



Shepherd Centre: Faculty of Theology & Religion

SHORT LEARNING PROGRAMMES

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*Inspiring excellence,
transforming lives
through quality,
impact, and care.*

VISION 130
*Renew and Reimagine
for 2034*

UNIVERSITY OF THE
FREE STATE
UNIVERSITEIT VAN DIE
VRYSTAAT
YUNIBESITHI YA
FREISTATA



UFS
THEOLOGY AND RELIGION
SHEPHERD CENTRE

Greetings,

Thank you for your interest in the Short Learning Programmes (SLPs) offered by the Shepherd Centre: Faculty of Theology and Religion.

The Shepherd Centre, a unit within the Faculty of Theology and Religion at the University of the Free State, is dedicated to supporting and empowering spiritual leaders. We have recently rebranded, and our new vision is to be a globally recognised Centre known for creating a thriving religious community guided by ethical leadership, spiritual understanding, global impact, and accountability. Our mission is to empower and support spiritual leaders through high-quality training, leadership development, and proactive change management initiatives. We aim to equip individuals with the necessary knowledge, skills, and spiritual guidance to serve their communities effectively, promoting spiritual growth, unity, and service.

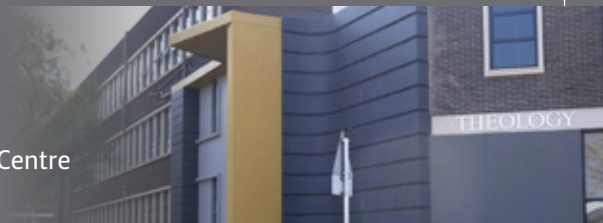
At the Shepherd Centre, we offer new and exciting Short Learning Programmes designed to address the needs of the religious community we serve. Our programmes not only provide participants with knowledge in the field but also help them develop the skills necessary to serve their communities more efficiently. Participants will earn recognisable qualifications that can be used for Recognition of Prior Learning (RPL) towards further studies in the Faculty of Theology and Religion.

We hope you find an SLP that interests you and supports your theological development. For admission requirements and more information about our programmes, please contact our office at Shepherd@ufs.ac.za or 051 401 9254.

Regards,

Ms Sinovuyo Mogwasi

PROJECT COORDINATOR | Shepherd Centre
FACULTY | Theology and Religion



Name of Programme	CHRISTIAN LEADERSHIP IN CONTEMPORARY CONTEXT
Duration	6-8 weeks
Mode of Delivery	Online
Course Fee	R2 000.00
Brief Description of the programme	<p>The main content of this SLP is about understanding the essence of leadership particularly from a Christian perspective. The approach to leadership studies in this SLP is contextual because even though Biblical understanding of leadership is essential, it is engaged in the context of African context and developments in the organizational leadership studies. In order to assist participants to understand the essence of leadership; knowledge content is provided on the themes such as conceptual understanding of leadership, core functions and methods of leadership, the character of leadership and interaction of a leader and follower. This knowledge content is structured in such a way that it challenges participants' conceptual understanding of leadership in order to bring about mind shift in the understanding of the essence of Christian leadership. The SLP does not end with only providing knowledge content of Christian leadership, it also mobilises participants towards linking knowledge acquired from the SLP with practice. This means students through teaching and learning activities are encouraged to link and reflect on their experience of leadership within the context of the knowledge acquired from this SLP. Again, from this SLP participants are also provided with skills of dealing with conflicts and exercising a positive influence on their followers and context. These skills are provided with a purpose that participants must be able to apply them in their own context and enhance their leadership influence and impact.</p>

OVERVIEW OF COURSE LAYOUT

	NAME OF LEARNING UNIT
Learning unit 1	Definition of leadership
Learning unit 2	Functions and methods of Christian leadership
Learning unit 3	Character of Christian leadership
Learning unit 4	Christian leadership and its practice of influence
Learning unit 5	Interaction of a Christian leader and follower
Learning unit 6	Christian leadership and conflict



Name of Programme	INTRODUCTION TO THE BIBLE
Duration	6-8 weeks
Mode of Delivery	Online
Course Fee	R1 700.00
Brief Description of the programme	<p>This SLP offers an Introduction to Biblical Literature.</p> <p>The nature of the Bible is explained, with a focus on the fact that the Bible gives us knowledge, shows us how to live, reveals the way of salvation, reveals God and is an inspired document. This is followed by a greater focus on the Old Testament. Here the student is taught about the origins of the Old Testament. Attention is then given to the nature of the books of the Law, the Historical Books, the Writings and the Prophets. The last segment focuses on the New Testament. The participant is introduced to the origins of the Gospels, and the relationship between the Gospels is explained. Focus then moves to the Gospel according to Matthew, the Acts of the Apostles and Paul's Letter to the Romans.</p>

