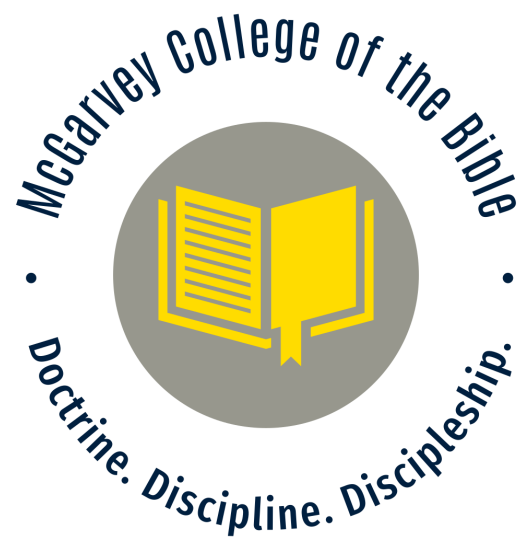




GRADUATE SCHOOL CATALOG

2025 – 2026

McGarvey College of the Bible

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Purpose and Philosophy

The purpose of McGarvey College of the Bible (MCOB) is to assist churches of Christ worldwide in equipping ministers who have graduated from a school of preaching or undergraduate college to gain an increased knowledge and capability for teaching the word of God. In this sense, we are unique. We are a graduate school designed specifically for graduates of schools of preaching around the world.

The institution is also interested in helping bi-vocational preachers continue their ministerial education. We recognize the need and desire of those limited by time restraints and location to learn in a college-level setting. Our schedule and online program are crafted to cater to these needs by offering a flexible study method.

The philosophy guiding MCOB is wholly devoted to New Testament Christianity and the defense of holy scripture as the inspired word of God. Everything we intend to do is dedicated to Christ, His word, and His church. We steadfastly promote the plea to return to New Testament Christianity through obedience to the gospel of Jesus Christ and the gospel alone. We believe that every generation needs “a voice crying in the wilderness” (Isaiah 40:3). We intend to be a “voice” for our generation and generations to come. Our voice will be heard through the work of our teachers and graduates worldwide as we are strengthened with might in our inner man by the Holy Spirit. We desire to call our world, our countries, our communities, our families, and when necessary, our congregations to faith, repentance, and obedience. Our plea is for a return to the “old paths” (Jeremiah 6:16). We believe in providing a truly distinctive school, not yielding to denominational doctrines or the men who teach them. We intend to conduct a school that says,

“Here we stand, and we will stand immovable.” We hope to do so with great courage, enthusiasm, and strength that can come only from God.

Statement of Accreditation

MCOB receives no government funding. Our standing in the Lord’s church affirms our credentials and supports our work financially. We are determined and blessed not to seek any remuneration from the United States or the government. We are not bound by any of the rules they seek to impose upon educational institutions in general and Bible programs specifically. Our “rule book” is the Holy Bible. While we appreciate the intention of the government accrediting associations to ensure that degrees granted are legitimate, our legitimacy comes from the students we train and the work they do in the kingdom. Legitimacy of this nature is of the highest regard in our estimation and is sufficient for MCOB.

MCOB does not seek government funding due to the current threat such funding would have on the truth of biblical teaching and training. As recently as 2021-22, the 117th Congress passed House Resolution 5 – a.k.a., “The Equality Act.” We fear this and other such resolutions could be destructive to the nature of Christian education and accredited educational institutions as we know them. Our conviction is to stay clear of government regulations and resolutions that could inhibit our ability and effectiveness to train gospel preachers. Therefore, MCOB will not seek or accept any interference from any governing body that could have a detrimental effect on the stated purpose of MCOB.

The Need for Gospel Preachers

The church needs preachers. It must also be understood that the church needs the right kind of preachers. We need properly taught and trained preachers. The question must then be raised

about what kind of education the preacher needs most to be properly equipped for ministry. The answer given usually depends upon one's personal reflection of what the preacher ought to be and do. Schools training gospel preachers must be decisive and distinctive in teaching New Testament Christianity. MCOB's dedication to the Lord, His word, and His church must never be questioned by our faithful brethren. We believe the following eight areas are critical.

