



NEW ORLEANS
BAPTIST THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY

ANSWERING GOD'S CALL

CMSE8307 Networking for Transformational Ministry

Professional Doctoral Seminar

New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary

Summer Term: June 8-10, 2026

Held in conjunction with the SBC

Annual Meeting, Orlando, Florida

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Mission Statement

New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary and Leavell College prepare servants to follow Christ, proclaim his truth and fulfill his mission.

Course Description

This special event seminar will be held in conjunction with the Southern Baptist Convention's annual meeting. Seminar participants will have the opportunity to begin networking relationships with key denominational leaders about emerging strategies of Christian education that seek to produce transformation. In addition, seminar participants will utilize the convention sessions, ancillary meetings, and displays to discover useful resources for transformational ministry.

This seminar will focus on identifying and developing the various networks for implementing a comprehensive Christian education program in a local church ministry context. Specific attention will be given to initiating connections with denominational aspects of educational ministry, peer learning networks and associations, professional organizations, and other networking systems. Priority will be given to strategies for transformational ministry in a ministry leadership context. The seminar is designed for both pastors and staff leaders.

Course Objectives

By the completion of the course, each student will be able to:

1. Identify the strengths and opportunities of developing personal and professional networks to facilitate ministry.
2. Understand the biblical foundations and examples supporting the practice of partnering in the practice of ministry.
3. Identify strategies for transformational ministry in the context of Christian education.

4. Identify potential networks and resources to support leading transformational ministry in a local church or denomination. Begin the process of integrating potential networks and associations into the practice of ministry.
5. Appreciate the values of working and learning in community rather than exclusively as individuals.

Special Seminar Considerations:

Students are expected to participate in selected convention sessions and activities. Additionally, three sessions will be scheduled with the participants during the convention for interaction with the professor and other presenters. **A specific schedule for these seminar sessions will be distributed to enrolled students approximately two weeks before the convention.** You can anticipate meetings Monday and Tuesday during the day and a wrap up session on Wednesday. The schedule will be developed after the final convention schedule is released in order to minimize conflicts and maximize networking opportunities.

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

Information available at: <https://sbcannualmeeting.net/> <https://www.sbcpc.net/>

Canvas: You will be enrolled in our seminar in our LMS (learning management system) Canvas. Communication will be primarily through emails via Canvas. Assignments will be posted and collected in Canvas.

Textbooks

Networking (Choose **two** of the following Kindle eBooks):

France, David and Toni Oloko. *Show Up: Unlocking the Power of Relational Networking*. 2017

Fort, Jen. *Stop Networking Start Connectworking®: Building Real Connection in a Transactional World*. 2026

Devora, Zack. *Networking for People Who Hate Networking: A Field Guide for Introverts, the Overwhelmed, and the Underconnected*. 2019

Hilliard, Brian and Ivan Misner. *Networking Like a Pro: Turning Contacts into Connections*. 2017

Morgan, Michael. *The Power of Networking: Strategies for Career Excellence, Job Development, and Building Greater Triumphs in Your World*. 2024

Pastors Conference Speakers (Select **two** books written by the speakers)

The list of speakers can be located at <https://www.sbcpc.net/>

Pre-Seminar Work

Please consult the website <http://www.sbcannualmeeting.net> for convention registration and schedule information.

1. Reading and Application Report

Due: June 6, 2026

Read **two** of the required textbooks on networking and generate a single report which includes a brief synopsis of each book, a synthesis of the primary ideas and a personal application. Summarize the primary principles or ideas (use parenthetical citations) applicable to you (cite at least 5 potential application points.) Report should be 6 pages total. Synopsis (2 pages), Synthesis (2 pages), and Application (2 pages.) Highlight strengths and limitations in your personal networking practices.

2. Speaker Book Reports

Due June 6, 2026

Read books from **two** of the speakers at the Pastors Conference. (Select books you have not read previously.) Write a two-page personal reaction paper on each. Create a list of 5-7 key insights or observations. Intrinsic response to the content is expected and valued. (First person and parenthetical references are permitted).

