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# Student Catalog

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2025-2026

RIVER SOUTHWEST SCHOOL OF MINISTRY  
FORT MYERS, FLORIDA, USA

Greetings in the name of Jesus!

We are excited that God has called you to attend River Southwest School of Ministry (RSW) to help equip you, the follower of Jesus, to do the work of the ministry. It is our desire to lead students who are hungry for God into His revelation knowledge and wisdom to equip them for ministry and help them understand their inheritance through Jesus Christ.

We are committed to providing quality Christian Education and a Christian "Discipline" that will transform your life forever.

In these pages you will find the purpose of the school, along with the general procedures and regulations, academic policies and procedures, and admission/registration and financial policies. There is also a listing of the Core Courses and Elective courses. RSW offers on campus, live stream and on-demand courses.

We encourage you to contact the Dean with any questions and to set up an appointment to discuss the path you need to follow to obtain a diploma or degree.

Get ready for an awesome journey with the Spirit of the Lord!

Pastor Daniel Williams, President  
River Southwest School of Ministry

### **Associations for River Southwest School of Ministry**



\*\*Is a member of Theological Accreditation International | Theological Accreditation International (T.A.I.)  
PO Box 15443 Baton Rouge 70895  
225 292 1771

\*\*Is Recognized by and in good standing with River Ministries International, Tampa, FL.

\*\* Is Recognized by the "State of Florida" as a religious exempt school for the specific purpose of Christian education, and also grants diplomas, confers degrees.

## **PURPOSE**

RSW purposes to provide a program of study and an environment so students may acquire the revelation knowledge of God's Word. We purpose to establish a pattern for a continuing pursuit of intellectual and spiritual development pertaining to the Holy Scriptures.

Through the Holy Spirit we purpose:

- To guide students in the path of a working knowledge of the Holy Scriptures. To instill a recognition of their authority over all areas of life.
- To stimulate within the student's heart a spirit of inquiry and discernment, cultivating their abilities to be an effective *witness* of Jesus Christ.
- To increase the student's understanding and appreciation of the New Covenant of our Lord Jesus Christ, while learning from our forefathers, the Prophets, the Psalmist and other experiences of the Old Testament.
- To disciple and encourage the Word of God in such a way that it will develop mature patterns of behavior acceptable for the Ministry.
- To enable the student to live successfully in every area of their life and to empower them to reach those around you with the power of God's Word.

## **Our Statement of Faith**

As Christian Bible believers, we at RSW subscribe to the following Declaration of the things which are most surely believed among us: Praying that we may all be of the same mind and same judgment, speaking the same things in love; and with one voice glorifying God, to the edification of His people, and to give a Christian witness to the world. **Luke 1:1; 1 Corinthians 1:10; Acts 2:42**

### **1. The Holy Scriptures 2 Peter 1:21; 2 Timothy 3:16-17; Matthew 28:29; 1 Corinthians 1:10**

We believe that the Bible is God's Holy Word. Both the Old Testament and New Testament were written by individuals who were Divinely Inspired. We believe that the Word of God is the supreme authority in all matters of faith and conduct. The Scriptures present to us the complete Revelation of God's Divine will for the Salvation of humanity.

It is RSW's standard that our Instructors will teach from KJV, NKJV, and Amplified (classic). Students will do their homework from, the KJV. RSW has available a comprehensive study on the different versions and revisions of the Holy Scriptures. Due to this study, we feel it is in the Student's best interest to guide their training in the firm, solid foundation of the KJV or NKJV. *"that there be no division, among us!"*

### **2. The Godhead John 14:28**

***Our God is a Trinity, manifested in three persons:*** the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit. God is infinitely perfect, being in His three persons Co-existent, Co-equal and Co-eternal. *God the Father is the Creator and greater than all. The Son, Jesus Christ, was begotten of the Father,* accepting the robe of flesh, being the True God -True Man, conceived by the Holy Ghost and born of the Virgin Mary. He died upon the Cross for both the just and the unjust, as a substitutionary sacrifice, and all that believe in Him are justified by His shed Blood. He arose from the dead and is now at the right hand of Father God. He is our Intercessor and Great High Priest, and He will return again to establish His Kingdom of righteousness and justice. ***The Holy Spirit is a Divine Person,*** Executor of the Godhead on earth, the Comforter sent by Jesus Christ to indwell, guide, illuminate, convict and teach the believer. He is the Spirit of Truth.

### **3. Humanity, the Fall, Redemption Romans 5:12; 3:23; 3:10; Ephesians 2:8; John 3:16**

Man is a created being, made in the likeness and image of God, but through Adam's transgression, rebellion, and fall, sin came into the world. Jesus Christ, the Son of God, was manifested to undo the work of the devil: and through His shed Blood on Calvary, redeems and restores man back to God. Salvation is the gift of God to men, separate from works and the law, and is made operative by Grace through Faith in Jesus Christ, producing works acceptable to God.

### **4. The Church Colossians 1:18; Ephesians 4:15; 1 Peter 1:23; I Corinthians 12:7-11; Mark 16:15-20**

The True Church is the Living Spiritual Body of Jesus Christ, Christ being the head. The Church is made up of born-again believers, born of the Spirit and by the Word. The various gifts and offices of the Holy Spirit are delegated to the Church and are necessary for the fulfillment of the Great Commission, which Christ gave to His Disciples and to His Church.

### **5. Ministry Ephesians 4:11-12**

We believe that God calls men and women by His Holy Spirit to serve as Apostles, Prophets, Evangelists, Pastors, Teachers, Counselors, Missionaries and Instructors for the perfecting of the Saints. We believe that the laity of the Church have a responsibility to serve in the area of Deacons and in the "Ministry of Helps."

## 6. The Sacred Sacraments & Ordinances

**Water Baptism:** Immersion is a direct command of our Lord Jesus Christ and is for the Born-Again believer. All candidates should testify to being Born-Again and receive Biblical instruction regarding this Commitment.

