

NAMs Days

These September conferences are spread over two days. Those who are in SCBA and CBA will be involved on both days, with the invitation to stay in College overnight. The first day will be led by Association regional Ministers and the second day will include learning contract sessions and a plenary for all NAMs.

It is hoped that the College will be able to inform the minister's Association and the Department of Ministry that the minister has completed all the requirements of their learning contracts in the autumn following their final learning contract. This may not be possible if learning contract(s) remain incomplete.

A timetable for NAMs' Learning Contracts – if all deadlines are met!

	Apr – Dec 21	Sept 21	Jan 22	Sept 22	Sept 23	Sept 24	May 25
	Initial assign- ment	Settle- ment after college	Mini REPAST	REPAST 1	REPAST 2	REPAST 3	BUGB Assembly
RSC1	x						
Coll1/ RSC2		x	x	x			
Coll2/ RSC3					x		
Coll3/ RSC4						x	x

LEARNING CONTRACTS FOR NEWLY ACCREDITED MINISTERS AT REGENT'S PARK COLLEGE



In As part of the requirement of the Baptist Union of Great Britain, all newly accredited ministers (NAMs) undertake a learning contract with a Baptist College over the three (or four) years. There is a great deal of common ground in the way the various Baptist colleges handle the BUGB's requirements and the requirements for NAMs are part of and lead into ongoing continuing Ministerial Development.

As such, it is our genuine desire to serve NAMs in their ministry, to assist them to be more effective in ministry and to encourage their own personal development and spiritual maturity. We want learning contracts to be a positive experience for NAMs, providing the opportunity to study and reflect on issues which are pertinent to the particular situation and form of ministry with which they are involved.

The aims of our learning contract programme are:

- to encourage NAMs to reflect on the practice of ministry and mission.
- to offer the opportunity for NAMs to fill in any gaps that they feel may exist in their initial training.
- to encourage NAMs into good habits of self-directed theological study and reflection.

The required learning contracts include:

- a personal programme of study agreed with a tutor, whom you will meet at each September.
- a shared programme of continuing ministerial formation.

It is anticipated that written work will be at least at the level at which the NAM completed their initial ministerial training, i.e. diploma level or degree level, etc. Where the NAM is studying for a further degree, evidence of appropriate work undertaken for that qualification may be counted in lieu of the specified assignments – with the exception of the shared book and attendance in September.

Introductory Meeting

A meeting will be held in early January each year, normally by zoom to introduce the Learning Contracts and enable NAMs to get started.

NAMs coming through RSC only: Learning Contract Initial Assignment

Write a self-reflective review (approx 1500-2000 words) on two of the following Baptist-authored texts, to be completed before the first learning contract begins:

- Paul Fiddes, *Tracks and Traces* (Paternoster)
- Anthony Clarke, *Forming Ministers or Training Leaders?* (Wipf and Stock)
- Brian Haymes, Ruth Gouldbourne and Anthony Cross, *On Being the Church: Revisioning Baptist Identity* (Paternoster).
- Myra Blyth & Andy Goodliff (eds.), *Gathering Disciples: Essays in Honour of Christopher J. Ellis* (Wipf & Stock).
- Paul W. Goodliff, *Ministry, Sacrament and Representation* (Regent's Park College)
- Stuart Murray, *Post-Christendom – Church & Mission in a Strange New World* (2nd Edition SCM / Cascade).

Learning Contract 1

January (after settlement or RSC) to that September

- 1 Two Book Reviews:** short written reflective reviews (minimum 500 words) of two theological books, one of which will be the 'shared book', and another chosen in consultation with a college tutor.
- 2 Shared Book:** chosen by the college as a book all NAMs read together in preparation for a plenary session arising from it in the September at the end of this first year.
- 3 Contextual Mission Study:** this might take the form of a more general mission audit project, a piece of more specific contextual research or some specialised training. This is agreed and planned with a college tutor.
- 4 NAMs Day:** held at Regent's Park College in September.

Learning Contract 2

Option 1:

A more open and creative open allowing space to explore an issue in some depth.

- 1 A Bespoke Programme:** this would be a programme of study in an area of ministry as agreed with a college tutor, extending over two years, that will help develop reflective practice. The output for this over 2 years would be about 10,000 words.
- 2 Shared Book:** as above, a book each year chosen by the college which all NAMs read.
- 3 NAMs Days:** as above, this will be held in September at the end of years 2 and 3. The end of year 2 will give an opportunity for further discussion of the project which will then be finally presented at the end of year 3.

Option 2

A more structured approach that offers more breadth, in which the following are submitted in both years 2 and 3.

- 1 Three Book Reviews:** short written reflective reviews (minimum 500 words) of two theological books, one of which will be the 'shared book', and another chosen in consultation with a college tutor.
- 2 Shared Book:** chosen by the college as a book all NAMs read together in preparation for a plenary session arising from it in the September at the end of this first year.
- 3 Theological Reflection:** which explores an issue of current relevance in ministry together with some reading that helps the theological reflection develop. This would be about 3000 words.
- 4 NAMs Days:** as above, this will be held in September at the end of years 2 and 3.