Gospel Preaching and Exhortation

Gospel preachers commonly hear statements like, "I have not heard preaching like that in 50 years." Or "He is a good teacher, and a nice person, but not much of a preacher." Primarily, the work of the gospel preacher is preaching. He must be able to communicate the word of God clearly. He must be able to do so in a way that encourages the saved and causes the lost to tremble, while knowing that God longs to rescue them. We need this preaching today. We will always need this kind of preaching.

The men training these students must first be preachers of this caliber. Every teacher in a program specializing in training future gospel preachers should first have the ability and longing to preach the gospel. We aim not to employ men to teach based on their academic credentials alone but primarily on their faithfulness to God and faithful service in His kingdom.

Expository and Exegetical Bible Teaching

The church is responsible for teaching God's word. Preachers play a vital role. Preachers must know how to prepare stimulating lessons that provoke thought and allow the text to enlighten the hearer. Preachers will be called upon to teach saints who are often their seniors. The only way to edify souls so grounded and knowledgeable in the word of God is to study hard, dig into the scriptures, and communicate the lesson clearly. Such lessons require word studies, clearly outlining

the text, and offering practical applications in the modern day. Preachers must be prepared to teach in such a way as to help everyone grow in the grace and knowledge of the Lord.

To teach and preach this way, one must know the Bible. In addition to our faculty and mentoring program, we offer our students one of the finest digital libraries in the world, comprising thousands of volumes of commentaries, sermon books, word studies, debates, and periodicals.

Soul Winning

A gospel preacher must be a soul winner. Not only must preachers know how to study and prepare their lessons, but they must also know how to bring a lost soul to Christ. The common man must hear him gladly. Our congregations must grow. While the preacher must not bear sole responsibility for church growth, he should catalyze growth. Our focus is not on academic accomplishments alone, but more importantly, on training men to be soul winners in God's kingdom.

Polemics and Defense of the Gospel

While debating is not as common as it once was, a gospel preacher must continue to be prepared to give a defense (1 Peter 3:15). The preacher will encounter false doctrines in private and public settings. Additionally, he will encounter honest questions from members who have heard or read false doctrines elsewhere. Moreover, learning how to debate will help a preacher learn to present the truth logically and in propositional form, which can be easily understood. Doing so will require a strong knowledge of denominational doctrines and biblical answers. Each class will emphasize truth and refute error.

Writing for Publication

Publishing written material has been an essential element of the Restoration Movement since its beginning. Our preachers must continue to write. They must be able to write effectively and correctly for journals, books, church bulletins, newspaper articles, and various other forms of print media. Every class emphasizes the students' ability to communicate their thoughts in writing, public speaking, and teaching. Communicating one's thoughts through writing will only enhance one's ability to communicate one's thoughts when speaking. Furthermore, through his writings, he can help people he may never meet, and for years to come. The MCOB library consists of hundreds of issues of periodicals dating to the beginning of the Restoration Movement in America. Familiarity with this literature will be required of the students.

Godly Character and Christian Manhood

The preacher must take heed unto himself so that he can take heed to the doctrine of Christ (1 Tim. 4:16). He must be a man of God – a man of sound moral integrity. His primary concern must be getting to heaven and taking as many people with him as possible. He must not be like the Pharisees who did not live according to their teachings (cf. Matthew 23:1–2). Instead, he must be able to say as Paul, “Do as I do, and the God of peace will be with you” (Phil. 4:9).

Work Ethic

The preacher must not be lazy. He must set the right example. He must use his time wisely and effectively to stay current with the needs of his local ministry, family, personal study, and personal time.

Ministry in the Local Congregation

The gospel preacher must do all he can to unite the Lord's church in biblical principles. He must love every member, help whom he can, and honor faithful elders. He will often be frustrated, and he must learn to deal with these frustrations while continuing to be an effective servant-leader in his local work. MCOB has selected faculty who excel in these areas. The mastery of these principles requires a lifetime of continued application and improvement. With the right education and by providing students with the proper examples, guidance, instruction, and friendship, MCOB stands ready to help the man of God reach his goal to be such a servant of the Lord.

The purpose, philosophy, and goals of McGarvey College of the Bible align with those of faithful schools of the Restoration Movement, both past and present.



