

# APPLICATION DUE AUG. 3, 2025

**Prompt 1:** How do you see the required commitments for Via Ecclesia fitting with the other commitments you have made or plan to make for the 2025-2026 school year?

**Prompt 2:** Why do you want to participate in VE? Share some of your primary motivations and hopes about how this program will help you grow and what ministry area you hope to serve in.

**Prompt 3:** Lastly, talk about what Beautiful Belonging means in the context of this local church. How do you understand the value of membership and service in our local congregation and the larger Church? If you are a member of FBCA, talk about why that matters; if you're not a member, talk about why that is true.

**Prompt 4:** Have a conversation with a current or former FBCA deacon about their experience as a lay leader at FBCA. You might want to ask about how they discerned a call to leadership, how their faith grew or changed as a deacon, what the experience of ordination meant to them, or what they learned about vitality in the life of a congregation from the deacon experience. Provide a one-page write-up about that conversation.

Via Ecclesia applications should be typed and submitted to Sarah W. ([swhitlock@fbca.net](mailto:swhitlock@fbca.net)) no later than August 3, 2025. To receive a list of current and recent deacons of FBCA, contact Sarah W. Additional questions may be submitted to Laura Addis ([laddis@fbca.net](mailto:laddis@fbca.net)).



FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH OF ASHEVILLE

VIA ECCLESIA  
WAY OF CHURCH

# COMMITMENTS

## ATTEND

- Attend monthly peer learning group for theological reflection
- Attend one deacon meeting per semester (likely September & May)
- Attend one auxiliary FBCA event per semester (CFL; AFTA)

## SERVE

- Serve regularly in your designated area of ministry

## MEET

- Meet monthly with a deacon sponsor
- Meet regularly with a member of the ministerial staff

## JOIN

- Join an FBCA ministry council or team as an active participant

## READ

- Read a designated book and provide a written reflection



Via Ecclesia is a leadership development program at First Baptist Church of Asheville that immerses youth in the life of the church with an intense focus on servant leadership and community dynamics. Identified recipients will commit to one year of collaborative learning and intentional service beyond youth programs. The Via Ecclesia program has designed experiences of intergenerational ministry, theological reflections, peer learning and support, and pastoral mentoring and supervision.

The Via Ecclesia program begins in August 2025 and concludes in May 2026. Applications will be accepted from any high school junior and senior or young adult actively engaged with FBCA.

Up to four (4) interns will be selected for this second program year, with an option for returning students to reapply for 2026. Identified recipients will form a fellowship that will stimulate peer learning and communal theological reflection. Interns will receive a stipend of \$1,000 per semester for an expected hourly commitment of five (5) hours per week. These funds come from a special church fund and are intended to support post-secondary educational and professional opportunities.