

APOSTOLIC PENTECOSTAL

MINISTER IN TRAINING

Social Skills & Ministerial Etiquette

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APOSTOLIC PENTECOSTAL
MINISTER-IN-TRAINING
(MIT) — SOCIAL SKILLS &
MINISTERIAL ETIQUETTE

*A Practical Apostolic Pentecostal Booklet
for Young Men Preparing for Ministry*

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Preface

My booklet is written for young men serving as Minister-In-Training (MIT) in Apostolic Pentecostal churches. Its purpose is to help you grow in social skills, ministerial etiquette, and practical ministry habits so you can represent the Lord Jesus Christ, your pastor/elder, and your local Apostolic Pentecostal church with confidence, humility, and holiness. Use these pages as a guide, practice the exercises, and ask your elder and pastor to read this booklet so it is aligned with what they believe and teach.

Scriptural Foundation

- 1 Timothy 4:12 — “Be an example...”
- Colossians 4:5-6 — “Walk in wisdom toward them that are without...let your speech be seasoned...”
- Titus 2:7-8 — “Show yourself in all things a pattern of good works...”
- Proverbs 15:1 — “A soft answer turneth away wrath.”

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1. Understanding Your Role as an MIT

Definition

- Apostolic Pentecostal Minister-In-Training (MIT)
— a young man apprenticing under Apostolic Pentecostal church leadership to learn about preaching and teaching, pastoral care, and practical ministry.

Mindset

- You are a servant called to the fivefold ministry and set aside by your shepherd for service and training in the local church, not to promote yourself. Learn

to listen more than you speak. Have a teachable and submitted spirit toward your pastor/elder.

- Cultivate a meek, submissive spirit toward your pastor and church leadership. Pride, arrogance, or self-will hinder ministry. Ask the Holy Ghost to remove pride from your heart. Self-willed arrogance will destroy you; do not be heady-minded or self-willed.

Expectations

- Punctuality, humility, obedience to church policies, confidentiality, and a consistent spiritual life (prayer, Bible study, holiness).
- Evangelism expectation: MITs must regularly engage in evangelism and discipleship. Minimum requirement: evangelize at least once a month (door-to-door witnessing, setting up and leading home Bible studies grounded in Acts 2:38, and focused Bible studies on the oneness of God and holiness). These activities prepare you for pastoral work and demonstrate fruit in ministry.
- Before you are authorized to preach from the pulpit, you must serve under your pastor, demonstrate a teachable spirit, show consistent commitment to evangelism and discipleship, and receive the blessing and approval of your pastor (“man of God”). Submission, humility, and willingness to learn are essential.

2. Character and Personal Preparation

Key virtues

- Holiness and integrity: Live a life above reproach (apply 1 Timothy 3 principles to personal conduct).
- Temperance and self-control: Control your tongue, emotions, and impulses.
- Reliability and consistency: Be where you say you will be and follow through on commitments.

Spiritual disciplines

- Daily prayer and Bible reading.
- Personal repentance and accountability (mentor or trusted brother).
- Regular involvement in church life (choir, outreach, prayer meetings).
- Regular evangelistic activity and follow-up with new contacts.

3. Appearance, Dress, and Grooming

Principles

- Dress to honor God, the congregation, and the occasion. Neatness and modesty communicate respect.
- Your appearance should be consistent with the church's standards of holiness and should not draw

attention to yourself.

Guidelines

- Sundays / Regular Services: Clean, pressed suit and tie (or other formal attire consistent with local church standards). Shoes should be polished.
- Hospital & Home Visits: Always wear a suit and tie with a clean, white long-sleeve shirt preferred, and polished shoes unless the pastor instructs otherwise or a specific pastoral sensitivity requires a different approach. Present a professional and respectful appearance for pastoral care visits.
- Ministerial Duties (platform, counseling, official visits): Maintain the same formal standard of dress as above.
- Grooming:
 - Men should be clean-shaven (no facial hair) in accordance with this church's standard. Always follow the practice of being clean-shaven; it is considered best for a minister.
 - Hair should be conservative and neat: short and cleanly trimmed around the ears and neckline. No effeminate, worldly, trendy, or attention-seeking hairstyles. Follow leadership's definition of a "holiness" haircut.
 - Nails clean and trimmed; avoid strong cologne or perfumes but yes by all means wear clean cut cologne like a man but not a sissy smelling like a woman that

may bother the sick.

- Personal hygiene: Always be clean and fresh when visiting people. Before praying in the altar or during close pastoral contact, ensure your breath is fresh (keep mints or breath strips available).

Notes on pastoral sensitivity

- While these are the standard expectations, show pastoral wisdom and compassion: adapt when a situation calls for a less formal appearance (severe illness, cultural considerations, or the pastor's direction), while maintaining cleanliness and respect.

4. Basic Ministerial Etiquette (Before, During, After Service)

Before service

- Arrive early to pray, review announcements, and coordinate with leaders.
- Check microphone and notes; greet ushers and musicians.
- Dress appropriately and be sober-minded.