3. Personal Reflection Paper

Due: June 6, 2026

Prepare and submit a two-part reflection paper. Each part should be 2-3 pages in length. Part 1 is a reflection on people who impacted you and have influenced your life and/or ministry. Consider people who have guided your spiritual, educational and career path. Cite at least four (4) individuals. Please exclude parents or immediate family. Part 2 should include examples of ways you are investing intentionally in others to assist their ministry leadership development. This paper should follow the NOBTS Style Guide. First person is permitted. The paper should be 4-5 pages in length.

During the Seminar

- Attend all seminar sessions.
- Take notes during the SBC Annual Meeting for use in the final assignment.

4. Convention and Special Session Participation

Due: June 10, 2026

Participate in the convention activities by attending some of the general sessions, meeting organizational leaders and gathering information relevant to your ministry setting. Attendance at three seminar meetings is mandatory (Time and Location TBD)

5. Interviews

Due: July 10, 2026

Interview at least one person or representative (preferably a director, manager, or officer) from each the following types of organizations, institutions, agencies or ministries: LifeWay Christian Resources, North American Mission Board, Baptist college/university, SBC seminary, International Mission Board, state convention, local association, an author, and a specialized ministry (Racetrack Ministries, Motorcycle Riders, Mega Force, etc.). You may ask any questions you desire. Discover the history and purpose of the organization. Investigate how this organization is partnering with local church leaders to advance kingdom directives. Substitutions allowed with professor approval. Explore ways that your church or ministry might support or partner with the institution, agency or ministry. Be prepared to write a one-page summary on each interview (see assignment #6).

Post-Seminar Requirements

6. Interview Report

Due: July 10, 2026

Write and submit the results of the interviews conducted (see assignment #5). Submit a one-page, single-spaced summary of each interview (for a total of 8-10 pages.) Include the basic information and points of particular interest to you. Verbatims are not required.

7. Integration Paper

Due: July 24, 2026

Prepare and submit an *Integration Paper* (4-5 page, double-spaced, typewritten, and in proper form) reflecting on personal conversations, interviews, seminar meetings, and the SBC experience on you and/or your current ministry setting. Limited use of personal pronouns is allowed.

Seminar Evaluation

Use the NOBTS Style Guide <https://www.nobts.edu/resources/pdf/writing/StyleGuide.pdf> (*Turabian latest edition*) when preparing work for this seminar unless otherwise noted. Grammar will be considered in the grading of papers. Papers will be graded based on 70% content and 30% format, spelling and grammar. Templates are available on the Professional Doctoral Program Website. <https://www.nobts.edu/cme/current-students/resources.html>

All assignments are expected to be submitted through Canvas by midnight of the due date.

Late assignments will incur a late penalty for the grade.

Reading and Application Report	20%
Speaker Book Reports (2@10pt)	20%
Personal Reflection Paper	20%
Interviews & Interview Report	20%
Integration Paper	<u>20%</u>
	100%

Bibliography

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- Heath, Chip and Dan Heath *Switch: How to Change Things When Change is Hard*. New York: Random House, 2010. (ISBN 978-0-385-52875-7)
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- Greear, J. D. *Not God Enough: Why Your Small God Leads to Big Problems*. Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan, 2018.
- Kelley, Charles S., Jr. *Fuel the Fire: Lessons for the History of Southern Baptist Evangelism*. Nashville, TN: B&H Academic, 2018.
- Lencioni, Patrick. *The Advantage: Why Organizational Health Triumphs Everything Else*. San Francisco: Jossey Bass. 2012
- Lewis, Robert. *The Church of Irresistible Influence*. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 2001.
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- Misner, Ivan and Brian Hilliard. *Networking like a Pro: Turning Contacts into Connections*. 2017
- Sperry, Rob. *The Game of Networking: MLMers Are Many. Networkers are Few*. 2018
- Tracey, Stephen R. *Mending the Soul: Understanding and Healing Abuse*. Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan, 2005
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