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Throughout the Evangelical Presbyterian Church, Ghana, are many churches being served by men and women who are about the practice of “tent ministry.” These are very capable people. All have had at least basic education but none have had any “formal” Biblical or theological training.

The EP Seminary in Peki offers certification for those seeking both Pastoral/Ordained ministry and those seeking Lay Ministry Diplomas. The programs, however, require the students to be on campus several weeks per year. This means that many of those serving churches or who would like to serve churches are unable to take part because they are unable to leave job and/or family for several weeks at a time. The EP Seminary is beginning to change this.



Those seeking Lay Ministry Diplomas are able to attend classes through a combination of weekend sessions and home assignments. The students come to the seminary for “in class” instruction one weekend per month where classes are held on Friday evening, throughout the day Saturday, and Sunday afternoon. They also are able to participate in the development, leading of worship on Sunday morning. This includes their opportunity to preach.

Each subject is allotted four hours during the weekend. The students then return home. The instructor may send materials with them or may send additional materials to them via WhatsApp. The students will attend these classes over three weekends with a final exam being given during the final weekend. Another set of class sessions will be begin the next time students arrive. In other words, during the three weekend period, students receive the equivalent of class instruction as having been on campus for four weeks. If the students are successful with their classwork, they will receive a diploma and formal recognition for Lay Ministry at the end of two years study.

Of course, in the US and Canada, many institutions of higher education (and since the pandemic) are providing long-distance education via the internet through Zoom or other networks. Ghana’s internet system is not yet reliable enough for such learning and many students do not have access to computers for such purposes. Another issue is cost, as internet can be expensive and many cannot afford to spend hours communicating and sharing in this manner.

In Ghana, education (and the EP Church) is making strives to use modern technology within the limitations and challenges it faces.

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