General Information

Students invited to enroll in MCOB will be selected by the administration and faculty based on their proven capability in an undergraduate school of preaching or a Christian university equivalent from schools associated with the churches of Christ. Exceptions may be made for ministers with at least ten years of experience or exceptional potential to complete the program. Ministerial experience may be considered equivalent to undergraduate scholastic achievement in such cases.

Admission Requirements

To receive admission into MCOB's graduate program in Christian Doctrine, graduates of a school of preaching or undergraduate program must submit all transcripts to the Office of Admissions for review. In addition, prospective students must submit a letter of recommendation from the director, dean, or professor of the school from which he has graduated OR a letter of recommendation from a church leader (preacher, elder, or professor in a biblical studies program).

Ten students per country are enrolled every two years. Each class studies the same courses together each semester throughout the program. When a class has finished the program and graduated, the next class of ten students begins their studies. No more than ten students will be enrolled in the program in a particular country at one time.

Students will have thirteen weeks to complete all assignments each semester. Two courses will be offered per semester. Each class session will last for three hours once per week, containing two hours of instruction and one hour to work on in-class assignments. Completed assignments

will be posted in the Google Classroom online platform for grading and record keeping. The instructor will return the grades to the student upon completing each class.

Students can expect to dedicate 135 hours per class per semester to a combination of in-class instructional time and out-of-class research time. Six semesters, twelve classes, and thirty-six semester hours are required to complete the program.

Non-Discrimination Policy

McGarvey College of the Bible admits students of any race, color, nationality, or ethnic origin to all the rights, privileges, programs, and activities generally available to the school's students. It does not discriminate based on race, color, national origin, or ethnic origin in its educational policies, scholarship and financial aid, or other school-administered programs.

Academic Probation and Dismissal

MCOB is a scholarship-based school. Enrollment is selective, limited to ten students per class per country. No tuition is required for any student. If a student chooses not to attend or complete the assignments, the scholarship will be revoked, and the student will be dismissed from the program. The student will be responsible for returning the laptop granted from MCOB (if he has received one). Students must maintain a GPA of 3.0 to remain in the program.

Should a student fail to meet the criteria set forth by MCOB for one semester, the student will be placed on academic probation. If the student fails to meet the requirements a second time, the student will be dismissed from MCOB. The student can apply for re-entry to the program at a future date, but readmission to the program is not guaranteed.

Students selected for the program will be approved by the Selection Committee, which consists of the Board of Directors, the President, and the Extension Coordinator of the country from which the student is applying.

Student Grievances and Appeals

No appeal or complaint shall be filed unless the student complaining has requested an informal meeting with the supervisor having the authority to resolve the grievance within fifteen calendar days following the occurrence giving rise to the grievance. The student requiring the meeting shall make themselves available at the supervisor's convenience.

If the issue is unresolved, the faculty member will request a hearing before an Appeals Committee. The Appeals Committee shall conduct an inquiry into the complaint as it deems appropriate and shall have fifteen working days in which to make a final decision on the matter. The decision will be communicated in writing directly to the parties involved. The parties involved each have five working days after receipt of the decision to accept or reject the decision or work out an alternative solution.

Should either of the parties reject the decision of the Appeals Committee, they may appeal that decision to the President within five working days thereafter, who will render a final decision within five additional working days. An agreement of the parties involved may extend the time limits specified in the complaint procedures above, but when so extended, the extension shall be in writing to all parties. All proceedings regarding complaints will be closed and confidential to protect the parties and MCOB. Records are maintained in the offices of MCOB.

General Regulations

Conduct according to Christian principles is required of all students and must coincide with the objectives of MCOB. If a student's behavior is proven to reflect poorly on the school, the student will be reprimanded in writing. If, after 30 days, there is no evidence of change, the student will be dismissed (unless earlier and more decisive action is called for as set out in these regulations). Any student who has been dismissed but has completely overcome or corrected the reasons for the dismissal may make an application to enroll again. To be readmitted, the student must again meet all the initial entrance requirements. All associated with MCOB (students and faculty alike) are expected to conduct themselves honestly and uprightly with everyone. The moral standard is to be of the highest possible caliber.

Grading

The following symbols are used on the students' permanent records for all courses in which they are enrolled after the initial registration and schedule adjustment period: A, B, C, D, F. These marks will remain on a student's permanent record and may be changed only if the original instructor certifies that an actual mistake was made in reporting or recording the grade.