**Matthew 28:19; Romans 6:4; Colossians 2:12; Acts 8:36-39**

**Spirit Baptism:** We believe in the Baptism of the Holy Ghost and Fire and that it is a gift of God, promised by the Lord Jesus Christ to all believers in this dispensation, and is given after Salvation. According to Acts 2:4; this Immersion in the Holy Ghost is evidenced by speaking in other tongues as the Holy Spirit gives utterance. This is the physical sign of the inward fulfillment. We believe in the operation of the Gifts of the Spirit. **Matthew 3:11; John 14:16-17; Acts 1:8, 2:4, 38-39; 10:44-48; 1 Corinthians 12:4-17**

**Baby Dedication:** We find no scriptural evidence of infants being baptized; therefore, we dedicate them unto the Lord as did Hannah with her son, Samuel, and as our Lord Jesus Christ was dedicated and blessed. In Jesus' own example, He said, "*Suffer the little children to come unto Me, and forbid them not,*" and then He blessed the little children. **Luke 2:25-28; Matthew 19:14-15; Mark 10:14**

**Sanctification (Holiness):** We believe in the Doctrine of Sanctification as a definite, yet progressive, work of Grace, beginning at Salvation and continuing perpetually.

**Hebrews 13:12; 2 Thessalonians 2:13; 1 Peter 1:2; Ephesians 5:26; 1 Corinthians 6:11; John 17:17; 1 Thessalonians 5:23**

**The Lord's Supper:** The Sacrament of the Lord's Supper was instituted by The Lord Jesus Christ and is a memorial to His Death and Resurrection. The Bread and the Fruit of the Vine are an expression of the Body and Blood of our Saviour when blessed, broken and given. We believe that children should be taught this worship at a very early age by their parents and the Church. We believe in the humility of foot washing as set forth by our Lord Jesus Christ. **1 Corinthians 11:26-27; Matthew 26:29; Mark 14:22; Luke 22:18**

**Intercession:** We believe in prayer for the sick, prayer for deliverance, the laying on of hands, Anointing with Holy oil, and Intercession by the Spirit. **Mark 16:18; John 5:14-15; Romans 8:26**

**Rapture, Revelation and Eternal Life:** We believe the Word of God promises us this same Jesus, which is taken up from you into heaven, shall so come in like manner as ye have seen him go into heaven. His coming is imminent, We believe in the *Thousand Year Reign*. We believe that it is unwise to teach a fixed time for the Lord's return, but to exhort readiness at all times. **Acts 1:11; 1 Thessalonians 4:16-17; Revelation 20:6; Mark 13:32-33; Hebrews 9:27**

## 7. Marriage

According to **Genesis 2:24 & Matthew 19:4-6**, we believe that marriage is only between a man and a woman.

In Accordance to **Leviticus 18:22, Leviticus 20:13, Jude 1:7** We don't believe in gay marriage or sex outside of marriage relationships that is sexual immorality. **Matthew 15:19, 1 Corinthians 5:10, Galatians 5:19-21.**

## 8. Eternal Life

All of humanity will inherit Eternal Life. Heaven or hell! We believe if one dies in an unregenerated condition, they will be eternally lost and hell will be their eternal destination. **Romans 6:23**

## **RSW Locations**

7051 Cypress Terrace, Suite 204, Fort Myers, FL 33907

On-demand, [riverswfl.com](http://riverswfl.com)

## **General Policies and Regulations**

The President of RSW has the authority to make changes to the current student handbook and also make exceptions to these policies on a case-by-case basis.

On Campus and Live Stream Classes are scheduled by the Dean. Courses and the trimester calendar are available on the Bible College website page.

On Demand is a RSW Online option that provides quality courses which students can complete in a required scheduled timeframe. On demand courses allow students to balance work and home life while pursuing college credit. All courses are delivered online and scheduled each trimester. Courses available and the application form are available on RSW website page.

## **DRESS CODE**

### **Business Casual Dress Code**

The purpose of the River Southwest is to not only strengthen the student's Christian walk but also to prepare the student for ministry. With this in mind, professionalism in dress and conduct is imperative. It is the desire of RSW that all of our students be dressed modestly and in good taste. The dress codes outlined below applies at all times when attending conferences, meetings, and during church services.

### **WOMEN – Acceptable Attire**

- Dresses or blouses and skirts, collared shirts, blouses, suits, blazers/jackets, sweaters, and turtlenecks with dress slacks (including dress type khakis, corduroys, capris or cropped pants, or other non-denim slacks).
- Dress/skirt length must be mid-knee or longer. The hemline of fitted skirts should be mid-knee or longer. Any slit on the front of a skirt or dress may not rise above the knee. Any slit on the side or back may not exceed 3-4 inches above the knee.
- Leggings may only be worn with an appropriate length skirt (mid-knee length or longer).
- Slacks must cover the hip, preferably worn at the waist (no hip-huggers).
- No tight-fitting slacks or skirts are to be worn unless they are paired with a long jacket that covers the derriere completely.
- At no time should underwear be visible when you bend over.
- Undergarments should not be visible through your clothing. Any sheer garments should be accompanied by a non-see-through garment underneath (e.g. shells).
- Undergarments should be supportive and not show any details of the anatomy.

- Acceptable shoes include dressy sandals, dress shoes, dressy-casual shoes, and boots.

Note: If wearing sandals, please have well-groomed feet and toenails.

Note: Shirts, blouses, and sweaters must cover the stomach and midriff area entirely at all times, even when arms are raised.

### **MEN – Acceptable Attire**

- Dress or casual slacks, khakis, corduroys, or Dockers-type slacks. Slacks must be worn at the waist. No baggy or saggy pants allowed. Please note not all Dockers brands and all Khakis are slacks.
- Collared shirts, oxfords, polos, or short sleeve shirts with collars may be worn. Ties are optional.
- Note: Shirts must be tucked in unless they have squared bottoms that are designed to be worn outside. Shirts may not have advertisements, excessive designs, wording, or logos on them
- Dress shoes or dressy casual shoes with socks are required (no sport socks allowed).
- Beards and mustaches must be kept clean, groomed, and at an appropriate length. Hair must be neatly groomed and well-kept. Longer hair must be tied up and out of the face.

### **ALL STUDENTS**

- Hair must be clean, neatly groomed, and well kept.
- All students are expected to observe good hygiene and wear clean clothing.
- All clothing is to be pressed and neat without stains, holes, tears, or ragged edges on clothing.

### **STUDENT CODE OF CONDUCT**

To have “satisfactorily completed” the course and to have “complied with all the requirements necessary” to graduate from RSW involves more than attending classes and getting a passing grade on exams. As a student of a Biblical ministry a course of Bible study and ministerial training requires significantly more.

