



PMSE8308 Church Planting Special Event
New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary Division of
Church Ministry
November 3-5, 2026, Alpharetta GA

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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 incorporate a significant conference designed for students interested in missions or church planting. The seminar will be conducted with the North American Mission Board Send Orientation/Conferences. Students will attend conference sessions designed to encourage and inspire participants in missional leadership and church planting. In addition to attending the conference sessions, students will complete other designated course requirements. Included in the required readings for the course will be various subjects related to the practice of church planting in North America.

This class will be part of the Send Network Orientation in Alpharetta, GA, November 3-5. All fees of the conference, travel, and lodging are covered.

Student Learning Outcomes

In order to help fulfill the Great Commission, the students, by the end of the course, should:

1. Identify and discuss the missional and church planting content from the conference presentations, breakouts, and the other readings and assignments.
2. Understand the church planting vision, strategy, and opportunities with the North American Mission Board and Send Network.
3. Synthesize the principles gleaned from the conference and other seminar assignments into current ministry contexts.
4. Develop an action plan for taking the next steps in partnering as a supporting or sending church in church planting through; prayer, participation, and provision in a North American context.
5. Develop an action plan to transition one step forward in the Send Network Church Pathway by taking the next steps in discovering, developing, and deploying church planters and church planting teams from within a local church context.

Required Textbooks

1. Merida, Tony and Pitman, Vance. Church Planter: Nine Essentials for Being Faithful and Effective. 2nd ed. Gospel Centered Discipleship, 2024.

2. Ferguson, Dave. Hero Maker: Five Essential Practices for Leaders to Multiply Leaders. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 2018.

Course Teaching Methodology

- On-site class sessions with the professor and other seminar participants
- Attend all session meetings during the Send Orientation
- A canvas shell for the class will be utilized extensively as a student resource
- Students will be expected to complete all pre- and post-seminar course assignments

Course Requirements

1. Participation and Attendance (15%)

- Attend the Send Orientation
- Come prepared to discuss and provide feedback to class gatherings at the event

2. Pre-Conference Work

Reading Assignment:

- Read Church Planter: Nine Essentials for Being Faithful and Effective by Merida and Pitman
 - Read Hero Maker: Five Essential Practices for Leaders to Multiply Leaders by Ferguson
- Due November 3rd

Book Analysis Papers (Two 5-page, double-spaced papers): (15%)

Submit one paper for each book with these headings:

Paper Title: [Book Title] - Book Analysis

- **Executive Summary**
Write a summary of the book's main ideas and arguments in 1-2 pages.
- **Key Quotes & Insights**
Include at least 5 key quotes from different chapters. For each quote:
 - State the quote in quotation marks
 - Include the page number
 - Write 2-3 sentences explaining why it's important
- **Personal & Ministry Application**
In 1-2 pages, explain:
 - How will you actually use what you learned in your ministry?
 - What specific practices or ideas will you implement?
 - How does this book challenge or affirm your current approach?
- **Assessment: Strengths & Weaknesses**
In 1 page, discuss:
 - What did this book do well?
 - Where could it be stronger?
 - Who would benefit most from reading this book?

Due: November 3rd

3. Conference/Gathering Assignment (25%)

Comprehensive Conference Documentation and Reflection:

Paper Title: Send Conference Documentation & Reflection

Part 1: Session Quotes (4-6 pages)

Organize by session type with these headings:

Main Sessions

- **Session Title:** [Title]
 - Speaker: [Name]
 - Quotes (4-6 relevant quotes with explanations)

Breakout Sessions (at least 3)

- **Session Title:** [Title]
 - Speaker/Leader: [Name]
 - Quotes (4-6 relevant quotes with explanations)

Include 40+ total quotes across all sessions

Part 2: Main Session Reflections (3-4 pages)

After the main sessions section, write reflections with these headings for each main session:

[Main Session Title] - Reflection

- **Key Insights:** What were the 2-3 main takeaways from this session?
- **Leadership Principles:** How did the speaker demonstrate or discuss practical leadership principles?
- **Personal Application:** How will this session impact your leadership and ministry? What's one area where you need to grow?