The significance of the grade symbols is as follows: "A" denotes excellent comprehension of the subject and outstanding scholarship. "B" denotes good comprehension of the subject. "C" denotes acceptable comprehension. "D" denotes borderline understanding of the subject and does not represent satisfactory progress toward a degree. "F" denotes failure to gain an adequate comprehension of the subject.

Applying for Asterisks

An asterisk (*) following a letter grade denotes an exceptional, temporary grade. The allowance of an asterisk is solely the decision of the instructor. It is given only when, because of illness or other circumstances beyond the student's control, the student has been unable to complete a portion of the work of the course. The following rules must be observed:

1. Students should make every effort to complete assigned work within the semester and should not assume that an asterisk grade will be granted.
2. Students are expected to email their instructors as soon as problems occur and attempt to work through them during the semester.
3. Asterisk (*) grades are issued to allow students to complete a portion of the work of the course and are not a substitute for a withdrawal, the appropriate action for students who have not done any work.
4. Students may not request asterisk (*) grades in consecutive semesters.
5. Students may not request, nor may faculty issue, asterisk grades after all work in the class has been completed.
6. Asterisk (*) grades may be assigned only for "C," "D," or "F" grades.
7. Asterisk (*) grades of "C", "D", "F" cannot be changed to an "A" grade.
8. A "B" grade is the maximum grade adjustment.
9. Asterisk (*) grades of "C", "D", which have been officially recorded by the academic dean, may not be lowered by the instructor.
10. Asterisk (*) grades are to be given only for exceptional and documented hardship cases, such as illness or having to relocate within the semester.
11. The student has until Friday, 5 pm CST, of week five of the following semester to finish all remaining assignments. The instructor will report the grade change to the academic dean within the following week.

12. Following the period of grace, all asterisks (*) will be removed the day after semester grades are reported, leaving the student with the letter grade without the (*).

- a. An asterisk (*) grade must be requested between weeks 10–14 of the semester for which the grade is asked.
- b. Students should not assume that the submission of the request constitutes a granting of an asterisk grade.
- c. Issuing an asterisk grade assumes that all information on the request is accurate. Asterisks will be rescinded if it is later determined that the student's information was incorrect.
- d. Asterisk grade assignments are at the discretion of the course instructor.

Instructors are not required to participate in issuing (*) grades. Instructors maintain consistent practices within their courses, but they will differ among instructors and programs. The decision to issue an asterisk grade rests with the individual instructor.



Our school namesake is John William (J.W.) McGarvey (1829-1911). Brother McGarvey was an outstanding educator at the College of the Bible in Lexington, Kentucky and a prolific writer. He was known throughout the world as a tremendous student of the scriptures and a defender of their inspiration.

At McGarvey College of the Bible, students can expect to study his works as well as others from likeminded men of faith. Many of Brother McGarvey's books have remained in print for well over 100 years.

Just as did brother McGarvey, everyone associated with MCOB holds firmly to their conviction in the inspiration and authority of the Bible.

Curriculum

The usual course of study in schools of preaching focuses on a general survey of the books of the Bible, along with an introduction to hermeneutics and occasionally some introductory work in the original languages. The curriculum at MCOB advances from this methodology to concentrate on the doctrines of the Bible. We move from the text of Scripture in general to the teachings and context of Scripture in particular. The Master of Arts in Christian Doctrine comprises twelve courses in doctrinal studies totaling thirty-six semester hours. Classes meet once a week for thirteen weeks each semester. Each class consists of two hours of instruction and one hour for student assignments.

Required Courses		Credit Hours
TH 5101	Introduction to Graduate Studies in Theology	3
TH 5102	Theology and Scripture	3
TH 5203	Theology and Ministry	3
TH 5204	The Biblical Doctrine of the Godhead	3
TH 5305	The Biblical Doctrine of the Bible	3
TH 5306	The Biblical Doctrine of Man, Sin, and Salvation	3
TH 5407	The Biblical Doctrine of the Church	3
TH 5408	The Biblical Doctrine of Last Things	3
TH 5509	Old Testament Theology	3
TH 5510	New Testament Theology	3

TH 5611	Theology throughout Church History	3
TH 5612	Theology of the Restoration Movement	3
Total Courses – 12		Total Hours – 36

Program of Study

First Year

Spring Semester

TH 5101 Introduction to Graduate Studies in Theology: Research methodologies with an emphasis on the discipline of theology; a primer for the program

TH 5102 Theology and Scripture: Studies in Advanced Hermeneutics; expounds upon the connection between biblical hermeneutics and theology

Summer Semester

TH 5203 Theology and Ministry: Intends to help students bridge the gap between theological studies in the classroom and their application in ministry.