When you are called to the ministry and commit yourself to God’s Word, God lays claim upon every aspect of your entire life. It is a 24-hour-a-day commitment, and it applies personally, relationally, vocationally, socially, and financially, as well as intellectually. Therefore, much is expected of you in the classroom and beyond.

The real certification each student must pursue is to one day hear Jesus say, “Well done, thou good and faithful servant.” The real test that must be passed is not one given in the classroom, but the test of life.

We ask that you look beyond the rules of RSW, and live life by a much higher principle. The rules are designed to encourage and promote a certain level of discipline. However, to be truly successful in life and ministry, one must have far more than an external compliance to rules or an externally motivated discipline. Each student must cultivate an internal discipline, sense of conviction, motivation, and consecration within himself. Such a person does not seek to “do just enough to get by” or judge

themselves by the performance of others; rather, they give God their very best, are conscientious, and are fully committed to the task at hand.

It is in this spirit that the RSW Student Code of Conduct is written. It is not designed to be an external rule, but rather, to reflect and articulate the heartfelt commitment of an individual who is sincerely and genuinely seeking to be all that God wants him to be.

## **The RSW Student Code of Conduct**

### **I. In My Personal Life**

A. I will seek to obey God's Word and glorify Him in every way.

B. I commit to conduct myself in such a way as to be a good witness for Jesus Christ and a positive reflection of RSW.

C. I will be a person of honesty and integrity in all of my dealings with others.

D. I will keep my total being under subjection and will abstain from all illegal and sexually immoral acts, as well as from tobacco, alcohol, illegal drugs, and any other action or substance that is inappropriate for the temple of the Holy Spirit.

E. I will dress modestly and avoid places, practices, and associations that are inappropriate for a Christian preparing for ministry.

F. I pledge to faithfully attend to my financial obligations and live within my income as a good steward, and I will not carelessly leave unpaid debts behind me.

G. I recognize my responsibility to be a positive influence and encourage spiritual growth in the lives of others. I will avoid any behavior that would be detrimental to or a negative influence upon others.

### **II. As a Student**

A. I will be respectful toward the administration, faculty, and support staff of RSW at all times. Keep in mind, only those who know how to submit to authority will know how to be in authority.

B. I will submit to and obey all rules, policies, and guidelines set forth by RSW.

C. I will diligently apply myself to my studies and will seek to achieve optimum spiritual and intellectual benefit from my training.

D. I commit to putting forth every effort to maintain excellent attendance and punctuality. This commitment extends not only to classes but also to all RSW meetings, outreaches and special seminars.

E. I will be honest on all exams and assignments and will avoid any form of cheating, fraud, or plagiarism.

F. I will avoid any conduct that is detrimental to the learning process of others, both inside and outside of the classroom.

G. I will attend church services on a regular and consistent basis and will seek to faithfully serve in my local church.

**III. Sexual And Other Harassment Policy**—River Southwest School of Ministry does not and will not condone violations of students’ rights to be free of unlawful harassment. Students are expected to comply with this policy and take appropriate measures to ensure that such unlawful harassment conduct does not occur.

All complaints of unlawful harassment will be promptly, thoroughly, and confidentially investigated, and when necessary, appropriate corrective action will be taken. Any person found to have unlawfully harassed another student will be subject to appropriate disciplinary action, up to and including dismissal from school.

Definitions of Harassment:

- Any verbal or physical conduct that threatens, intimidates, or coerces another student, either directly or indirectly.
- Verbal taunting (including racial and ethnic slurs) which, in the student’s opinion, impairs their ability to attend RSW.
- Any unwelcome sexual advances, requests for sexual favors, and other verbal or physical conduct of a sexual nature when such conduct unreasonably interferes with a student’s attendance at RSW or creates an otherwise offensive or “hostile” environment.

Sexual harassment DOES NOT refer to behavior or occasional compliments of a socially acceptable nature. Sexual harassment DOES refer to behavior that is unwelcome, personally offensive, lowers morale, and/or interferes with work effectiveness. Sexual harassment may take different forms, such as a “demand for sexual favors.”

Examples of sexual harassment include but are not limited to:

- Verbal: Sexual innuendoes, suggestive comments, jokes of a sexual nature, sexual propositions or threats.
- Non-Verbal: Sexually suggestive objects or pictures, graphic commentaries, suggestive or insulting sounds, leering, whistling, or obscene gestures.
- Physical: Unwanted physical contact including touching, pinching, brushing the body, coerced sexual intercourse, or assault.

As representatives of the Lord Jesus Christ, students must conduct themselves in a manner exemplifying strong Christian character.

Students violating the code of conduct are subject to disciplinary action. All student complaints, disciplinary actions and appeals will be handled by the Dean.

## STUDENT CHRISTIAN CHARACTER

A. Christian character is an important concern of RSW. It is the responsibility of the student engaged in training at RSW to live an exemplary life.

**1 Thessalonians 5:22 *Abstain from all appearance of evil.*** (AKJV).

**1 Corinthians 6:9-11 *Know ye not that the unrighteous shall not inherit the kingdom of God? Be not deceived: neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor effeminate, nor abusers of themselves with mankind, nor thieves, nor covetous, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor extortioners, shall inherit the kingdom of God. And such were some of you: but ye are washed, but ye are sanctified, but ye are justified in the name of the Lord Jesus, and by the Spirit of our God.*** (AKJV).

**Galatians 5:19-21 *Now the works of the flesh are manifest, which are these; Adultery, fornication, uncleanness, lasciviousness, idolatry, witchcraft, hatred, variance, emulations, wrath, strife, seditions, heresies, Envyings, murders, drunkenness, revellings, and such like: of the which I tell you before, as I have also told you in time past, that they which do such things shall not inherit the kingdom of God.*** (AKJV)

B. Students must be diligent and responsible in meeting their financial obligations.

C. It is expected that students will avoid practices and forms of entertainment that are detrimental to personal growth in the Christian life.

D. Student Dating

While we realize that RSW can be an avenue for those desiring a mate, there are particular guidelines which must be observed. Public displays of affection (PDA) such as kissing, hugging/holding, caressing, massaging backs, and so forth are not considered appropriate on-campus or church service behavior.