Due: November 13th

4. Virtual Consultation Meeting (10%)

Meet with Bo Smith (bsmith@namb.net) for 30 minutes to discuss your next steps in church mobilization, residency, and/or planting. No paper required — attendance and participation count.

Due: November 21st schedule via email

5. Application and Synthesis Paper - 9 Essentials (35%)

10-12 pages, double-spaced

Paper Title: Church Planting Leadership Synthesis: My 9 Essentials Application

Select **6 of the 9 Essentials** (Character, Calling, Prayer, Mission, Theology, Teaching, The Church, The Nations, or Practical Leadership) as your main sections.

For each of your 6 essentials, use these headings (approximately 1.5-2 pages each):

Essential 1: [Essential Name]

Definition & Theological Foundation

- Define this essential using Merida's framework
- Explain why it matters for faithful and effective church planting
- Support with Scripture references

Personal Reflection

- Honestly assess where you are right now in this area
- Give specific examples from your ministry experience

- What are your strengths? What do you need to develop?

Impact on Your Church

- How will developing this essential strengthen your church's health?
- How will it affect your mission effectiveness and culture?
- How will it influence your leadership team and congregation?

Conference Integration

- Reference specific insights from conference sessions that taught you something about this essential
- How did speakers challenge or affirm your current understanding?

Practical Leadership Application (90-Day Action Plan)

- Name one concrete leadership action you will take in the next 90 days
- Be specific: What will you do? When? How will you measure it?

Essential 2, 3, 4, 5, 6: [Repeat the same structure above]

Conclusion: Your Integrated Leadership Philosophy (1 page)

How Your 6 Essentials Work Together

- Synthesize how these 6 essentials connect and support each other
- Explain how they form your overall leadership philosophy for church planting
- What does a leader who embodies all 6 essentials look like in practice?

Due November 21st

Grading Rubric

Grading Rubric:

Participation/Attendance	15%
Book Analysis Paper	15%
Virtual Consultation	10%
Conference Documentation	25%
Synthesis Paper	35%

Total	100%
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The following is the grading scale used for this course:

A = 93-100

B = 85-92

C = 77-84

D = 70-76

F = Below 70

If you are taking this course as an Intensive or Event student, please note the following attendance policies:

1. Because of the nature of intensive and event classes, students who miss any portion of the in-person class or event may receive a grade of "F" for the course.
2. Students are expected to attend any other scheduled meetings per the syllabus.

Technical Assistance

Here is the contact information for the ITC support team, who are to help you with your NOBTS/LC technical questions/issues/support requests:

1. ITCSupport@nobts.edu - Email general technical questions/support requests. If you are not sure who to contact, use this email address!
2. Selfserve@nobts.edu - Email technical questions/support requests with the Selfserve.nobts.edu or My.nobts.edu site (Access to online registration, financial account, online transcript, etc.)
3. Canvas@nobts.edu - Email technical questions/support requests with the NOBTS Canvas Learning Management System, [Canvas.nobts.edu site](http://Canvas.nobts.edu/site/), / nobts.instructure.com.
4. VCHelpDesk@nobts.edu - Email technical questions/support requests with NOBTS Microsoft Teams (Flex & Live classes)
5. [504.816.8180](tel:504.816.8180) - Call for any technical questions/support requests. (Currently available Mon, Tues & Thurs 7:30am-7:00pm, Wed 7:30am-6:00pm & Fri 7:30-12:00pm Central Time)
6. www.NOBTS.edu/itc/ - General NOBTS technical help information is provided on this website.

Disability Accommodations

Accommodations for students with disabilities are determined and approved by the Assistant Dean of Students for Student Affairs. If you, as a student, believe you are eligible for accommodations but have not obtained approval please contact Conner Hinton immediately at chinton@nobts.edu or 504-816-8246. Students must complete the Accommodation Request Form and provide documentation of their disability. The Assistant Dean of Students notifies students and faculty members of approved academic accommodations and coordinates implementation of those accommodations. While not required, students and faculty members are encouraged to discuss details of the implementation of individual accommodations. The seminary reserves the right to consider each request for special accommodations on a case-by- case basis pursuant to the criteria enumerated above.

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.

Course Schedule