

# Curriculum Vita

## Dr. Joel Bennett (Joe) Sherrer

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### CHURCH & DENOMINATIONAL EXPERIENCE:

*Executive Pastor*, First Southern Baptist Church, Oklahoma City, Oklahoma.  
August 2009 to present.

*Minister of Education*, Southern Hills Baptist Church, Oklahoma City, Oklahoma. 1990-2000.

*Associate Director of the Department of Religious Education*, Baptist General Convention of Oklahoma, Oklahoma City, Oklahoma. 1986-1990.

*Director of Education and Promotion*, Union Baptist Association, Norman, Oklahoma. 1983-1986.

*Minister of Education*, Trinity Baptist Church, Norman, Oklahoma. 1978-1982.

*Minister of Education*, First Baptist Church, Clinton, Oklahoma. 1977-1978.

*Minister of Education*, Kelham Baptist Church, Oklahoma City, Oklahoma. 1975-1977.

### ACADEMIC EXPERIENCE:

*Professor of Christian Education—Ministry-Based*, New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary, New Orleans, Louisiana. 2010 to present.

*Degree and Curriculum Planning Consultant for Graduate Faculty*, Odessa Theological Seminary, Odessa, Ukraine. June, 2012.

*Professor of Adult Education*, occupying the John T. Sisemore Chair of Christian Education, New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary, New Orleans, Louisiana. January, 2000 to July, 2009.

*Adjunct Professor*, Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, Ft. Worth, Texas. Fall, 1998.

*Guest Instructor* in Principles of Adult Education, Oklahoma State University in Tulsa, Oklahoma. Summer, 1997.

*Instructor*, Seminary Extension Center in Capital Baptist Association, Oklahoma City, Oklahoma. 1976.

## **INTERIM EXPERIENCE:**

*Interim Minister of Education*, First Baptist Church, Jackson, Mississippi.  
January through May 2007.

*Interim Minister of Education*, Dauphin Way Baptist Church, Mobile, Alabama.  
2004 to 2005.

*Interim Minister of Education*, First Baptist Church, Ponchatoula,  
Louisiana. 2001-2002.

*Interim Minister of Education*, First Baptist Church, LaPlace, Louisiana. 2001-2002.

*Interim Minister of Education*, Trinity Baptist Church, Oklahoma City, Oklahoma. 1989-1990.

*Various Pulpit Supplies* while a professor at New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary and as  
a denominational leader in Oklahoma.

## **DENOMINATIONAL SERVICE:**

Oklahoma Baptist University, Shawnee, Oklahoma, Trustee, 2014 to present.

Ethics and Religious Liberty Commission of the Southern Baptist Convention,  
Trustee, 1995-2000.

Member of the Nominating Committee of the Baptist General Convention of Oklahoma,  
Member, 1997-1998.

Various state and association committees and positions including Associational Sunday School  
Director, Association Discipleship Training Director, Associational Vacation Bible School  
Director, Associational Personnel Committee member, Associational Executive Board member,  
1975-2010 in Capital, Union, and Concord-Kiowa Baptist Associations in Oklahoma.

President (and other offices) of the Oklahoma Baptist Ministers of Education Association, 1975-  
2000. President of the Baptist Association of Christian Educators (national), 2009-2010.

## **ORDINATION:**

Ordained by The Baptist Temple, Oklahoma, in September, 1978. Dr. Finley Tinnin, pastor.

## **CURRENT CHURCH MEMBERSHIP:**

First Southern Baptist Church, Oklahoma City, Oklahoma – Shane Hall, pastor.

## **EDUCATION:**

1995-1999      Doctor of Education  
Oklahoma State University, Stillwater, Oklahoma  
Specialization: Occupational and Adult Education

Dissertation Title: "Continued Volunteerism by Adult Sunday School Teachers: A Comparison of Motivational Functions," Oklahoma State University, Stillwater, Oklahoma, 1999.

