

News Release: For Immediate Release



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The Vine Institute begins fall classes

The Vine Institute, formerly known as Salt Lake Theological Seminary, is starting fall courses the week of September 13th. The Vine Institute will continue the mission of training Christian leaders in the Salt Lake area.

SALT LAKE CITY, UTAH, SEPTEMBER 13, 2010 – *Salt Lake Theological Seminary*, the only graduate school of theology in the Intermountain West, suspended the usual operations in October, 2008 after experiencing financial difficulties. After searching for ways to continue serving the needs of Utah’s Christian community for leadership training, the organization is beginning operations as *The Vine Institute*. The Institute consists of a core of the same staff with 25 years’ experience of local faculty still teaching theological education in collaboration with other ministry organizations.

The need for mature and effective Christian leaders is urgent in established churches as well as refugee and immigrant communities along the Wasatch Front. Each year more than 1,000 refugees and thousands more immigrants arrive in the Salt Lake area. Leadership training has been identified as the single most significant factor in their successful resettlement. Thus an opportunity exists to encourage those leaders who are Christians alongside those who are American born and leaders in their churches. *The Vine Institute* meets that need by facilitating Christian leadership training in multi-cultural small groups of rising leaders at multiple locations.

This fall, *The Vine Institute* will start two courses for equipping Christian leaders. Classes will be held at Calvary Baptist Church and the Tongan Free Wesleyan Church. For more information, visit www.vine-institute.org or call 801 581-1900.