communication that will serve you in future relationships and career paths you will choose.

g. Value healthy submission to authority and find the safety in living under the protection of the local church.

h. Run to correction and accountability and to live as sons and daughters who understand that correction is not rejection or condemnation.

i. Stretch yourself to experience new opportunities and life experiences.

j. Pursue the heart of God for the world you live in, and discover how to live your lives full of purpose and destiny.

**These are some of the elements that we use to help achieve these goals:**

### **Mentoring**

**Our goal is to see you mentored in faith and life!**

a. Our staff will oversee class and the overall spiritual growth for each student.

### **Curriculum**

a. You will spend time studying the Bible

b. You will be asked to write personal papers on the different topics you study through out the year.

c. Every week you will be given a topic to study found either in Bible, reading material, or through our guest speakers. For more information on the topics we plan to discuss see our School/Student Life section.

d. During our book study you will be required to help summarize and teach the different chapters. Then to prepare and ask questions that will open up a group discussion. So much of our Christian growth comes in these moments when you learn to read, discern and then share how that relates to your own personal life. There are many times in the year that the Holy Spirit will enter the classroom and bring healing, revelation, and impartation during these discussions.

e. You will also have the privilege to sit under the teaching of different staff from GMC as well as special guest speakers teaching on a different areas based on their expertise.

### **Morning Schedule**

8:30-10:00 Worship/Prayer/Bible/Small Group

10:00-10:15 Break

10:15-12:00 Class

### **Afternoon Schedule**

12:00-1:00 Lunch

1:00-2:00 Class Time

2:00-2:15 Break

2:15-3:30 Class

This schedule is followed Tuesday through Thursday. You will also be expected to complete homework assignments, be available for one evening a week and weekend Services. There will a few Saturdays you will be required to attend outreach or service events. We also will expect you to attend up to three weekend retreats. We will do our best to communicate those in advance. Our schedule can filled with activities both planned as well as unexpected. Due to changes in scheduling, flexibility will be necessary.

Our prayer for you is that your commitment to GMDS will result in tremendous growth and transformation in your life. In order to make the best use of this opportunity, it will require you to commit yourself fully to the process. Most Importantly it will be your commitment to God for the entire year.

### **Worship**

- a. Twice a week we gather in our classroom from 8:30-9:00am to worship and pray. We believe that the role this time plays in the development of your life is an important part of growing a healthy relationship with Christ. Through these face to face encounters with God he will challenge and transform us to hear his heart.

## **Practical Involvement**

- a. One key element in the training of a disciple is servanthood. The students will learn to notice needs around them, and learn to work hard without complaining. These are some of the serving opportunities the students will be given in a year:
  - Serving in the Church during week or weekend in various projects, or ministries
  - Outreach/Serving to local and surrounding community and ministry organizations.

## **Church Involvement**

- a. We believe that the Church is the hope of the world. We desire to teach you to love the local church and to make church life a top priority in your lives. A vital part of the program is to immerse you into the church life of Gospel Mission Church. These are the functions we attend as a program:
  - Church services
  - Staff prayer meetings
  - Mid-week and other special meetings
  - Social functions
  - Youth and young adult meetings
  - Retreats and conferences – these are all included in the price of tuition.

## **Relationships**

- a. Students - When you graduate from GMDS, one of the main gifts we desire you take with you are the relationships formed during the year. Our hope is the friendships you make will continue for the sake of encouragement and accountability they need to stay strong in their faith and commitments.
- b. Leaders – For those who are interested, the relationships you develop with the leaders of the program could also continue through your major life choices. We would love to see our mentoring continue as you choose a spouse, make decisions about career paths, or face crisis as it arises in your life.

## 4. Guidelines for Personal Growth and Accountability

a. The year is full of activities and events. Each student, as well as their family, needs to plan to dedicate themselves to the schedule. In order to help you get the most out of your year we ask that you make every effort to attend all classes and retreats! We understand that events come up that cannot be planned (funerals, family weddings, doctor appointments etc), and ask that students communicate with the staff as soon as possible so allowances can be made for your absence.

b. In order for you to thrive and get the most out of your year we encourage you to be disciplined in getting enough sleep. On average we need 8 hours a night to function at our best mentally and emotionally.

c. We ask that you set high standards for yourself in the area of movies, TV, video games, and music. In order for us to be healthy spiritually we need to base these decisions on God moral standards he has set for our good

d. We ask that you consider limiting your amount of time spend on Social Media, this includes time spent playing video games and watching TV or movies.

e. In case of sickness we ask that you notify us the night before to excuse your absence if possible.

f. To help maintain good health, we encourage you to maintain a healthy diet including regular exercise.

g. No alcohol, drugs or tobacco should be consumed during your year at GMDS.

h. We expect you to abstain from any biblically immoral practices including drunkenness, stealing, slanderous or profane language, dishonesty, premarital sex, pornography, occult practices, or any other behaviour that is detrimental to our Christian character or witness.

