



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

In order to comply with the ministerial recognition rules 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 of their further training towards full accreditation. There is a good deal of common ground in the way the various Baptist colleges handle the BUGB's requirements with regard to learning contracts, and this leaflet explains the way in which we seek to manage learning contracts at Regent's.

It is our genuine desire to serve NAMs in their ministry, and to assist them to be more effective in ministry – to the glory of God and for 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.

Each year's learning contract is slightly different, but each year will contain both:

- a personal programme of study agreed with a tutor, whom you will meet at each REPAST conference (Regent's Post Settlement Training)
- 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 at REPASTs.

4 REPAST. The minister will attend at Regent's Park College for a REPAST conference in September for a plenary session and a meeting with a tutor of the college. The interview will normally take place during the *second* day of the conference.

Further notes:

- September REPAST conferences are spread over two days. All the learning contract sessions are normally on the second day, with sessions for theological reflection arranged for NAMs in SCBA and CBA on the first day.
- It is anticipated in meeting the BUGB's requirements for NAMs that each newly accredited minister attends four REPAST conferences.
- NAMs must normally complete each year's learning contract before beginning on the next.
- 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.
- There is an administrative cost of £100, for each Learning Contract. There are also charges each REPAST for meals and accommodation.

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

	Apr 14	Apr – Dec 14	Sept 14	Jan 15	Sept 15	Sept 16	Sept 17	May 18
	RSC	First LC assignment & any RSC reqs	Settlement after college	Mini REPAST	REPAST 1	REPAST 2	REPAST 3	BUGB Assembly
RSC1	✓	✓						
Col11/ RSC2			✓	✓	✓			
Col12/ RSC3						✓		
Col13/ RSC4							✓	✓

NAMs coming through RSC only: Learning Contract First Assignment

Write a self-reflective review (approx 1500-2000 words) on *two* of the following Baptist-authored texts, and sent in advance of the Mini-REPASt in year 1 of their Learning Contract:

- Paul Fiddes, *Tracks and Traces* (Paternoster) – a theological and historical treatment of themes in Baptist identity.
- Stanley Grenz, *Theology for the Community of God* (Paternoster) – a systematic theology by an American Baptist theologian.
- John Colwell, *Living the Christian Story* (T & T Clark) – an approach to Christian ethics written from a contemporary Baptist perspective.
- Christopher Ellis, *Gathering – A Theology and Spirituality of Worship in Free Church Tradition* (SCM).
- Stuart Murray, *Post-Christendom – Church & Mission in a Strange New World* (Paternoster).

First Year: Learning Contract 1

January (after settlement or RSC) to September (one year after settlement)

1 ‘Mini-REPASt’. The minister attends Regent’s Park College for a one day orientation programme in early January, meeting college staff and their own personal tutor, engaging in theological reflection, and being introduced to the Learning Contract scheme and in particular to the requirements of their first year, which are:

2 Two Book Reviews. The minister will read and make a short written review (minimum 500 words) of at least two theological books, one of which will be the REPASt ‘shared book,’ and another chosen in consultation with a college tutor.

3 Mission Audit. The minister will undertake a mission audit project of their local church and its area: a Mission Audit information sheet explains how this might be done.

4 Shared Book. The minister will read the ‘shared book’ chosen by the college in consultation with regional ministers, in preparation for a session arising from it in the REPASt conference in the September at the end of this first year.

5 REPASt. The minister will attend at Regent’s Park College for a REPASt conference in September for a plenary session and a meeting with a tutor of the college. This will normally take place during the *second* day of the conference.

Second Year: Learning Contract 2

October (one year after settlement) to September (two years after settlement)

1 Three Book Reviews. The minister will read and make a short written review of at least three theological books, one of which will be the REPASt ‘shared book,’ and two others chosen in consultation with a college tutor.

2 A written theological reflection, arising out of pastoral practice, and agreed by a college tutor. This will normally be about 2500 words, though if preferred it can be submitted on audio or videotape, or in some other suitable form.

3 Shared Book. The minister will read the ‘shared book’ chosen by the college in consultation with regional ministers, in preparation for a session arising from it in the REPASt conference in the September at the end of this second year.

4 REPASt. The minister will attend at Regent’s Park College for a REPASt conference in September for a plenary session and a meeting with a tutor of the college. The interview will normally take place during the *second* day of the conference.

Third Year: Learning Contract 3

October (two years after settlement) to September (three years after settlement)

1 Three Book Reviews. The minister will read and make a short written review of at least three theological books, one of which will be the REPASt ‘shared book,’ and two others chosen in consultation with a college tutor.

2 Special project. The project will be on an issue arising from the practice of ministry, and appropriate necessary reading will also be done for it. The minister may submit this project in some agreed way - for example: by an essay of at least 6,000 words, or (for instance) an equivalent portfolio, video or verbal presentation to a seminar. Where appropriate, NAMs are encouraged to consider a special project that arises from their first year Mission Audit.

3 Shared Book. The minister will read the ‘shared book’ chosen by the college in consultation with regional ministers, in preparation for a session arising from it in the REPASt conference in the September at the end of this third year.