OVERVIEW OF COURSE LAYOUT

	NAME OF LEARNING UNIT
Learning unit 1	The Nature of the Bible A
Learning unit 2	The Nature of the Bible B
Learning unit 3	The Old Testament A
Learning unit 4	The Old Testament B
Learning unit 5	The New Testament A
Learning unit 6	The New Testament B



Name of Programme	EFFECTIVE BIBLE TEACHING TO CHILDREN
Duration	6–8 weeks
Mode of Delivery	Online
Course Fee	R1 700.00
Brief Description of the programme	In this SLP participants will be empowered with basic knowledge to plan and implement an effective biblical ministry to and with children. The purpose of the SLP is to empower participants with the knowledge and skills to lead a successful children's ministry and in this way, make a positive impact on children's lives, families, faith communities and society.

OVERVIEW OF COURSE LAYOUT

	NAME OF LEARNING UNIT
Learning unit 1	The developmental journey of children
Learning unit 2	The faith journey of children
Learning unit 3	The Bible – what Children need to know
Learning unit 4	The Bible lesson – how to teach Children
Learning unit 5	The key to effective children's ministry relationships
Learning unit 6	The key to success – planning and management



Name of Programme	CHRISTIAN RITUAL AS A VERBAL AND NON-VERBAL PHENOMENON
Duration	12 weeks
Mode of Delivery	Online
Course Fee	R3 950.00
Brief Description of the programme	In this SLP, the participants will be introduced to rituals as powerful verbal and non-verbal phenomena that can be used to create contextual, transcultural- and countercultural worship events. There will be a specific focus on the different ritual opportunities in Christian worship to educate, comfort, celebrate and bring hope

OVERVIEW OF COURSE LAYOUT

	NAME OF LEARNING UNIT
Learning unit 1	Rituals as a verbal and non-verbal phenomenon
Learning unit 2	Christian rituals
Learning unit 3	Rituals in the worship service
Learning unit 4	Rituals in Holy Communion
Learning unit 5	Pastoral care through ritual dynamics of liturgy and pastoral care.



Name of Programme	PRACTICAL THEOLOGY IN A FAST-CHANGING ENVIRONMENT
Duration	12 weeks
Mode of Delivery	Online
Course Fee	R3 950.00
Brief Description of the programme	In this SLP, participants will be introduced to Practical Theology both as a discipline and basis for effective Christian ministry. Principles of Practical Theology will be used to explore multiple levels of pastoral care practices that can be used in fast-changing and extreme contexts.

OVERVIEW OF COURSE LAYOUT

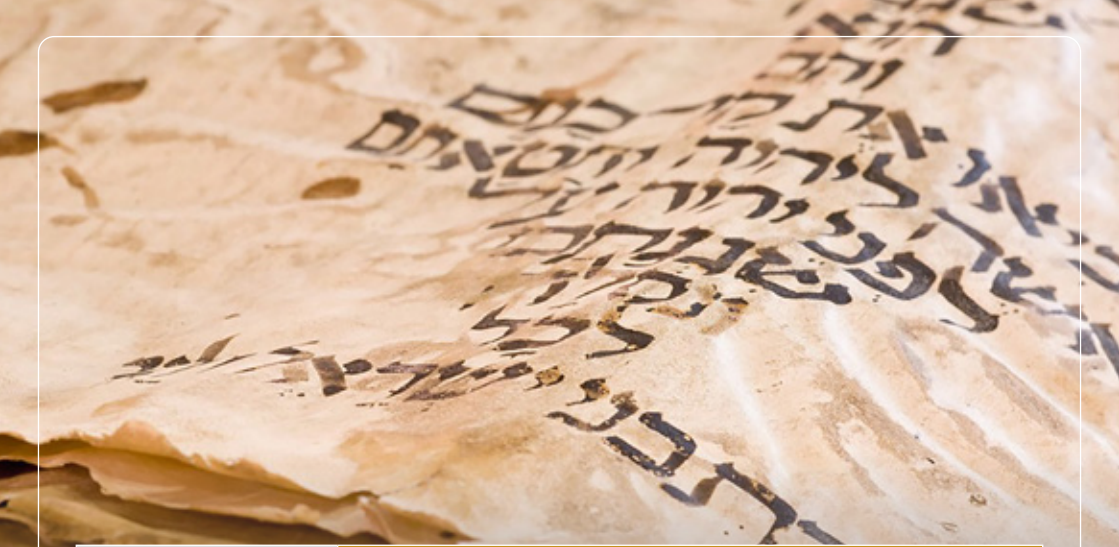
	NAME OF LEARNING UNIT
Learning unit 1	Basics of Practical Theology
Learning unit 2	Knowledge and Practice: Practical Theology in the church
Learning unit 3	Care through pastoral ministry
Learning unit 4	Care for the church and the self-ministry
Learning unit 5	Care in extreme contexts: Ministry in a fast-changing environment



Name of Programme	BURIAL RITES IN THE AFRICAN CONTEXT
Duration	12 weeks
Mode of Delivery	Online
Course Fee	R3 900.00
Brief Description of the programme	In this SLP, attention will be given to grieving, mourning, and funeral rites in the African context. African spirituality and worship will also be studied, and participants will be empowered to consider the African context when planning the Christian burial service and liturgy to effectively minister during the funeral event.

