

Qualities of a Bible Study Teacher

In a process of discernment at Central Plains Annual Meeting in 2015, conference delegates identified the biblical qualities and expectations consistent with qualified teachers. Based on that feedback, here are the qualities that people like to see in those leading Bible study in the congregation. These qualities are not to be seen as minimal requirements, but rather as qualities teachers would identify with and aspire to.

Spiritual qualities

- Love for students and discovery
- Strong and sincere faith
- Full of wisdom and the Spirit
- Pure-hearted
- Patient and kind
- Respected and in good standing in the community of faith
- Evidences the fruits of the Spirit
- Not quarrelsome or perpetuating controversy

Expectations

- Is diligent in his/her own study (a lifelong learner) and continually builds his/her knowledge of the scriptures
- Carefully prepares learning experiences using lesson plans with clear objectives
- Teaches with an awareness of the context of each scripture text in the long arc of the whole biblical story
- “Opens” the scriptures to the students as opposed to reducing the scriptures to pre-determined platitudes
- Teaches with an expectation that Bible study will produce change and growth toward obedience and spiritual maturity
- Speaks the truth in love, aspiring to create a learning space in which all can participate

Central Plains Mennonite Conference encourages each member congregation to identify and train a cohort of people with gifts for teaching and facilitating Bible study in congregational settings. The congregation would affirm these people for their gifts, encourage them to see themselves as Bible study leaders, and offer them training to improve their skills. The conference will offer no less than two trainings a year in which congregational teachers can participate.

-Discernment drawn from: Acts 6:1-7; Acts 5:33-39; I Corinthians 12:27-30; Ephesians 4:11-16; I Timothy 1:3-7; II Timothy 2:22-26; 4:3-5; Hebrews 5:12; James 3:1-2