



SHELBY BAPTIST ASSOCIATION

CHURCHES SERVING CHRIST TOGETHER

November 1, 2018

Dear Church Leader,

Shelby Baptist Association is proud to announce its new partnership with Piedmont International University in providing an opportunity for all the churches in our association to bring seminary classes and training through Temple Baptist Seminary to the members of our association. Piedmont's unique e4-12 education program provides both a Master of Arts in Ministry degree and an Enrichment training program to all Alabama Baptists in our association.

Piedmont International University is known for two things: strengthening the local church and seeking to use the newest technologies for higher education and ministry training. The e4-12 program is the groundbreaking new program that links the association, the church and university together unlike ever before. An innovative system of distributed education provides university level training at community college prices directly in and through the local church. Piedmont International University can offer the very best of graduate level education with tuition at \$99 per credit hour.

The "e4-12" name was chosen based on the two desired results from Ephesians 4:12 where the Lord gives gifted teachers to the church to "equip the saints for ministry" and build the body. Our goal is to assist churches by graduating Christian leaders who are: 1) competent in Biblical and theological knowledge, 2) strong in their personal faith, 3) skilled in ministry, 4) outstanding in communication 5) prepared to understand and engage their culture with courageous proclamation of the gospel and confident defense of the faith.

Here's how e4-12 works. The Master of Arts in Ministry degree is a 30-credit hour program made up of ten courses that each feature twelve, professionally filmed, 50-minute video classes that will be streamed and played in a classroom at our association office or designated church. Students who are seeking the master's degree must hold a recognized bachelor's degree and will individually enroll online at Piedmont. They will then gather each week at the designated time to watch the video classes. Between classes students will individually log on to Piedmont's Blackboard server for discussions, class assignments, and exams. By following the normal sequence, a student can earn an accredited Master of Arts in Ministry degree in as little as three and a half years for less than \$3,000 of total tuition.

In addition, there's also a very affordable option for those who don't have a bachelor's degree. An enrichment option will be available for only \$39 per course for those who won't be seeking a master's degree. This program is not just for pastors or others serving in full-time ministry, but for serious Christians who want to go deeper in the Word, understand contemporary Christian issues, and take ministry to the next level.

If you have general questions about e4-12 or enrolling, please go to www.e4-12.com and then click on "important links" to register. Dr. Byron Edens is the Vice President of Piedmont and has oversight of e4-12 and our partnership. He can be reached at edensb@piedmontu.edu or at 423-308-9652 to assist you in applying. You may also contact me.

Our first course, "Origins," will be taught by Dr. Ken Ham (here is a link to a promo video - <https://www.piedmontu.edu/e4-12-course-origins>) and will begin Tuesday, January 15, 6:30 P.M. in the conference room of Shelby Baptist Association Ministry Center. **All applications need to be received by Dec. 14th.** We look forward to having all our churches and members of Shelby Baptist Association involved. If multiple persons from the same congregation desire to participate, we will consider a satellite location. Please share this information with persons in your church who may have an interest in this opportunity.

Blessings,
Dr. Hugh Richardson

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