- 1973-1975      Master of Religious Education  
(Changed to a Master of Arts in Religious Education)  
Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, Ft. Worth, Texas
- 1969-1973      Bachelor of Arts  
Oklahoma State University, Stillwater, Oklahoma  
Major: Mathematics Education  
Minor: Soviet and East European Area Studies Certificate
- 1982              Oklahoma State University Oklahoma City  
Additional study in Computer Technology
- 1969-1971      East Central State University, Ada, Oklahoma  
Foundational studies

## **PUBLICATIONS & WRITINGS:**

Numerous articles in such denominational publications as *Leading Adults*, *Mature Living*, *Sunday School Leadership*, *Adult Leadership*, *Growing Churches* and adult Sunday School curriculum.

"Different Paths to Follow," in *Teaching Adults: A Guide for Transformational Teaching*. Rick Edwards, comp. Nashville: LifeWay, 2000.

"See the World Around the Path," in *Teaching Adults: A Guide for Transformational Teaching*. Rick Edwards, comp. Nashville: LifeWay, 2000.

*Teaching Adults: Video Vignettes*. Nashville: LifeWay, 2000.

*Adult Class Leader Administration Kit*. Nashville: LifeWay, 1999.

*The Leading Edge: Married Adults—An Interactive Sunday School Leadership Training Video Program*. Dallas: Sampson, 1994.

*Adult Sunday School Handbook*. Nashville: Convention, 1993.

*Your Role As an Adult Class Member*. Nashville: Baptist Sunday School Board, 1987.

## **PRESENTATIONS AND CONFERENCES:**

Numerous presentations and conference leadership responsibilities for such groups as LifeWay Christian Resources, state conventions, associations, and local churches.

## **COURSES TAUGHT AT NEW ORLEANS BAPTIST THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY:**

### **Master Level Courses:**

*Directives in Christian Education*\* (assists students with clarifying their call to ministry and introduces students to the various vocational opportunities of Christian education ministries)

*Servant Leadership* (investigates theories of leadership with a concentration on the appropriateness of servant leadership as a model for church leadership)

*Clinical Field Project in Administration* (offers students supervision and guidance in a carefully planned experience of administrative work in a local church, campus, or denominational agency)

*Strategic Church Development through Christian Education*\* (investigates the models for delivery of Christian education in a local church with an emphasis on building from a biblical and theological rationale to a strategically developed implementation plan)

*Interpersonal Relationship Skills* (provides in depth skill development of such interpersonal concepts as listening, assertion, conflict-resolution, and collaborative problem solving skills)

*Adult Ministry in Theory and Practice*\* (investigates developmental and learning foundations as a basis for outlining critical actions for building a local church ministry with, to, and through adults)

*Family Life Education* (investigates the scope and biblical basis of family ministry highlighting pre-marital, marital, and parent education and enrichment)

*Leading in Adult Ministry* (provides thorough guidance for ministers desiring vocational leadership with adults including ministry needs assessment, development, and evaluation)

*Ministry with Single Adults* (investigates the unique needs of the various populations of single adults, examines the biblical basis for such a ministry, and analyzes challenging areas such as divorce and single parenting)

*Ministry with Older Adults* (investigates biblical foundations, unique needs, and implementation of a comprehensive local church ministry with older adults)

*Understanding Adults* (discusses the psychological and spiritual natures of adults and relates the needs of the various groups of adults to the educational and discipleship ministry of the church)

*Clinical Field Project in Adult Education* (provides advanced, supervised study of adult ministry practice in a field environment such as local church, campus, denominational agency or mission setting)

*Age Group Ministries*\* (provides foundational skill development of the necessary processes for implementing a complete educational ministry for all ages in a local church)

*Lifespan Development*\* (examines foundational spiritual, psychological, generational, and physiological needs of all age levels for an emphasis on how these theoretical foundations impact ministry situations)

## **Doctor of Philosophy Seminars and Reading Colloquiums:**

*Adult Education* (engages students in a comprehensive examination of adult education with inclusion of both theoretical and practical implementation of adult education principles.