During service

- Remain attentive when others minister; refrain from side conversations.
- Never request another person's phone number

while preaching for another pastor or while counseling any of his congregants. Never go into another pastor's pulpit to preach your own agenda on holiness standards, etc. Do not attempt to pastor another man's church.

- When on platform, maintain steady eye contact and speak clearly.
- Keep altar time reverent; follow the norm of the church for prayer and altar calls. Before praying in the altar, ensure breath is fresh.
- Be mindful of movements on stage and respect personal space.

After Service

- Greet people kindly; be available for brief counsel and refer complex matters to the pastor for longer issues.
- Handle offerings with discretion and according to church policy.
- Clean up any materials and help release the congregation in an orderly fashion.

5. Communication Skills — Speaking & Listening
Listening and never ever over talk your pastor or guest ministers and never get around the pastors sheep in your own church without his permission once you become a MIT now your not going to fellowship with the sheep and backslap unless he

gives you permission. never ever let a sheep come to you and tell you something and say to you don't tell the pastor , you let them know I will never ever listen to sheep over my shepherd and don't let ever complain on your man of God . you let them know right there this conversation over and i'm calling the man of God even if it's immediate Family.

- Be present; maintain eye contact and avoid interrupting.
- Reflect back: “What I hear you saying is...” to confirm understanding.
- Ask open-ended questions to invite people to share.

Speaking

- Speak clearly, slowly, and with purpose.
- Use appropriate volume and tone; enliven sermons but avoid showmanship.
- Use Scripture as the foundation; avoid presenting personal opinion as doctrine.

Nonverbal

- Posture, gestures, and facial expressions should be warm and respectful.
- Maintain a respectful distance during visits and counseling; be sensitive to individual comfort levels.

6. Pastoral Visits: Hospital, Home, Bereavement, Weddings

General principles

- Call ahead when possible; ask about best times to visit.
- Dress respectfully; bring a short Scripture and a simple prayer.
- Always ask permission before praying aloud or touching a person (e.g., laying on of hands).

Hospital visits

- Keep visits short unless invited to stay; speak words of encouragement and pray aloud only with permission.
- Check with family/caregivers about the patient's condition and spiritual needs.
- Always sanitize hands and avoid strong scents.

Bereavement

- Offer condolences, listen more than speak, pray, and follow up in days/weeks after the funeral.
- Offer practical help (meals, errands) and be present during grieving.

Weddings

- Be punctual; practice the ceremony script ahead of time.
- Remind couples of expectations and confidentiality. Offer pastoral counsel before the ceremony.

Sample hospital visit outline

- Greeting: “Hi, Brother John, I’m Brother Mark from the church. How are you feeling?”
- Ask permission to talk and pray.
- Share a short scripture (Psalm 23, Isaiah 41:10).
- Pray a concise, empathetic prayer in Jesus’ name.
- Offer resources and a follow-up plan.

7. Platform and Pulpit Conduct

- Know your sermon outline; avoid reading verbatim—be familiar enough to engage the congregation.
- Use clear transitions when moving from Scripture to application to invitation.
- Avoid theological debates on the platform. If questions arise, invite discussion offstage.
- When sharing testimony, be concise and edifying.
- Respect other ministers by not interrupting their ministry; coordinate transitions.
- Before preaching from the pulpit, ensure you have the pastor’s approval and blessing.

8. Teamwork, Respect for Leadership, and Authority

- Follow the pastor's lead. If you disagree, discuss privately and respectfully.
- Support church programs; volunteer reliably.
- Know boundaries: pastoral counseling vs. professional counseling. Refer when necessary.
- Maintain confidentiality; do not gossip.
- Serve under leadership and submit to instruction as part of your training and growth.

9. Conflict Resolution and Maintaining Church Unity

- Handle issues quickly, privately, and biblically (Matthew 18:15-17).
- Speak in gentleness and truth; avoid escalating.
- Involve leadership for serious matters and follow the church's established process.
- Aim for reconciliation and restoration, not winning arguments.

10. Digital & Social Media Etiquette

- Your public profile reflects the church. Post with wisdom and discretion (Colossians 4:5).
- Avoid airing church disputes or confidential matters online.
- Don't share pastoral counseling details or personal gossip.

- Use social media to encourage, inform, and invite—keep language holy and respectful.
- Keep private communications professional and documented when appropriate.

11. Practical Exercises, Roleplays & Skits

Purpose: practice real situations to build confidence.

Exercises

A. Active Listening Drill (pairs)

- One partner speaks for 3 minutes about a personal struggle. The listener may not interrupt but must summarize the speaker's main points and feelings when finished.

B. Greeting & Handshake Practice

- Roleplay church arrival: practice greeting older members, children, and newcomers. Use a firm but gentle handshake, appropriate eye contact, and a welcoming phrase: "Good morning, Sister Mary. Glad you came today."