1st year students attending RSW are not permitted to date/court anyone or develop a close friendship as such throughout their time of schooling. We ask for you to abide by these rules because of the extreme distraction that it can be. Group dating/get-togethers with the opposite sex is included in this.

Student Marriage

We consider it extremely unwise to marry an individual based on a brief courtship and strongly recommends that anyone considering marriage go through extensive premarital counseling prior to getting engaged. Impulsive marriages and brief courtships have historically resulted in a much higher percentage of serious marital difficulties and a higher rate of divorce. Marriage is a sacred and covenant act and being impulsive and careless by making this decision is unwise and will affect a person's preparation and success in ministry. If a student is considering marriage during their schooling, they must meet with the Dean prior to making any formal arrangements.

E. The administration of RSW will not allow students to live immorally at any time, because God has plainly stated that He disapproves of immorality. Adultery is consensual sex between two individuals not married to one another. Fornication is defined as sexual intercourse between unmarried partners.

Marriage without the sanction of both God and the State is still called adultery and fornication in the Bible, no matter what man may say to justify it, and those who commit these sins are specifically

exempted from entrance in Heaven. Man might smile and say “it’s all right and we understand” but God calls it sin and that’s all that matters.

Therefore, RSW will not allow any type of physical or sexual activity/behavior other than what the Bible states is permitted for a husband and wife who are legally married.

This includes, but is not limited to, homosexual activities, fornication, adultery, pornography, and so forth which are immoral behaviors and are not permitted.

F. Social dancing of a suggestive nature and the use of tobacco, intoxicants (including wine or beer), or habit forming, or illegal drugs are also considered inappropriate behavior and are not permitted.

G. Violence or threats toward fellow students, instructors, or other River Southwest personnel will NOT be permitted at any time.

H. Any student found actively involved in any of the above will be subject to immediate dismissal from school.

## **STUDENT LIFE**

In addition to powerful, Word-based and anointed classes, the RSW student has many opportunities on a weekly basis to learn and develop through invaluable hands-on ministry training, as well as grow in the things of God alongside other on-fire classmates. Activities include:

- **Evangelism**

Students attending RSW not only learn about ministry in the classroom, but also practically. In addition to regular class times, students will participate in outreaches and ministry time in the community as scheduled.

- **Local Church**

Students attending RSW are required to attend The River at Fort Myers Church (unless a student already was a member of a church in the local area prior to school attendance). Attendance and involvement at The River Church enhances the student's training in the ministry as they receive from the presence of God and serve in the local church.

- **Ministry of Helps**

Students of the RSW are required to serve in the helps ministry at The River at Fort Myers Church (or their own local church as listed above) once a week. There are many opportunities for the student to learn how ministry works in the local church through the various departments. These hours can be put toward the CSC for final grades.

## **CLASSROOM GUIDELINES (for all locations)**

It is vital that the atmosphere in the “classroom” be conducive to learning and receiving revelation in the Word. The Holy Spirit must be given freedom to move in the life of the students without distractions or hindrances.

For on-demand classes, the student may submit questions to the Dean or their instructor via email. Online meetings can be scheduled.

Students in onsite classes are asked to be considerate of their fellow students by refraining from the following during class times (list not all inclusive):

1. Cutting of nails, filing, polishing, etc.
2. Tapping of pencils and pens
3. Putting feet on another chair or on table top
4. Gum chewing
5. Rude or disturbing habits
6. Setting alarm watches, mobile phones to go off during class times. The phones should be on quiet mode or shut off during class time. The student can answer calls or messages during break time only.
7. Excessive "fidgeting" during the instruction. Please have all materials out and in your seat before class begins (this includes pens, pencils, paper, highlighters, etc). Student needs to remain in their seat until break time.
8. Eating or drinking in class. Closed top containers of water may be allowed as preferred by the teacher or monitor. If there is excessive spills, messes, etc. there will be no drinking allowed during class. During break times the students may have food or drink in front reception area. The student is responsible for cleaning up their mess before returning to their seat. Therefore, the student should maintain effective time management to be ready to begin next class period on time.
9. Sleeping in class.

## **FLORIDA RESTROOM FACILITIES GUIDELINES**

Florida law requires Florida’s Private Postsecondary Educational Institutions to provide restrooms exclusively designated for males and females or a unisex restroom designed for a single occupant or family. River Southwest provides unisex designated restrooms as required in the sanctuary and designated restrooms in Suite 201.

A person may only enter a restroom of the opposite sex under the following conditions as outlined in Florida law:

- To assist or chaperone a child under the age of 21, an elderly person, a person with a disability or a person with a developmental disability.
- For law enforcement or governmental regulatory purposes.
- For the purposes of rendering emergency medical assistance or to intervene in any other emergency where health or safety is at risk.
- For custodial, maintenance or inspections (provided the restroom is not in use).
- When the designated restroom is out of order or under repair (provided the restroom is not in use by anyone of the opposite sex).

Any student or administrative personnel or instructional personnel who violate this policy will be dismissed immediately

When any person, not a student or administrative personnel or instructional personnel, improperly enters a restroom or changing facility designated for the opposite sex on the premises of the school will be charged under Florida Statutes with trespassing, as identified in s.1005.06(1)(b)-(f), F.S. by either instructional personnel, security personnel, or law enforcement personnel.

A student, administrative personnel, instructional personnel, security personnel and law enforcement personnel have the right to file a complaint with the Attorney General alleging that the school not under the purview of the commission, as identified in s.1005.06(1)(b)-(f)., has failed to meet the minimum requirements for restrooms and changing facilities under ss. 553.865(4) and (5), F.S.

December 20, 2023

### **STUDENT CHALLENGES**

Students experiencing any challenges in or out of class which may affect their class work should contact the Dean of the College.

### **STUDENT DISCIPLINE**

Student Discipline is handled by the Dean. Major infractions could be cause for suspension or total expulsion from the RSW.

### **STUDENT DISMISSAL**

Students who are dismissed from continuing classes for academic, disciplinary or financial reasons, will not be allowed to enroll in future RSW courses without the written recommendation of the Dean. Students who are dismissed from the RSW for these reasons are not entitled to a tuition refund. Students who are dismissed for financial reasons must have paid all past-due tuition and fees before being permitted to register for future courses.

### **ATTENDANCE POLICY AND PROCEDURES**

Courses are on demand. It is the student's responsibility to view all classes in the course. Classes are available 24hrs a day during the set schedule time of that course.