OVERVIEW OF COURSE LAYOUT

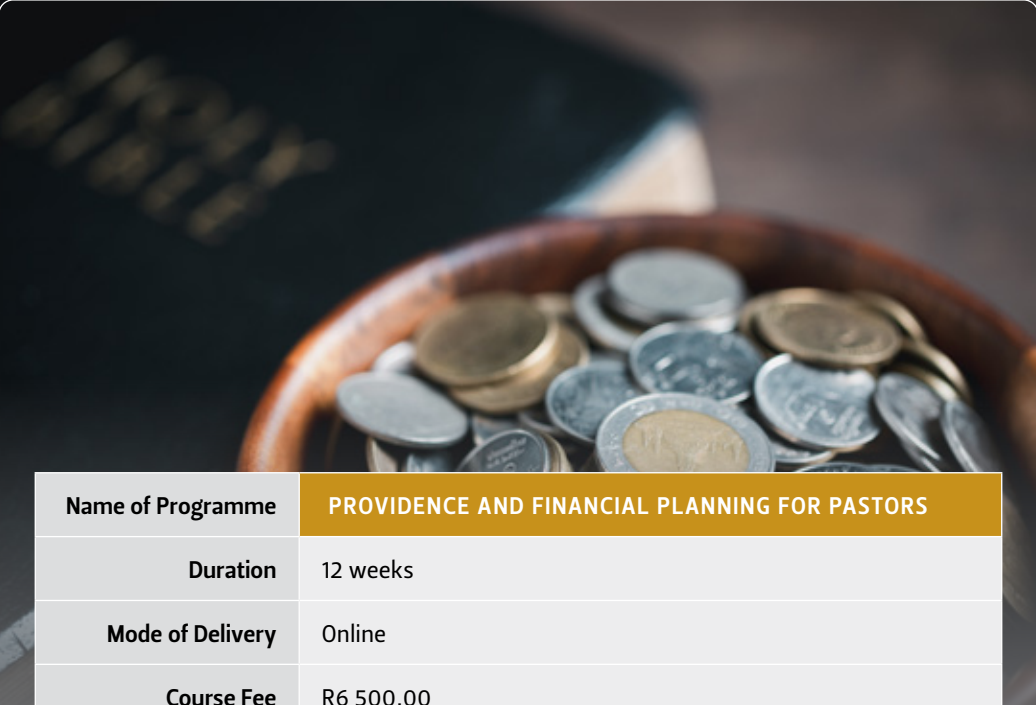
	NAME OF LEARNING UNIT
Learning unit 1	Mourning and Grieving in Africa
Learning unit 2	Christian Burial Rites
Learning unit 3	African Spirituality
Learning unit 4	African Burial Rites
Learning unit 5	Integration: African Burial Rites and Christian Burial Rites



Name of Programme	INTERPRETING THE BIBLE: A HISTORICAL OVERVIEW AND A PRACTICAL EXECUTION
Duration	12 weeks
Mode of Delivery	Online
Course Fee	R4 000.00
Brief Description of the programme	In this SLP, participants will be introduced to the history, theory and principles of exegesis and hermeneutics as basic tools for Biblical interpretation. Participants will also be equipped to apply these principles to both Old and New Testament texts in the act of interpretation.

OVERVIEW OF COURSE LAYOUT

	NAME OF LEARNING UNIT
Learning unit 1	Hermeneutics
Learning unit 2	Exegesis
Learning unit 3	Exegesis of a New Testament text
Learning unit 4	A Structural-Historical Exegesis of an Old Testament text
Learning unit 5	Hermeneutics on a New Testament text



Name of Programme	PROVIDENCE AND FINANCIAL PLANNING FOR PASTORS
Duration	12 weeks
Mode of Delivery	Online
Course Fee	R6 500.00
Brief Description of the programme	This SLP provides the participant with the opportunity to explore the theological relationship between the Bible and financial management and equips them with the necessary knowledge and skills to manage their budget, debt and investments while planning for retirement.

OVERVIEW OF COURSE LAYOUT

	NAME OF LEARNING UNIT
Learning unit 1	MONEY: A Theological Overview
Learning unit 2	BUDGETING: Managing my money
Learning unit 3	DEBT: Managing my debt to achieve financial freedom
Learning unit 4	INVESTING: growing and managing my wealth
Learning unit 5	PROPERTY: my home and my investments
Learning unit 6	RETIREMENT: Financial stress-free retirement