



THE STEPHEN OLDFORD CENTER
AT UNION UNIVERSITY

P.O. Box 757800

Memphis, TN 38175-7800

(901)757-7977

www.uu.edu/centers/olford

Date: _____

Name _____ Name you prefer _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Male ___ Female ___ Birth Date _____

Phone: Home (____) ____-____ Work (____) ____-____

Email _____

Country of Birth _____ Country of Citizenship _____

International Students Only: Type of VISA held or to be applied for _____

Marital Status: Single ___ Married ___ (Years ___) Divorced ___

Spouse's Name _____ Number of Children _____

Employment History (type of work and length)

Church Membership: _____

Denomination of Church affiliation _____

Ministerial Status: Licensed ___ Ordained ___

Name of body granting this status

EDUCATIONAL BACKGROUND

High School _____ from _____ to _____ Diploma _____

College _____ from _____ to _____ Degree _____

College _____ from _____ to _____ Degree _____

Seminary _____ from _____ to _____ Degree _____

Graduate School _____ from _____ to _____ Degree _____

Doctoral Program _____ from _____ to _____ Degree _____



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PERSONAL INFORMATION

This personal information helps us know you and minister to you more personally. Your answers to these questions will be strictly confidential.

- Are you willing to be accountable to a member of our faculty in our certificate program? Yes ___ No ___
- Have you ever been divorced: Yes ___ No ___ If yes, please explain the circumstances and how you dealt with them on an accompanying page.
- Have you ever been asked to resign from a ministry: Yes ___ No ___ If yes, please explain the circumstances and how you dealt with them on an accompanying page.
- Are there any other situations in your life that would help us understand you and that might be pertinent in helping us determine your eligibility for this program? Yes ___ No ___ If yes, please explain on an accompanying page.

PERSONAL BELIEF QUESTIONS

- Do you agree with our attached Statement of Faith? Yes ___ No ___ If no, explain why on an accompanying page. Also, state and/or submit a description of your core doctrinal commitments.
- **Personal Spiritual Experience Paper. On separate sheets of paper**, please clearly articulate the details of your salvation experience, your growth in Christ, the major spiritual influences in your life, your Christian ministry experience in or outside the church and your experience in preaching/teaching the Word of God, as well as an assessment of your spiritual life. This paper will be considered as part of your application materials.
- **Call to Christian Service. On a separate sheet of paper**, please provide a careful description of your call to Christian service. Include an explanation of your reasons for wishing to pursue our certificate program. Please comment on your perspective on the role of preaching in the church and your understanding of expository preaching.



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Our Statement of Faith

1. The Scriptures

The Scriptures of the Old and New Testament were given by inspiration of God, and are the only sufficient, certain and authoritative rule of all saving knowledge, faith, and obedience.

2. God

There is but one God, the Maker, Preserver and Ruler of all things, having in and of Himself, all perfections, being infinite in them all; and to Him all creatures owe the highest love, reverence and obedience. He exists eternally in three persons: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit each with distinct personal attributes, but without division of nature, essence or being. God ordains or permits all things that come to pass, and perpetually upholds, directs and governs all creatures and all events; yet so as not to destroy the free will and responsibility of intelligent creatures.

3. Humankind

God originally created humankind in His image, and free from sin; but through the temptation of Satan, they transgressed the command of God, and fell from their original righteousness, whereby all humans have inherited a sinful nature that is opposed to God, and are thus under condemnation. As soon as they are capable of moral action, they become actual transgressors.

4. Jesus Christ

The second person of the Trinity is the eternal Son of God. In his incarnation Jesus Christ was conceived by the Holy Spirit and born of the virgin Mary. Jesus perfectly revealed and did the will of God, taking upon Himself human nature, yet without sin. He honoured the divine law by His personal obedience, and by His substitutionary death on the cross He made provision for our redemption from sin. He was buried and rose again the third day, and ascended to His Father, at whose right hand He lives to make intercession for His people. He is the only Mediator, the Prophet, Priest and King of the Church, and Sovereign of the universe.



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5. Holy Spirit

The Holy Spirit is the Spirit of God, fully divine, who exalts Jesus Christ. The Spirit convicts men and women of sin, of righteousness, and judgment, enabling them to understand the truth. He calls men and women to the Saviour, and brings about regeneration, which is a renewal of heart and nature.

6. Salvation

Salvation involves the redemption of the whole person, and is offered freely to all who believe in Jesus Christ as Lord and Saviour; accepting and trusting in Him alone for justification and eternal life. Justification is God's gracious declaration of righteousness of sinners, who believe in Christ, from all sin, through the satisfaction that Christ has made. Believers are also sanctified by God's Word and Spirit dwelling in them. Sanctification is the process of progressing toward moral and spiritual maturity, enabled by the presence and power of the Holy Spirit. Those who are accepted in Christ and sanctified by the Holy Spirit will never totally nor finally fall away from the state of grace, but shall persevere to the end, and be kept by the power of God through faith unto salvation.