## **ACADEMIC POLICY AND PROCEDURES**

### **Grading System**

Grades are used as a measure of how the student is grasping the information taught. While grades are important, students should realize that the revelation they receive in each class will cause true growth in faith.

<b>Letter Grade</b>	<b>Percentage</b>
A+	99-100
A	94-98
A-	90-93
B+	88-89
B	84-87
B-	80-83
C+	78-79
C	74-77
C-	70-73
D	65-69
F	64 and below

### **FINAL COURSE GRADES**

Final Grades are determined by the following criteria:

1. Final exam grade
2. Satisfactory attendance. Refer to policy for class absence. Student's final grades will reflect the deduction listed for absence and/or tardiness.
3. Completion of all assignments and projects.

All course work is required to be submitted to the instructor no later than 2 weeks after the course scheduling ends to receive full credit for the course. Course work submitted after this deadline will result in a lower grade: 3 weeks late, drop one grade level; 4 weeks late, drop 2 grade levels. After this date, will be recorded as an F grade.

Course failures will require the student to repeat the class in full and pay all fees.

## **GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS**

An average quality point standing of "C" or better is required for graduation. All credits must be in order and all prescribed courses finished with an acceptable grade point average. All fees for the school must be completed before graduation.

## **REPORT CARDS AND TRANSCRIPTS**

On Demand - Report is found on the individual student portal on the learning management system.

Transcripts are issued exclusively by the Dean of RSW for all students. The student can order an initial transcript in writing. Additional copies are available for \$10.00 each.

## **STUDENT RECORDS**

Permanent records of all graduates, current students and correspondent students are kept on file at RSW in the Florida office. All information is confidential and will not be given out without written permission from the student.

## **ADMISSIONS/REGISTRATION & FINANCIAL POLICIES**

### **Eligibility And Acceptance Policy**

Age: persons aged 18 and older may attend the RSW. Applications by those younger than 18 must be accompanied by written references, a recommendation by their pastor, letter and signature of approval from the parents or legal guardian and approved by the RSW Dean.

Acceptance: All applications for admission are subject to acceptance by the Dean. Background checks are required for all students. RSW does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national or ethnic origin.

Transfer of credits for those interested in pursuing a theological degree should schedule a meeting with the Dean for more information.

## **ADMISSIONS PROCEDURE**

Student must complete a confidential application form available from the Dean. These will be available online at [riverswfl.com](http://riverswfl.com). Background checks are required for all students before admission to RSW.

Fees:

A onetime non-refundable fee of \$150 fee is required at the time of application. This is non-refundable.

Students who transfer to the school from a previous school need to submit a transcript from that school to the Dean if they are looking to take a path towards a degree. Credits may be transferred for work completed at other institutions including a secular or Bible College, providing they are parallel with courses offered by RSW and the grades earned in these courses are satisfactory.

Students desiring credit for previous courses taken at another institution should request official transcripts from the school, college, or institute previously attended. Transcripts should be sent to the dean's office, River Southwest School of Ministry. An evaluation will be made as to the amount of

credits that may be transferred. There is a non-refundable credit evaluation fee of \$45.00 for this service. Additional documentation, including curriculum or course outlines may be required. RSW reserves the right to approve or disapprove all courses for transfer credit.

## **COURSE REGISTRATION**

Student must registration online once their application is approved for each class they are attending. The student will have access with a passcode to identify the courses available for that trimester.

On-Demand Classes:

Students must pay in full for the course they have chosen due by the day before scheduled activation of the first class.

Study guide fee is required be paid by the day before each first class.

Payment of the one-time application fee of \$150 for full-time and part-time students is due when applying to RSW.

**PRE-REGISTRATION:** Newsletters and other types of mailers are e-mailed to students identifying upcoming courses. All students must pre-register for the classes so books and other paperwork can be ordered.

## **SCHOOL FEES**

### **ADMISSION:**

A onetime application fee of \$150 paid at the time of application for full and part time students. This is non-refundable.

### **TUITION:**

**All courses** = \$80 per credit hour Paid by the day before first class for, live-stream and on demand to have access online. Refund: 90% after first class, no refund beyond.

The 37 courses go towards the Associate program. For degrees- courses credit goes towards degrees as determined by the Dean.

No auditing of classes is permitted.

**STUDY GUIDES** - various prices for each book. No refunds.

All students must pay in full by the day before first class to receive for first class.

### **FAMILY DISCOUNT:**

Any married couple, or parent and child residing in the same household, attending RSW may apply for the Family Discount. One person pays full credit price, the other pays \$55 per credit. All registration fees and study guides will remain at full price for each person. Paid by the day before first class for on campus, live-stream and on demand to have access online. Refund: 90% after the first class, no refund beyond.

## **SCHOLARSHIPS**

There is not a scholarship program at this time. We will receive funds from those who would like to support future classes. Contact the Dean for more information.

## **POSITIONS AND EMPLOYMENT**

Being a student at RSW is about transformation and not occupation. The River at Fort Myers Church and the River Southwest School of Ministry do not promise or guarantee paid employment, whether part time or full-time for any employer, nor positions or titles with RFM or RSW after the completion of the program.

## **OUR CURRICULUM & ACADEMIC INFORMATION**

Because the River Southwest School of Ministry is a School of the Bible, it is our only Major. The programs are structured to provide every student with a thorough foundation in God's Holy Word. Classes are developed to lay a strong foundation of Doctrine, Faith and Discipleship. In the required Bible Courses and Discipleship, major doctrines of the Christian faith are studied. Please be sure to read important information on page 24.

## **THE BASIC DIVISIONS OF CURRICULUM**

### **Associate Degree**

**The Basic Core Curriculum** – if a student is desiring to complete the requirements for an Associate's of Arts Bible Degree, they must complete successfully all the core courses (years 1-2). They will also need to complete 300 hours of the Christian Service Component. 97 credits required.

### **Bachelor Degrees**

We offer Bachelor Degrees for Bachelor of Divinity or Bachelor of Ministry. 129 Credits is required. (plus required graduation assignments)

### **The Master's Degree and Doctor's Degrees**

Before a student may commence a graduate level degree through RSW, they must first have received their bachelor's degree. A new resume may be submitted with up-dated ministry. The Dean is available to assist the student as their begin their master's or doctor's degree programs, helping them to have understanding as to which degree would be most beneficial to them as they walk out the call of God in their own particular life.