Any behaviour that that does not reflect biblical character and the guidelines outlined in the Student Handbook will result in disciplinary action.

Any behaviour that compromises the welfare of a staff or student will result in the immediate termination of enrolment.

## **5. Relationship Guidelines**

a. GMDS has a no in school dating policy for the entire year of training. With these guidelines, it will be easier for you to get to know one another as brothers and sisters and become a unified group of disciples. If you are not dating at the time you commit to the school, we ask that you would consider not pursuing a dating relationship outside of school as well. These guidelines are designed to reduce distraction, strengthen your relationship with the Lord, and to help protect your integrity as disciples.

b. A date is when two people of the opposite sex arrange to get together, either alone or in a small group setting. There will be no pairing off of students of the opposite sex while in group settings (church services, daily routines, youth activities, social gatherings, etc.).

c. The affection shown to any individual is expected to be the same shown to all individuals. This means we ask that no special attention be shown to any member of the opposite sex for the duration of the school year.

d. A male and a female may not ride alone in a vehicle unless it is necessary for carpool and the staff is aware of that need.

e. Any questions regarding the guidelines for relationships need to be directed to the leadership.

We understand that feelings can develop for classmates throughout the year. We ask that if this is the case, you talk to a member on staff about it, not other classmates.

## **6. Dress Guidelines**

As a GMDS student you are considered ministers representing Jesus Christ. As Christians, the way we present ourselves to others affects the way they perceive Christ, and may affect the impact we have upon them. You will be asked to maintain high standards of cleanliness, grooming and modest dress.



## **7. General**

### **Clothing**

- a. All clothes must be modest, not tight, clean and kept in good condition.
- b. Classroom setting - Casual dress is acceptable most class days. We may ask everyone to dress more formally when we have special events. You will be given clear instructions when the time comes. Yoga wear worn appropriately is fine. Shorts may be worn during the spring/summer time, but they must be modest. No cut-offs, short-shorts or tight shorts.
- c. Modest, one-piece bathing suits or tankinis for women and modest shorts for men when swimming.

### **Medical Policy**

- a. If you have any medical problems or chronic conditions, please let us know. This will better equip us to care for you in case of an emergency.
- b. Treatment for any non-emergent conditions will need to be taken care of during the student's free time. We request that minor dental work or minor medical procedures be scheduled during off days .

## **8. Miscellaneous Guidelines**

- a. Dependability, and punctuality is a key in growing your leadership potential. You are required to be on time and prepared for scheduled events and classes.
- b. In order to help you focus on your growth and to protect your health. We strongly encourage you to keep your schedule from being overloaded with extra activities. We do allow you to have part time jobs providing they don't interfere with school activities. In case of a scheduling conflict please contact a staff member as soon as possible.

c. You are asked to respect the Sabbath principle and give the staff a day off on Sat/Sun. Before calling or texting, the students need to ask themselves, "Is this an emergency?" or "Could this wait until a school day?" This will ensure that the staff has a day to rest and prepare for the week.

d. Students need to follow proper government when giving and receiving prophetic words (this includes "I feel" statements). Words should be judged when they are given unless the person giving the prophetic word is a pastor or a recognized leader in the church. If a student wants to give a prophetic word of any sort, someone who is qualified to judge the word as they give it must accompany them. If no one is there to judge the word, the student needs to write it down and submit it to a leader before giving it.

e. Students may pray for and minister to those of the same gender only. If a student wants to pray for a member of the opposite sex they can ask a staff member to accompany them.

f. Students are responsible to keep the GMDS facility clean. Books and personal belongings need to be cleaned up at the end of the school day. The office area is for staff use only. Please knock and wait to be acknowledged before entering any of the staff offices.

g. Students are asked to show respect by being quiet near the church offices.

h. During any study time, please respect your classmates by keeping the noise level to a minimum so that they can concentrate.

i. The food in the coolers and the cupboards are not for personal consumption, with exception to the condiments. Bring food from home and label it if you eating lunch at church and store it in the appropriate cooler.

j. Food will be permitted at certain times in the classroom.

## **9. Entering Student Requirements**

### **The Application**

- a. Start by filling out the application form provided found under the "Apply" Tab and email it back to us.

### **References**

- a. You will be required to provide personal as well as pastoral references.
- b. Your parent/guardian will also be asked to answer a few questions.  
Interview
- c. After your application has been submitted including references we will contact you to schedule an interview. After your interview, we aim to have the application decision within two weeks.

### **Regular Tuition**

- a. Tuition cost for the year will be \$3000. Full payment is due on July 1. Tuition will cover the cost of books, student note book, retreats, church seminars, any local trips, and administrative expenses.

### **Deposit**

A non-refundable, deposit of \$250 is due within 30 days of your acceptance email, or immediately if you are accepted after July 1. Your deposit counts towards your tuition costs for the year and secures your place in school.

### **What to bring**

Students will be Required to bring a bible, pens, highlighters, and notebook for taking notes. A tablet or laptop may be used to for the purpose of taking notes as well.