TH 5204 Biblical Doctrine of the Godhead: Study of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit: Triune nature, attributes, characteristics, and works.

Fall Semester

TH 5305 Biblical Doctrine of the Bible: Study of the inspiration, canonicity, and development of the Holy Scriptures.

TH 5306 Biblical Doctrines of Man, Sin, and Salvation: Study of man's origin, duty, and destiny; study of the origin, effects, and results of sin; study of the eternal plan of God to save man from sin and destruction

Second Year

Spring Semester

TH 5407 Biblical Doctrine of the Church: Study of the founding, organization, and purpose of the church of Christ.

TH 5408 Biblical Doctrine of the Last Things: Study of things related to the second coming of Christ, the resurrection of the dead, final judgment, and eternity.

Summer Semester

TH 5509 Old Testament Theology: Analyses and applications of the theological message of the Old Testament.

TH 5510 New Testament Theology: Analysis and applications of the theological message of the New Testament

Fall Semester

TH 5611 Theology throughout Church History: Study of the most prominent men, events, writings, and doctrines in the discipline of theology throughout church history

TH 5612 Theology of the Restoration Movement: Study of the most prominent men, events, writings, and doctrines in the discipline of theology associated with the Restoration Movement.

School Calendar

Spring Semester begins each year on the second Monday in January and continues until the thirteen weeks of class meetings are concluded.

The Summer Semester begins each year on the first Monday in June and continues until the thirteen weeks of class meetings are concluded.

The Fall Semester begins on the second Monday in September and continues until the thirteen weeks of class meetings are concluded.

Graduations are conducted every other December following completion of the program in the students' home country, where the extension of MCOB is located.



McGarvey College of the Bible utilizes online modules to facilitate learning for students actively engaged in full-time ministries and bi-vocational careers.

Courses meet once per week and are conducted by teachers of the highest caliber.

Sharpening Iron: Student and Alumni Mentoring Program



The faculty at MCOB are both teachers and mentors to the student body. Every teacher is an experienced full-time minister. They seek to use their experience to foster healthy student mentoring relationships. MCOB believes that mentoring enhances one's

life and work as a minister with benefits including better productivity, job satisfaction, longer tenure, increased leadership development, avoidance of burnout, and improved physical health.

Studies have proven that students mentored while in school also tend to grasp controversial issues in ministry, conflict management, and sermon preparation and delivery better, which, in turn, helps prepare them for their work in ministry.

The Dean of Students directs our mentoring program for students and alumni. He is available to help students with academic, ministerial, and personal issues while also providing helpful resources through the “Sharpening Iron” mentoring program. Workshops for students and graduates are also conducted periodically. Through these workshops, peer mentoring can also occur. Students can use the mentoring forum through the Google Classroom platform.

Administration, Faculty, and Staff



The administration, faculty, and staff of McGarvey College of the Bible has been carefully selected and share in a singular vision to promote New Testament Christianity and produce faithful gospel preachers who will love the Lord, His word, His church, and the souls of their fellow man.

Board of Trustees

Mike Kiser, Sylacauga, Alabama (Chairman)

Ben Coxwell, Summerdale, Alabama (Secretary)

Billy Lambert, Summerdale, Alabama (Treasurer)

Faculty

Andrew D. Erwin, Ph.D., President and Professor

Joshua Seth Houston, Ph.D., Professor

Johnny O. Trail, D. Min., Professor

Joshua Aidoo, Extension Coordinator, Ghana

Jackson Erwin, Extension Coordinator, United States

Phillip Hendricks, Extension Coordinator, South Africa

Nixon Ochieng, Extension Coordinator, Kenya

Administrative Staff

Emma Erwin, Ashland City, Tennessee

The Christ-like camaraderie among the board, administration, faculty, and staff at MCOB is genuinely amazing.

We desire to honor and glorify God. May every praise be His for the good that we can do together!