Degrees include Ministry, Divinity, Nouthetic Counseling, Theology, Christian Education, Biblical Studies, Church Administration

Master's 189 credit hours (plus graduation assignments)

Doctor's 249 credit hours (plus graduation assignments)

## River Southwest School of Ministry

### CORE COURSES

#### Descriptions

#### BIBLE

##### **Bi 167 BOOK OF ACTS            ODBi 157**

**Dr. Leslie Schneider (3)**

A study of the History of the Church; evangelism in Jerusalem, Judea, Samaria and the uttermost parts of the earth; and the power of the Church. The Book of Acts records events over a period of more than thirty years, and shows the spread of the Gospel. We will discuss the highlights of most chapters.

##### **Bi 168 GENERAL & PAULINE EPISTLES        ODBi 158**

**Dr. Leslie Schneider (4)**

A survey of the New Testament books, with a concentrated biblical study of the lives of the apostles, the beginning of the Church, and with a practical application of biblical principles for our day-to-day life. In this course, you will gain a new knowledge of our Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ, and learn how to walk in His ways.

##### **Bi 169 LIFE AND MINISTRY OF CHRIST        ODBi 159**

**Dr. Leslie Schneider (3)**

A study of the four Gospels including the preparation for Jesus' ministry; a dive into His 3 years of ministry; His preaching tours; all the events leading to His crucifixion and resurrection; and knowing Him as our Everlasting Savior.

##### **Bi 270 THE PROPHETS        OD Bi 260**

**Dr. Leslie Schneider (3)**

The Bible, the greatest document available for the human race, needs to be opened, read, and believed. This course will help you to do that as we look at the major and minor prophets in the Old Testament and how God used them.

##### **Bi 271 PSALMS, PROVERBS & ECCLESIASTES        ODBi 261**

**Dr. Leslie Schneider (2)**

The purpose of this course is to study the wisdom and magnificence of God in contrast to the natural human philosophy of man. In the book of Psalms, we will study the attitude of godly men in praising the Lord as a way of life. In the book of Proverbs, we will discover God's wisdom in the practical realm of everyday living. In the book of Ecclesiastes, we will see the vanity and hopelessness of human philosophy apart from God.

##### **Bi 272 REVELATION            ODBi 262**

**Dr. Leslie Schneider (4)**

Revelation means to "reveal and uncover." The Rapture, the Tribulation, the Judgment Seat of Christ, the Millennium, Heaven, and Hell are among the topics to be discussed. Students will understand the marvelous future that is before them which will enable them to live more positively now and occupy until He comes. This course is suitable for the new Christian, as well as the more mature Christian.

**Bi 173 STOP SATAN'S ATTACK ODBi 163****Dr. Leslie Schneider (3)**

This course will take us on a journey to understand Jesus' message that the Kingdom of God is at hand. We will look at what that means; why Satan is interfering with God's times, laws and purpose; and how the follower of Jesus can identify, isolate and eradicate the works of the enemy that is keeping them from accomplishing God's purpose in their life.

**BIBLE HISTORY****Bh 225 REVIVAL HISTORY ODBh 215****Pastor Daniel Williams (3)**

The purpose of this course is to help the student become familiar with the periods of Church history, important leaders, significant issues, great movements, and the characteristics of the True Church. Emphasis will be given to the Pentecostal/Charismatic movements that have arisen since the book of Acts, and have continued throughout history to the present day.

**Bh 226 PENTATEUCH & OT HISTORY ODBh 216****Dr. Leslie Schneider (4)**

This course will familiarize the student with the people and events of the Old Testament from creation to the return from captivity. Without knowledge of the Old Testament, one cannot fully understand many of the wonderful promises in the New Testament. This very exciting course has opened the eyes of so many to God's principles for today.

**THEOLOGY****TH 236 BLOOD COVENANT ODTB 226****Dr. Leslie Schneider (3)**

In this course is an application of covenant principles in our daily life and an understanding of the Father and the Holy Spirit through the Blood of the Lord Jesus Christ. You will get a detailed study of all the covenants that God has given to man for his profit. A must to understanding the promises in the New Testament!

**TH 137 CHARACTER OF GOD ODTB127****Dr. Leslie Schneider (3)**

The more we understand and come in contact with the magnificence of God, the more our love and respect for Him will increase. In this course, we will gain the Big Picture of God. This will contribute to our personal relationship to Him. We will identify the many names of God to gain understanding of each name. It then show us how God relates to mankind and we relate to Him to hallow His Name.

**TH 138 FOUNDATIONS OF FAITH ODTB 228****Pastor Clover Williams (3)**

Faith is learning to trust God, believing that God tells the truth. Without faith it is impossible to please God. Emphasis on what faith is and what faith is not, where our faith comes from, how it causes us to grow according to the Word of God, and how to apply the principles of faith in our everyday life. This course provides revelation knowledge for the mature Christian as well as for the new Christian.

**TH 39 GOD'S ABUNDANCE****ODTH239****Dr. Leslie Schneider (3)**

This course is an in-depth study of God as our financial source and explains how spiritual laws govern His financing system in our life. The student will learn scriptural causes for lack and the principles that will guarantee financial success in life. They should be able to soar to new financial heights and strength by the time this course is completed and its principles are applied.

**TH 40 GOD'S ANOINTING ODH 230****Dr. Leslie Schneider (3)**

An in-depth and practical understanding of the anointing of God. You will learn its purpose, power, and plan in the life of a follower of Jesus. It is the manifested presence of God that comes with a specific assignment for those who are hungry and thirsty for Him. Be propelled beyond head knowledge and receive His revelation as you discover and apply the truths of the Word of God to develop a relentless pursuit of Him.

**TH 41 HEALING FOR TODAY****ODTH 131****Dr. Leslie Schneider (3)**

Jesus gave the Great Commission: Preach, Teach, and Heal! One-third of the believer's responsibility is to heal the sick. Become equipped in the healing ministry of Jesus through this in-depth study of the theological and practical ministry of healing. This course is a must for every Christian.

**TH 42 HOLY SPIRIT****ODTH 132****Dr. Leslie Schneider (3)**

Develop a deeper, personal, intimate fellowship with the Holy Spirit. This course will explore in detail His personality, attributes, and spiritual gifts. Learn how to have true, constant, and ever-increasing communication with the Holy Spirit.