*Strategic Leadership in Christian Education* (investigates leadership theories, principles, philosophies, hazards, and trends with an emphasis on the impact of leadership on the educational ministries of a local church, denominational agency, or educational institution)

*Family Life Education* (involves an intensive study of implementing a comprehensive ministry to families in a local church including assessing needs, understanding necessary referrals, and providing enrichment and educational experiences for pre-marital, marital, and parenting situations)

*Teaching Methods and Learning Theory* (enhances the teaching skills of students anticipating a teaching role in college, seminary, or church settings with a focus on the theories and methodologies that under gird effective teaching and learning)

*Supervised Reading Colloquium 1: Ministry Context and Practice 1: Adult, Family, and Social Work\** (guides foundational readings in the assigned areas of Christian education)

### **Doctor of Ministry/Doctor of Educational Ministry Seminars:**

*Mid-Career Assessment Workshop* (assists students with assessing their ministry/leadership and personality styles, interpersonal relationship skills, spiritual vitality, family relationships, and character for the purpose of affirming strengths and improving weaknesses)

*Charting Adult Ministry for the New Millennium\** (investigates the current trends and challenges in the education of and ministry to adults in churches, specific ministry situations, and the denomination with an emphasis on developing new structures to strengthen the ministries)

*Challenges for the Contemporary Family\** (surveys contemporary family life, investigates challenges in local church family ministry, and addresses the role of the church and denomination in attempting to mitigate ministry needs)

*Singles' Ministry for the 21<sup>st</sup> Century* (in conjunction with the National Association of Single Adult Ministers this seminar investigates current themes of implementing a ministry to single adults such as divorce, single parenting, mobilizing singles for missions and ministry, and developing a singles' leadership team)

*Christian Education in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century* (in conjunction with the Baptist Association of Christian Educators' annual meeting this seminar investigates current educational ministry trends, needs, or implementation strategies)

*Leadership in the Local Church* (assists students with developing leadership skills for local church ministry through seminars and special workshops at the national leadership training events coordinated by LifeWay Church Resources)

*Networking for Transformational Ministry\** (held at the annual meeting of the Southern Baptist Convention this seminar assists students with identifying necessary relationships to sustain a lifelong ministry of significance in a church, ministry setting, or denominational agency)

*Ministering to Today's Older Adults\** (held in conjunction with the annual meeting of the Association of Baptist Ministries with the Aging this seminar investigates contemporary trends or needs in ministering to older adults)

*Developing a Strategy for Healthy, Evangelistic Church Growth* (investigates biblical, congregational, and contextual factors in evangelistic church growth and develops strategic planning skills to implement such growth)

*Leadership Styles in Ministry* (examines leadership principles and organizational theory in the context of local church ministry with an emphasis on the application of such theory to local church needs, issues, and practices)

*Creating a Winning Team*\* (identifies characteristics of successful teams in local churches and ministry settings, addresses critical components, necessary leadership skills, communication, and barriers to team success, and examines each student's team ministry situation)

*Strategic Church Development through Christian Education*\* (examines both traditional and contemporary models of delivery of Christian education in a local church for individual spiritual discipleship and overall church strengthening)

*Life Issues and Ministry Practice* (investigates critical age group, family, and individual life needs and issues in order to develop ministry models to meet particular needs and issues of each age group and family lifestyle)

*Managing Church Conflict* (addresses understanding conflict in local churches, biblical issues involved, identifying causes, and strategies for resolving conflict)

*Maturing Believers in a Cross-Cultural Context* (provides a lab experience in a mission setting for examining cultural factors that impact the implementation of a biblical approach to discipleship and leadership development)

*Leadership and Healthy Church Growth* (highlights leadership issues and necessary skills typically required for churches in growing contexts)

*Developing a Disciple-Making Strategy for a Healthy, Growing Church* (examines various approaches to disciple-making while guiding participants to develop a strategy for disciple-making within their ministry contexts)

\* Note: Also proposed, developed, guided the course through the course development and approval process.

