



Dear Middle TN Pastors,

Hello from Trevecca! I hope your summer is full of reconnecting, refreshing, and moving back into the rhythm of church life. I wanted to take a moment today to share with you some ideas and extend an invitation to share in ministry together.

I'm entering my third year as University Chaplain at Trevecca. It's been an odd beginning as we've navigated the pandemic. However, as we look ahead to a more traditional year, I want to start making progress on one of my top goals as Chaplain: helping students plug into our local Nazarene churches, engage in service in them, and increase their love for the local church during their time at Trevecca.

I'm sure there are many bridges we could build and avenues we could explore to work together towards this goal. I'd love to get the conversation started by offering two ideas:

- An Invitation to Campus – Students love when pastors show up on campus. I want Trevecca to be a place where our Nazarene ministers feel welcome and at home. When I was a pastor in Murfreesboro, I regularly came to study in the library and hang out in student spaces. Our community is richer when folks like you are moving through it regularly, helping provide a pastoral presence on campus, and connecting with students. As a part of this invitation, I'd like to pay for your lunch twice this fall in our cafeteria (which is amazing). When you plan to come, shoot me an e-mail to let me know so we can get you a voucher. If I can join you for lunch, I'd love that!
- Highlighting College Groups/Ministries – Many of our local Nazarene churches provide special college ministries and/or groups. I would love to highlight those on campus alongside our discipleship group/ministry offerings. If you could send me the relevant information on these groups, I'd be glad to promote them here. If you want to go the extra mile, I'd encourage you to consider hosting a group on campus. If that's something you'd like to explore, please reach out and I'll make sure we have a space reserved for you to meet and help you with promotion.

Finally, I want to say thank you for your ministry in the local church. As a pastor for 17 years before moving into this role, I know the joy and burden of local church ministry. Ashley and I have a deep love for the work that you're engaged in and want to support you in any way we can. Please let us know how we can help...or if you have ideas to add as we brainstorm together how to minister to this upcoming generation of students.

Blessings,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Erik Gernand".

Erik Gernand

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From the office of the Chaplain