**TH 43 RIGHTEOUSNESS REVELATION BRINGS LIBERTY****ODTH 133****Dr. Leslie Schneider (3)**

It is the will of God for us to be blessed and to live in the fullness of all His promises, so we can give the glory to Him. Insecurity, inferiority, guilt, and fear have crippled the focus of the life of many believers--but Jesus sets us free! Experience liberty through the revelation of His Righteousness, and see His promises through a righteous conscience that will raise you to new heights of faith and experience. By choosing the tree of life this can be accomplished. This course helps the student identify which tree - the tree of life or the tree of knowledge of good and evil - they are living from, and how to receive the revelation knowledge of the liberty we have in Christ every day!

**TH 43 SPIRIT, SOUL, AND BODY ODH245****Dr. Leslie Schneider (3)**

We need a clear understanding of the nature, operations, and position of influence our spirit, soul and body have in our lives. Topics include: how to really experience spiritual growth, control emotional responses, experience our spirit's receiving from God, and Biblically separate the functions and operations of our three-part being – spirit, soul, and body. From this you can Biblically know how to develop your human spirit, to not be swayed by outside influences, to harness his mind, and to not live according to the body and its dictates.

**TH 45 UNDERSTANDING AUTHORITY****ODTH 135****Dr. Leslie Schneider (3)**

Authority is the governing word in God's Kingdom, in government, in business, in family, and in our personal life; yet, most of us do not understand how God intended its use. Through this course, you will learn how authority works with man's conscience, with the Word, and with God Himself, and how to use authority effectively to bring His Kingdom into manifestation.

**MINISTRY****Mi 65 BIBLICAL COUNSELING ODMi 255****Pastor Daniel Williams (2)**

This course is designed to teach Christians how they can effectively disciple others by using the truths of God's Word to lead people into a proper and holy relationship with the Lord. This course is built upon the foundation that God's Word is the highest and sole authority on the human soul (i.e., mind, heart, the whole person). This course explains why it is that Christians should not attempt to "integrate" secular psychological views with the Bible.

**MI 67 EXCELLENCE IN MINISTRY ODMi 257****Dr. Leslie Schneider (2)**

God has told us many times we are to be His excellent people, moving in excellence. Too many people think they have heard from God and just jump in and don't ask the correct questions, seek information or education they may need, have a plan of action, and the situation blows up. The reason is most have never been taught God's principles of character, commitment, and commission to excel in all aspects of their lives. This study brings clarity and instruction from the Word to accomplish this.

**MI 68 FIVE-FOLD GIFTS ODMi 258****Dr. Leslie Schneider (2)**

This course is designed to introduce the Biblical five-fold ministry offices to the church: the apostle, the prophet, the evangelist, the pastor, and the teacher. Each one will be examined as to calling, development, effect, and responsible position in the church of the Lord Jesus. Upon completion, many misconceptions will be dispelled, and an understanding of each gift office will result.

**MI 69 MINISTRY OF HELPS ODMi 159****Pastor Clover Williams (2)**

Every Christian wants to serve God. Many have not been taught what to do or understand everything we do for His Kingdom is important. The course identifies scripturally that serving is a ministry and each person is an important cog in the wheel in the local church and outside ministry.

**MI 70 MINISTRY PROTOCOLS ODMi 160****Dr. Leslie Schneider (2)**

This course will give the student greater understanding of the proper church etiquette, protocols and church ethics that are established to bring God's order and anointing in a ministry. All the actions are to honor and respect to our Lord as well as the designated authority He has placed in our lives to bring heaven on earth and build His Kingdom.

## GENERAL

### **Ge72 GOD'S FEARLESS WARRIORS                      ODGe 262**

**Dr Leslie Schneider                      (2)**

Fear is a debilitating force used by the enemy to freeze us in his grip to keep us from accomplishing the purposes of God in our life. It can cause a person to be immobilized or to jump to extreme conclusions. This course teaches that living fear-free is possible by destroying these lies because of the anointing of the Lord!

### **Ge 74 MOTIVATIONAL GIFTINGS                      ODGe 264**

**Dr. Leslie Schneider                      (2)**

The motivational gifts the Lord has given us helps the believer identify their gifting so they can be used mightily in the Kingdom to accomplish all God has called them to do. It also helps the person understand why others act the way they do and how to work in unity.

### **GE 75 OVERCOMING OFFENSE                      ODGe 265**

**Dr. Leslie Schneider                      (3)**

There is a strongman called the spirit of offense - a prince of the air- who is greatly affecting the Body of Christ. God has called us to wage war in the spiritual realm to set at liberty those who are bound, captive and hindered. Using Jesus' teachings in the Gospels, we will identify who this spirit is; the objective and the affect it has on the Body of Christ; what triggers this curse and stronghold in our lives; how we can identify it, isolate it and eradicate it.

## DIVINITY

### **Di 37 HOW TO HEAR FROM GOD                      ODDi 127**

**Pastor Daniel Williams (2)**

This course is to teach you how to hear God's voice so you can have clearer direction for your life. Discover what the bible says about hearing from God today, learn to overcome the most common blockages. Learn how to position yourself to hear from God in the many different ways he speaks. Discover how to assess if you're hearing from God or not.

### **Di 38 HOW TO STUDY THE BIBLE                      ODDi 128**

**Dr. Leslie Schneider (3)**

When this course is completed, the student will know how to prove the Bible is true, why he should study the Bible, how to read the Bible, various study approaches to the Bible, and the tools required for successful Bible study. In addition, the student will have gained a knowledge of how the natural human mind works and how this can affect success or failure in all walks of life--including Bible study. A study of hermeneutics – the keys to unlock the Bible is included.

### **Di 39 HOW TO TEACH & PREACH                      ODDi 229**

**Dr. Leslie Schneider (2)**

An introduction to an outlined study of selecting the right message to get the right results through preaching and teaching. Students will prepare sermons and understand how to deliver God's Word through a prepared message with the help of the Holy Spirit. A must for every Christian who desires to teach, preach, or witness for Christ.