## **COURSE TAUGHT AT SOUTHWESTERN BAPTIST THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY – SHAWNEE, OKLAHOMA, EXTENSION**

*Introduction to Adult Education in the Church* (surveys adult development from psychological, spiritual, and sociology perspectives and outlines foundational skills necessary for implementing a comprehensive ministry with adults of all ages in a local church setting)

## **COURSE TAUGHT AT MOSCOW THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY, MOSCOW, RUSSIA—SPRING, 2003**

*Maturing the Church through Christian Education* (investigates the biblical and theological mandates for discipling persons through the Christian education ministries of a local church, examines current models of practice, and outlines implementation strategies)

## **PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS AND HONORS:**

American Association of Adult and Continuing Education, 2000 to 2009.  
American Educational Research Association, member 2002-2003  
Association of Baptist Ministries with the Aging, 2001 to 2009.

Association of Supervision and Curriculum Development, member 2004 to 2009.  
American Society on Aging, 2001 to 2009.  
Baptist Association of Christian Educators, 2001 to present.  
National Association of Single Adult Ministers, 2001 to 2009.  
North American Professors of Christian Education, member 2004 to 2009, 2017 to present.

Distinguished Leader Award, Baptist Association of Christian Educators, 2018.

## **ACADEMIC ADMINISTRATIVE RESPONSIBILITIES:**

### **New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary:**

Chair, Division of Christian Education Ministries, January, 2003 to 2009.

Responsibilities included: (1) coordination of division actions to develop, implement, and evaluate a comprehensive program of Christian education, (2) supervision of division faculty and secretary, (3) advisement of students and approval of substitutions to requirements, (4) development and administration of division budget, and (5) coordination of division's research doctoral program.

New Millennium Partnership with IMB Moscow Missionaries  
Coordinating Committee, 2002 to 2009.

Responsibilities included: (1) planning and conducting the first mission event of the partnership, (2) working with administration and missionary strategy coordinator to assess ministry needs and faculty response, and (3) maintaining an ongoing relationship with field missionaries in Moscow and local church leaders.

Director of Doctorate in Educational Ministries Degree Program, June, 2001 to 2009.

Responsibilities included: (1) developing, implementing, evaluating, and revising degree program to meet an expanding professional student base, (2) recruiting, advising, and maintaining professional doctoral students in the degree program, (3) locating, promoting, and administering expansion locations as assigned for professional doctoral work, and (4) scheduling and coordinating faculty implementation of educational ministry seminars.

Professional Doctorate Oversight Committee, 2000 to 2009.

Responsibilities included: (1) providing overall guidance, coordination, and supervision to the professional doctoral program, (2) assessing student admissions, progress, and exceptions to program requirements, and (3) assessing student performance as measured through ministry project reports.

Graduate Dean's Council, 2002 to 2009.

Responsibilities included: (1) coordinating graduate program of studies including scheduling, communication, interdisciplinary cooperation, and (2) providing feedback for administration from Christian education.

Provost's Council, 2002 to 2009.

Responsibilities included: (1) receiving and interpreting to division members overall administration actions, mandates, and procedures, and (2) representing overall division concerns to the administration.

Academic Affairs Committee, 2002 to 2009.

Responsibilities included: (1) providing quality control for courses and degrees, (2) recommending new degree proposals and new course proposals to the faculty for consideration, and (3) considering other related academic issues as needed.

Extension Center Committee, 2001 to 2003

Responsibilities included: (1) providing general oversight to the seminary's extension center system, and (2) providing voice to faculty concerns related to the extension center system.

Ph.D. in Christian Education Revision Task Force, 2001-2003.

Responsibilities included: (1) assessing needed revisions and developing proposed curriculum for division consideration, (2) developing a schedule of necessary calendar and schedule adjustments, and (3) coordinating the implementation with the research doctoral oversight committee and division.

Social Work Advisory Committee, 2000-2002

Responsibilities included: (1) researching needs and opportunities for a master of social work degree program, (2) receiving community and other agency input regarding the proposed degree, and (3) recommending the degree program to faculty and administration.

Master of Divinity: Church Ministry Track Task Force, 2000-2001.

Responsibilities included: (1) developing and recommending necessary courses for the degree track, and (2) providing faculty suggestions to the graduate dean related to coordination and impact on local churches.