7. The Church

The Lord Jesus Christ is the Head of the Church, which is composed of all true followers of Christ, and in Him is invested supremely all power for its government. Christians are to associate themselves with local churches; and to each church is given the authority to administer order, to carry out ministry, to worship, and to practice discipline.

8. Last Things

The bodies of humans after death return to dust, but their spirits return immediately to God—the righteous to rest with Him; the wicked to be reserved under darkness to the judgment. God in His own time and in His own way, will bring the world to its appropriate end. According to His promise, Jesus Christ will return personally and visibly in glory to the earth. At the last day, the bodies of all the dead, both just and unjust, will be raised. God has appointed a day, when He will judge the world by Jesus Christ, when all people shall receive according to their deeds; the wicked shall go into everlasting punishment; the righteous, into everlasting life.



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REFERENCES

We require two letter of reference as follows:

- 1. Pastoral reference.** Select someone (not a friend or parishioner) who has supervised you or served with you in ministry, who knows you well and can evaluate your ministry. Provide this person with a copy of the attached Reference Form and ask him to return it directly to the Stephen Olford Center at Union University, P.O. Box 757800, Memphis, TN 38175-7800.

The name of your pastoral reference: _____

- 2. Church reference.** Provide the leader of your church or denomination with a copy of the attached Reference Form and ask him to return it directly to the Stephen Olford Center at Union University, P.O. Box 757800, Memphis, TN 38175-7800.

The name of your church reference: _____

*When you return this form, please enclose a **recent photograph***

Applicant's Name Print _____

Applicant's Signature _____ Date _____



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Reference Form

**Please return this form directly to the Stephen Olford Center at Union University
(Please do not return this form to the Applicant.)**

=====
Instructions to Applicant: Please complete the following section before distributing this form.

_____ (Your name please print): has applied for admission to the Expository Preaching Certificate Program offered by The Stephen Olford Center at Union University and has given your name as a reference.

Name of Reference (please print): _____

This letter of reference will be treated in strict confidence by the Stephen Olford Center at Union University for admission consideration.

Under the Federal Family Education Rights and Privacy Act of 1974, students are entitled to review their records, including letters of recommendation. It is your option to waive your right to access to this recommendation or to decline to do so. Please mark the appropriate phrase below indicating your choice of option, and sign your name. By signing, you are also granting permission for representatives of the Stephen Olford Center and Union University to contact the reference directly concerning this recommendation.

- I **waive** my right to review of this recommendation.
- I **do not waive** my right to review of this application.

Applicant's Name (print): _____

Applicant's Signature: _____ Date: _____



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Instructions to the Reference: Please fill in the requested information as you feel qualified. Please use additional paper if needed. Mail the completed form to the address below. Thank you for your part in this important phase of the Applicant's life.

1. How long have you known the applicant? _____
2. In what capacity and how well have you known the applicant? _____

3. What are the applicant's strong points/special abilities? _____

3. What are the applicant's weaknesses or personality problems? _____

4. Describe the applicant's relationship with peers. _____

5. Describe the applicant's relationship with spouse and the opposite sex. _____

6. Describe the applicant's relationship and attitude to authority and leadership. _____

7. What is your perception of the applicant's commitment to Christ and Christian living? _____

(Continued next page)



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8. Below are listed several characteristics that could affect the applicant's success in ministry training and his/her subsequent career. Please evaluate the applicant by indicating your level of concern in each area. Put an "x" through the box to the right of each characteristic listed as applicable. **"I have no reservations"** means that the candidate has no difficulty in this area. **"Strong reservations"** means the candidate has a high degree of difficulty in this area. **"Slight reservations"** means there could potentially be a difficulty in this area.

	I have no reservations	I have slight reservations	I have strong reservations	No Opinion
A. Ability to accept criticism				
B. Academic aptitude				
C. Accountable				
D. Adaptability				
E. Commitment to Christ				
F. Commitment to Scripture				
G. Cooperation with others				
H. Creativity				
I. Dependability				
J. Desire to grow				
K. Emotional stability				
L. Initiative				
M. Leadership				
N. Moral integrity				
O. Open to input				
P. Perseverance				
Q. Personal appearance				
R. Physical health				
S. Social manner				
T. Research ability				
U. Writing ability				



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9. Please offer any additional comments on your opinion of the applicant's suitability for ministry training at the Stephen Olford Center at Union University. _____

10. What is your perception of the applicant's call to Christian service, particularly in the area of preaching?

11. In what way and to what extent is the church providing support and encouragement to the applicant?

12. What degree of success in ministry training would you predict for the applicant?

Unusually High Above Average Average Below Average

13. I recommend highly I do not recommend I recommend with some concerns (please explain).

Signature of Reference

Date

Printed Name of Reference