**Di 40 JUDGING ODDi 1230****Dr. Leslie Schneider (2)**

Judging is one of the most difficult subjects in the Bible to grasp, but is also very important. Because believers haven't been taught correctly it can cause tremendous disobedience and to act contrary to Scripture. This course looks at both sides of the issue and helps the believer understand their responsibility to or not to judge in any given situation.

**Di 41 NEW CREATION REALITIES ODDi 131****Pastor Daniel Williams (2)**

An investigation into the Hidden man of the Heart, the spirit man, according to the great plan of redemption. This course will scripturally unveil who we are in Christ through the new birth.

**Di 42 POWER PRAYER ODDi 132****Dr. Leslie Schneider (4)**

This course is the bedrock of all spiritual breakthroughs. From how to receive revelation knowledge, to commanding forth provision, to intercessory prayer, Power Prayer is an extensive study in prayer. Prayer--the only way to find God's will for your life.

**LEADERSHIP****LI 80 EFFECTIVE LEADERSHIP 1 ODLI 270****Pastor Clover Williams and Dr. Leslie Schneider (2)**

Each of us influence people around us every day and we are to be a leader to bring the Light of Jesus to this darkened world. The Word gives us the wisdom and instruction to be effective leaders Topics include: The Biblical Functions of a Leader; The Call of a Leader; Authority and Responsibility; Leaders following Their Leader's Vision; Effective Communication; Handling Difficult People.

**LI 81 EFFECTIVE LEADERSHIP 2 ODLI 271****Pastor Clover Williams and Dr. Leslie Schneider (2)**

Completion of Effective Leadership 1 required. Each of us influence people around us every day and we are to be a leader to bring the Light of Jesus to this darkened world. The Word gives us the wisdom and instruction to be effective leaders. Topics include: Managing Time; Goal Setting/Action Plan; Structural Leadership, People's Behaviors.

**LI 82 GROWING UP SPIRITUALLY ODLI 172****Pastor Clover Williams (3)**

It is time to take a realistic view of our spiritual growth, to recognize how far we have personally grown, where we currently are and to learn what are the necessary steps to move to the next step in spiritual development. Topics include walking with the Father, learning to go deeper, the anointing of God, and working with Holy Spirit.

**EVANGELISM****Ev 91 EVANGELISM ODEV 181****Pastor Daniel Williams (2)**

This course will reveal the true heart of God and His priority to reap the world. You will be catapulted into a new level of vision, commitment, and excitement to reap the world in your generation.

## COURSE TITLES

### **1<sup>st</sup> Year**

Righteousness Revelation  
How to Study the Bible  
How to Hear from God  
Healing For Today  
Life & Ministry of Christ  
Protocols of Ministry  
Holy Spirit  
Book of Acts  
New Creation Realities  
Character of God  
Ministry of HELPS  
Judging  
Growing Up Spiritually  
Evangelism  
Understanding Authority  
General and Pauline Epistles  
Stopping satan's Attacks  
Power Prayer

### **2<sup>ND</sup> Year**

OT History - Pentateuch  
The 5-Fold Ministry Gifts  
Motive Gifts  
Blood Covenant  
Ministry of Excellence  
How to Teach and Preach  
Revelation  
Overcoming Offense  
The Prophets  
Effective Leadership 1  
Spirit, Soul, and Body  
Revival History  
Foundations of Faith  
Psalms, Proverbs, Ecclesiastes  
Effective Leadership 2  
Biblical Counseling  
God's Abundance  
Anointing  
The Prophets

Associates Degree: complete the core courses, equaling 97 credit hours; 300 hours of Christian Service Component Degree title – Associate of Arts-Ministry

Bachelor's Degree: 129 credit hours (plus required graduation assignments)  
Degree titles: Divinity, Ministry

Post-Graduate Degrees:  
Degree Titles: Ministry, Divinity, Nouthetic Counseling, Theology, Christian Education, Biblical Studies, Church Administration  
Masters 189 credit hours (plus graduation assignments)

Doctor 249 credit hours (plus graduation assignments)

## **GENERAL QUESTIONS**

### **Will Other Schools Accept Credits From Other Schools?**

There is no "yes" or "no" answer to this question. Every school has the right to decide whether or not they will accept credits from another school. Some schools will accept Divinity Accreditation, and some will not.

For those schools who want governmental approved accreditation, they must accept specific federal and state guidelines. This includes the schools offering required courses that the secular schools have established. Many divinity schools choose not to apply for this type of accreditation and seek the independent accreditation instead.

### **What if I want to pursue a degree?**

The first question is why is the degree needed? Is it for employment purposes, career choices or to have a title?

A person needs to be aware that all degrees are not honored by all institutions, businesses or organizations. Understand many divinity degrees are not honored for secular jobs, governmental jobs or secular education positions. There are denominations in this country that will not accept divinity degrees from institutes unless they belong to their denomination. These may sound harsh or unfair, but we need to recognize we are in the world not of the world. There will be persecutions for those who follow Christ.

It is your right as a citizen of the United States to pursue your education. You need to be diligent in your choices. If you are seeking a degree for a job or promotion in your workplace, it is your responsibility to check with your employer as to what their requirements are. In many states there are state and local jobs that only approve degrees that have the governmental accreditation. Certain ministries require certain courses, certifications or degrees. All these things must weigh in your decision.

### **Accreditation**

Since we are a Bible School of Ministry we do not seek the approval of government recognized accreditation, because it would compromise the purpose we strive for in being a divinity school following God and His principles rather than the world's. However, we do want to provide our students with exceptional study opportunities and course material and have established high standards in our methods and procedures and offer excellent anointed Word courses. We are a Member of Theological Accreditation International.

### **What is Accreditation?**

Accreditation in any school is a voluntary, cooperative process by which the schools willingly agree to, and participate in, a set of established standards in order to promote quality Education. Schools seeking a divinity accreditation will have additional standards for the purpose of promoting the Spiritual as well as the Academic quality of Education. Thus goals are set by the Accrediting Association(s) and agreed upon by those who are accredited by such Association(s).

### **What is the Purpose of Accreditation?**

The purpose of being accredited is to let you as a student or prospective student know that a school of continuing education (divinity, seminary, secular) is committed to a standard of excellence.

Because the purpose of accreditation is to provide a way for educational facilities to determine the acceptance of credits and degrees, and because all accreditation is purely voluntary, many institutions who choose not to conform to governmental restrictions but do wish to provide high quality education choose some form of independent accreditation.