



ANSWERING GOD'S CALL

CESE8303 New Directions in Christian Education

Professional Doctoral Seminar
New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary
Spring 2026: March 23-24, 2026
DLN (Disciple Leaders Network – formerly BACE)
Annual Meeting, Oklahoma City

Jody Dean, PhD

Director, D.Ed.Min. Program/Professor of Christian Education
3939 Gentilly Blvd, New Orleans, LA 70126
(504) 816-8277 jdean@nobts.edu

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

The purpose of this course is to expose the student to contemporary issues in the ministry of Christian Education and to a national organization for Christian educators. This clinical learning experience will seek to help the student to analyze the contributions of such an organization to their continuing professional development as well as to interpret a diversity of issues in the contemporary culture in order to apply them rightly to their own ministry.

Student Learning Outcomes

You will be able to:

1. Assess and apply information gained from presentations from a variety of educational ministry context based on conference information and preparation.
2. Evaluate the key issues raised through presentations concerning the deeper elements of philosophy and principles of discipleship and educational ministry.
3. Participate in seminar meetings, discussing current trends and classic methodologies in light of conference presentations.
4. Identify and create a strategy to contextualize appropriately transferable components of presentations into the ministry setting of the student.
5. Assess the continuing value of membership in DLN (or similar professional organizations) to the student and the ministry to which he/she is called.

Required (Primary) Textbooks

Read the following:

Dean, Jody and Hal Stewart. *Together We Equip*. Bloomington, IN: Westbow, 2018.

Elmore, Tim. *A New Kind of Diversity*. Duluth, GA: Maxwell Leadership, 2022.

Secondary Text

Choose **two** additional books written or recommended by conference speakers (keynote or breakout) related to the conference theme of leading and managing ministry unity. Write a summary of each using the template supplied by the professor and available in

Canvas. Books must be approved by the professor prior to reading and submission of summary.

Special Seminar Considerations:

Membership. You can join the Disciple Leaders Network organization free as part of the NOBTS learning community.

<https://churchteams.com/m/Register.asp?a=bEIOaVVtNDB6Y2c9>

Registration. Registration fee is \$199. Register at this site. Promo Code: SCH49 for a \$150 discount from \$199. <https://www.discipleleaders.com/conference/>

Conference Fee: In addition to tuition, course requires a registration fee for the conference. Register at <https://www.discipleleaders.com/conference/>

Housing and Meals: All travel, food and room costs are the responsibility of the student.

Canvas Enrollment. You will be enrolled in our class in Canvas after the close of professional doctoral spring trimester registration. Assignments will be posted and collected via Canvas. Communication will be primarily through emails via Canvas.

Course Teaching Methodology

The course will involve the following methodologies: Reading and reports, Interviews, conference participation, and group dialogue.

Course Requirements

Pre-Seminar Requirements

- **Talking Points. (2 @ 10%)** **Due: March 23, 2026**
Post your *Talking Points* in the discussion area of Canvas.
 - Read two (2) of the required primary textbooks and prepare a list of **7 Talking Points** from **each** text. The list should include quotes, ideas, principles or practices. Cite a specific page reference (parenthetically) and a brief (3-5 sentences) explanation, reason, insight, observation. Be prepared to discuss them at the preconference meeting.
- **Pastor/Staff Interview. (10%)** **Due: March 24, 2026**
After reading the required textbooks, conduct at least 3 interviews with church staff, pastors, denominational leaders, or other ministry leaders. Identify 5-7 issues, challenges or opportunities related to aligning the ministries of the church for disciple-making. Report your findings in a summary, 3 pages in length.

Seminar Requirements (25%)

Due: March 23-24, 2026

- **Attendance.** You are expected to attend all scheduled program events as well as all seminar sessions. Take thorough notes on all sessions attended in order to be able to type and organize them for future use.

Post-Seminar Requirements (25%)

- **Secondary Book Executive Summary: (2 @ 10%)** **Due: May 1, 2026**
Each student will complete a 4 page summary handout of two (2) secondary text. The Executive Summary should include at least one page of application suggestions for

the local ministry context. Summaries will be submitted in pdf format on Discussion in Canvas by due date.

Conference Report & Reflection Paper.

Due: May 1, 2026

In **Part 1** Write a synopsis of the conference citing the sessions attended (include a brief description and personal application). In **Part 2** prepare a *Reflection Paper* (double-spaced, typewritten, and in proper form. Use the NOBTS Style Guide available on the website.) Consider the principles, practices or issues raised in the conference. Propose implications for your current or future ministry settings. Include at least one key idea or practice that you will initiate personally or in your ministry context. Include any necessary proper citations and a bibliography.

Evaluation of Grade

The student's grade will be computed as follows:

Talking Points 2 @ 10pts ea.	20%
Interviews	10%
Conference Attendance	25%
Executive Summaries	20%
Conference Report & Reflection Paper	<u>25%</u>
	100%

Seminar Schedule

You can find the conference theme, schedule, and speakers at www.discipleleaders.com

Seminar participants are expected to participate in all sessions.

The Conference: Northside Church, Murfreesboro, TN

Monday (March 24) 8:30am – 5:15pm (met with professor at NOBTS booth at 8:30)

Tuesday (March 25) 8:30am – Noon

12-2 Post-Conference Debrief Meeting session over lunch