

# MINISTER FOR DISCIPLESHIP



**Job Title:** Minister – Discipleship  
**Term of Employment:** Permanent contract  
**Reports To:** Minister – Team Leader

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## Context and opportunity

This post represents a major opportunity to shape a vision for discipleship as part of the leadership team at Above Bar Church, Southampton.

Above Bar Church is a large, vibrant evangelical church in the centre of Southampton which is passionate about mission and discipleship in today's complex world. Our vision is to be a community of Christians loving God, following Jesus, and sharing hope. We seek God's blessing so as to be a blessing across the city and in the wider church and world.

Our church family includes people of all ages, along with large numbers of students (including many internationals) and young graduates who play a full part in church life. We have a firm commitment to team ministry, both in our leadership structure and in our staff.

We enjoy good relationships with other local evangelical churches and agencies as active members of the Southampton Christian Network. In partnership with Living Leadership, we run Formation School, a training course for disciple-making leaders which works across several churches in the area. We are affiliated to the Fellowship of Independent Evangelical Churches and the Evangelical Alliance.

Southampton is a major city on the south coast of England, with a population of around 230,000. It is a port city and a regional retail centre, and has two universities with a total student population of nearly 40,000.

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## Essential functions and responsibilities of the role

The Minister for Discipleship will

- take overall responsibility for developing our vision for effective discipleship ministries across the generations
  - take overall responsibility for the development of our variety of small groups
  - develop and invest in group leaders, equipping them to envision and empower group members in their discipleship journeys
  - share in the responsibility for Formation School
  - participate in the pastoral care team and line-manage the Head of Pastoral Care
  - participate in the leadership of the church as one of its team of ministers
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## Person specification

Loving God • Following Jesus • Sharing hope

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The Minister for Discipleship must be a prayerful, committed Christian who lives out their faith with personal integrity. They should

- be passionate about equipping others for service through inspiring, coaching, training, teaching, and encouraging people for whole-life discipleship
- have exceptional people skills with a pastoral and disciple-making heart
- be an experienced strategic leader and inspirational communicator
- be an action-orientated self-starter, capable of working in a team and alone
- be a creative, servant-hearted, flexible team player who is able to co-operate and communicate with others of all responsibility levels
- meet the biblical criteria for eldership along with the qualifications set out in our church handbook
- enthusiastically affirm our church's basis of faith and is supportive of our vision, values, and practices (including the practice of believer's baptism)
- ideally have degree-level theological education

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## Our mission statement and vision for discipleship

Above Bar Church exists to glorify God by seeking to make and mature disciples of the Lord Jesus Christ, so that in everything he might have the supremacy.

We have a deep conviction that we are all called to be disciples of Jesus who are:

**Loving God:** God shows us his love in Jesus Christ who died to save us and rose from death to give us life. So we want to love God with all that we are, and live for his glory by making much of his Son.

**Following Jesus:** We are called to be disciples of Jesus who make more disciples. We want to follow him in every part of our lives, believing that God wants Jesus to be supreme in everything.

We are convinced that true discipleship means being:

- **Bible centred** because Jesus is the centre of the Bible and we love him
- **God dependent** because Jesus promised the power of his Spirit to those who trust him
- **authentic community** because Jesus unites people from diverse backgrounds in his body
- **mission focused** because those who follow Jesus are also sent out by him

**Sharing Hope:** We believe that following Jesus is the best way to live, but it doesn't stop with us. God has blessed us through Jesus to make us a blessing to others. He calls us to share this blessing with the world by proclaiming the good news of Jesus and demonstrating his love in action. We aim to do this within the city of Southampton, around the world, and in our contribution to the wider church.

The post holder will be expected to contribute to the fulfilment of the vision and will be required to take a major leadership role in developing a culture where every generation seeks to be disciples who make disciples in all areas of life.

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## Terms of Employment

This is a permanent contract. We recognise that the job description will change over time as the role develops and as the post holder works with other team members. Accordingly, the job description will be reviewed regularly as part of our on-going appraisal system.

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