

What is the New England Calvary Chapel School of Ministry?

The goals and purpose are defined by the name.

New England We are distinctively New England. New England has a regional context that is different from other regional, national, and global environments. As such we work with churches in New England to provide tools, resources, instruction, and training in the cultural and evangelistic context of the Region.

Calvary Chapel We are Calvary Chapel in that we are all unified by our association with Calvary Chapel. All NEccSOM staff, as well as all pastors of participating churches sign an affirmation of agreement with the doctrines, practices, and distinctives as they are presented by the Calvary Chapel Movement. As such our teaching faculty is divided between regional teachers and national and global teachers associated with Calvary Chapel.

School of Ministry The dictionary defines a school as an institution of learning. NEccSoM is registered in Connecticut with an office in Massachusetts, while the classrooms are spread across the six state region at participating Calvary Chapels. The classroom goals are ministry preparation in leadership, spiritual education, personal devotion and character development.

What is the history of NEccSoM?

The idea for a New England wide School of Ministry goes back a few decades. Pastors George Small of Horizon Christian Fellowship and Joe Paskewich, now retired from Calvary Chapel in Eastern Connecticut both had PITs (Pastors In Training) groups and had on occasion talked about establishing a school for New England.

George began to do some training via video bringing in Calvary Chapel teachers from around the United States to the classroom in Fitchburg. In 2023 George demonstrated how several Calvary Chapels could tap into universal teaching, together, through video teaching. Joe consulted with Ed Conway, now retired pastor of Calvary Chapel Chelmsford, Massachusetts and Steve Cole pastor of Calvary Chapel in the City. At the 2024 New England Pastors Huddle Joe presented the idea of a School of Ministry to serve all of the New England Calvary Chapels. Over the next calendar year, a template for NEccSoM was built that not only was meant to serve the churches of New England, but that could also be utilized in other parts of the country to replicate the one here in New England. The first semester was launched in January of 2026. NEccSoM registered as an "Integrated Auxiliary" religious organization in the state of Connecticut and appointed Donn Fisher, pastor at Calvary Chapel Raynham, as the Dean of the School.

Is NEccSoM an accredited school?

No. The New England Calvary Chapel School of Ministry is not accredited by any accrediting organizations. At this time NEccSoM is not entertaining the idea of seeking accreditation. While we value accredited college and university work, and many on our board and staff have college degrees, our focus is on equipping the local church and

local church members with college and seminary quality education while serving in the local church.

Do I get any credits while attending New England Calvary Chapel School of Ministry?

No. The New England Calvary Chapel School of Ministry does not offer college credit, nor do we offer any credentials (i.e. ordination, certificates, etc.) as all of our classes are intended to work directly with and serve the local church. The school is a two year program where the progress, completion, and / or any credentialing of the students is monitored by the proctors (under the leadership of the pastors) through the local church.

Who are the faculty of NEccSoM?

Our faculty are all Calvary Chapel Movement related teachers, retired and active Calvary Chapel leaders. All of our faculty have been or are currently Calvary Chapel pastors. As our name says, the School of Ministry is three things (1) New England (2) Calvary Chapel (3) School of Ministry.

Hence we are seeking to serve in a New England context, seeking to recruit half of the instructors and teachers directly from New England. Calvary Chapel is also an international family of churches so we seek to include half of our teaching staff from states and nations outside of New England. This is true for both the classroom instruction and in our seminars.

Instructors are selected on the basis that they are in good standing within the Calvary Chapel Movement and that other Calvary chapel pastors and leaders affirm their call, ability, and skill as teachers worthy of the school.

How is learning and training monitored across numerous autonomous churches?

The pastor of each church must approve their own students to join the school. Once enrolled in the two year program there are certain expectations for each student, all monitored at the local church level. These include, but are not limited to (1) Regular attendance in the classroom at their local church. This is not an online school, but a classroom environment. Students attend class along with the other video venues at their own home church (2) Students are required to attend five Saturday Seminars throughout the calendar year. (3) Students are required to serve in their local church (4) Students are assigned reading and writing assignments. (5) Students are required to preach, teach, or lead a devotion once every module. (6) Students are required to go on one mission trip over their two years in the school.

All of this is monitored using tools the school provides to each participating church. The ministry in each church is under the oversight of the local pastor. There is no expectation that the pastor do all the monitoring or administrative work, as each church is required to have a proctor, who can be either the lead pastor or someone he appoints.

The proctor is required to keep attendance , log progress on assignments and insure students are serving and teaching somewhere.

Is the New England Calvary Chapel School of Ministry its own entity?

Yes, The New England Calvary Chapel School of Ministry is independently incorporated in the State of Connecticut. That means we exist primarily and in the context of the Calvary Chapel Movement to serve local New England Calvary Chapels with education, training, academics, and leadership development that falls under and serves the leadership of the local congregations.

The School is governed by an odd number of Board of Directors from the Calvary Chapel Movement. As part of the Calvary Chapel Movement we are in regular fellowship with many of those pursuing similar goals, be they official institutes of higher learning or other Schools of Ministry run by local churches. We seek and receive advice, fellowship, and interaction with many pastors and leaders in the Calvary Chapel movement as a whole.