



PATH5334 Bi-vocational Ministry
New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary
Division of Church Ministry
Fall 2021, August 13-14, 2021
Special Event Course @ No Restraints Conference

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Mission Statement

New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary and Leavell College prepare servants to walk with Christ, proclaim His truth, and fulfill His mission.

Course Description

This course will aid students to develop competency in bi-vocational pastoral ministry through a study of how to accept a call to a bi-vocational church, begin a bi-vocational ministry, build relationships, carry out pastoral ministry on a bi-vocational basis, equip others for ministry, provide effective leadership and church administration, and prepare to leave a bi-vocational church position.

Student Learning Outcomes

Bi-vocational ministry is a specific and important type of pastoral ministry. While all Christians shepherd others in various roles and relationships, some are involved in a bi-vocational ministry. Therefore, by the end of this course, students will:

1. Be able to apply ministry principles, concepts, methodologies, and resources within a bi-vocational ministry situation or church.
2. Value bi-vocational pastor-type shepherding as a vital part of their ministry calling and work.
3. Demonstrate acceptable proficiency in bi-vocational ministry functions (such as doing pastoral visitation, administering the ordinances, performing weddings, conducting funerals and ordinations, providing church leadership and administration, equipping members in ministry, preaching, counseling as a bi-vocational minister, and incorporating efficient time management).

Textbooks

The following textbook is *required*:

Tripp, Paul David. *Lead: 12 Gospel Principles for Leadership in the Church*. Wheaton: Crossway, 2020. ISBN 978-1-4335-6763-6.

The student will choose *one of the following three books* to read:

Bickers, Dennis. *The Bi-Vocational Pastor: Two Jobs, One Ministry*. Kansas City: Beacon Hill Press, 2004.

Gilder, Ray. *Uniquely Bi-Vocational: Understanding the Life of a Pastor Who Has a Second Job*. Forest, VA: Salt and Light Publishing, 2013.

Highland, James W. *Serving as a Bi-Vocational Pastor: Positive Help for a Growing Ministry*. Newburgh, IN: Newburgh Press, 2012.

Course Requirements

This is a Special Events course format, taught in concert with the Caskey Center “No Restraints” Conference. Students registering for the course are also required to register separately for the Conference. Students are required to attend all class sessions as well as all conference sessions in order to receive credit for the course.

1. Attendance 20%
Student must attend all class sessions and all conference sessions August 13-14.
2. Session Summaries 20%
Student will submit six, one-page summaries (one-page each) for the four general sessions as well as two of the break-out sessions for the No Restraints Conference.
3. Annotated analysis 20%
Submit one typed, three pages or less (single-spaced) annotated analysis of the required textbook and one book from the three additional books on bi-vocational ministry or on pastoral ministry. Format: this one page, single-spaced analysis should give a correct bibliographic listing of each of the two books with their associated annotations, which answer the following questions:
 - a. What is a two-paragraph (or less) summary of the book?
 - b. What are helpful features of the book for bi-vocational ministry/pastoral ministry?
 - c. What is one difficulty, deficiency, or limitation in using the book for bi-vocational/pastoral ministry?
4. Biblical Basis for Bi-vocational Ministry 20%
Student will submit a 3-4 page reflection paper on at least ten principles of bi-vocational ministry derived from a reading of the book of Acts, 1 and 2 Timothy and Titus. Include advantages as well as challenges of being bi-vocational.
5. Final Exam 20%

Late Assignments

Assignments turned in **past the date due** will incur a late penalty of **ten** points, which will be deducted from the assignment grade. Assignments will **not be accepted more than one week past the date due without permission** from the course professor. However, students are reminded that some points for assignments submitted late are better than no points for assignments not submitted.

Course and Assignments Schedule

The class will meet at the Birmingham Extension Center campus, Valleydale Baptist Church, 2324 Valleydale Rd., Birmingham, AL on Friday, August 13, 2021 from 8:30 am - 5:00 pm. and on Saturday, August 14, 2021 from 3:30-5:00 pm. In addition, members of the class will attend all sessions and break-out sessions of the “No Restraints” conference. Attendance of all class sessions and conference sessions is required (no exceptions).

Assignments are to be submitted in Blackboard and are due on these dates:

	DUE DATES
1. Lecture Attendance	Aug. 14
2. Session Summaries	Sept. 11
3. Annotated Analysis	Oct. 1
4. Biblical Basis Paper	Oct. 1
5. Final Exam	Oct. 1

The final exam will on October 1, 2021 on Blackboard by the end of the day.

Technical Assistance

For assistance regarding technology, consult ITC (504-816-8180) or the following websites:

1. Selfserve@nobts.edu - Email for technical questions/support requests with the Selfserve.nobts.edu site (Access to online registration, financial account, online transcript, etc.)
2. BlackboardHelpDesk@nobts.edu - Email for technical questions/support requests with the NOBTS Blackboard Learning Management System NOBTS.Blackboard.com.
3. ITCSupport@nobts.edu - Email for general technical questions/support requests.
4. www.NOBTS.edu/itc/ - General NOBTS technical help information is provided on this website.

Writing Style Guide

A copy of the approved NOBTS Style Guide can be found in the course Blackboard shell, or can be located online at the Writing Center’s page on the seminary website at:

<https://www.nobts.edu/resources/pdf/writing/StyleGuide.pdf>

Help for Writing Papers at “The Write Stuff”

NOBTS maintains a Writing Center designed to improve English writing at the graduate level. Students can receive writing guides, tips, and valuable information to help in becoming a better writer.

Plagiarism on Written Assignments

NOBTS has a no tolerance policy for plagiarism. Plagiarism in certain cases may result in expulsion from the seminary. See the NOBTS Student Handbook for definition, penalties, and policies associated with plagiarism.

Selected Bibliography

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