C. Short Hospital Visit Skit (3–5 minutes)

- Characters: MIT, patient, family member.
- MIT enters, greets, asks permission to pray, reads

Psalm 23, prays, offers a follow-up visit.

D. Platform Transition Exercise

- Practice introducing worship, reading Scripture, giving a short 5-minute exhortation, and then smoothly handing back to the pastor or next speaker.

Sample skit scripts

- Opening greeting: “Good evening, church. I’m Brother James, a Minister-in-Training. On behalf of our pastor, we welcome you. Let’s prepare our hearts for worship.”
 - Hospital prayer: “Heavenly Father, in the name of Jesus I pray for Your healing hand on Brother John. Give him strength, comfort his family, and give wisdom to medical staff. Amen.”
- Never over stay your welcome in a home or hospital.

12. Checklists & Daily Habits

Daily personal checklist

- Prayer and Bible reading (time logged)
- Brief self-examination (repentance)
- Accountability check (mentor contact as scheduled)
- Personal hygiene and grooming check
(clean-shaven, hair trimmed)

- Breath check before altar/service — mint available

Visit Preparation Checklist (hospital / home)

- Suit and tie, clean White long-sleeve shirt, polished shoes . Please always check to make sure your shoes on polished .
- Clean-shaven / neatly groomed hair no beards or mustaches or long side burns
- Breath freshener (mint) on hand
- Short Scripture & brief prayer prepared
- Call ahead when possible; confirm best time to visit

Weekly/Monthly checklist

- Shoes polished (check weekly)
- Prepare and lead or participate in at least one evangelistic activity per month preferable every Sat (door-to-door witnessing, home Bible study, street witnessing, etc.)
- Log evangelistic contacts and follow-up plans
- Meet with pastor/mentor for feedback and instruction

Pre-pulpit approval checklist

- Served under pastor's direction and demonstrated consistent service
- Demonstrated teachable and submissive spirit

- Shown fruit in evangelism and discipleship (monthly activity documented)
- Received pastor's blessing and scheduled time to preach

13. Recommended Reading & Resources

- The Holy Bible (read daily)
 - Basic Apostolic Pentecostal Apostles Doctrine resources (as recommended by your pastor)
 - Pastoral ministry guides and etiquette books recommended by leadership
 - Books on preaching, pastoral care, and counseling (seek titles approved by your church)
 - Local church handbook and policies
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- In what ways do I need to grow in humility and teachability?
 - How often am I sharing the gospel, and what can I do to increase my evangelistic fruit?
 - Are my dress and grooming consistent with the standards I have committed to?
 - How well do I handle correction from my pastor or mentor?
 - What practical step can I take this week to serve a brother or sister in need?

Mentor Notes (for pastors and trainers)

- Use this booklet as a teaching tool; review sections with the MIT regularly.
- Require monthly reporting on evangelistic activity and a quarterly review of progress.
- Address pastoral exceptions compassionately; document any deviations from standards.
- Coach MITs in in-person roleplays and evaluate platform skills in low-pressure settings.
- When approving pulpit time, ensure the MIT has demonstrated consistent fruit, character, and submission.

Appendix — Sample forms (optional to include)

- Evangelism log (date, name, contact, follow-up)
- Visit record (date, location, outcome, prayer requests)
- Mentor evaluation checklist (character, skill, doctrine, readiness)

Final Note

My booklet outlines expectations and practices designed to prepare you for faithful service. Standards of dress, grooming, and conduct reflect this church's convictions; local leadership may adapt specifics. Remain teachable, accountable, and always mindful that your life and ministry should point people to Jesus. Be 100 percent committed

to your pastor's vision, submitted to leadership, and consistent in holiness within and without. Avoid unwholesome television and inappropriate content on your phone. Use the internet and social media primarily for ministry, work, or necessary communication (email, texts). Limit personal internet and social media use to avoid temptation and the dangers of the flesh. No facebook or instagram or other social media for pleasure. If questions arise about any of these standards, discuss them privately with your pastor or mentor.

- Ministers, MITs, and their immediate families should avoid watching movies or owning TVs in their homes when those media conflict with holiness standards.
- Avoid attendance at skating rinks, bowling alleys, proms, dances, or similar secular entertainment venues when participation would compromise a testimony of holiness.
- Do not wear or display jewelry that is considered contrary to the church's standards.
- Refrain from listening to secular music that conflicts with Apostolic values.
- Abstain from gambling, drinking alcoholic wine, and using illegal drugs.
- Do not use recreational drugs or misuse prescription pills to get high. This includes abstaining from marijuana for non-approved recreational use.

(Any medical questions or exceptions should be discussed privately with the pastor and, where appropriate, qualified medical professionals.)

- Avoid playing video games or using entertainment media judged to be worldly or contrary to Christian testimony.
- MITs and ministers must set a holy example in their homes and personal conduct consistent with these standards.

Written by Elder Keith Joel Walker