



# 47TH ANNUAL CHRISTIAN EDUCATORS CONFERENCE

**November 29–December 2, 2026**

GAYLORD OPRYLAND • NASHVILLE, TENNESSEE

THEME

## UNSHAKEN

**Fearless, Stirred Up, and Empowered by God**

2 Timothy 1:6–7 | Psalm 16:8

### REGISTRATION

Early June 21–August 31, 2026

Regular September 1–November 16, 2026

### FREE HOTEL PARKING

Book your stay at the Gaylord Opryland for the full conference and the parking is on us.

Reserve by **July 31, 2026** to qualify.



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# UNSHAKEN

**Fearless. Stirred up. Empowered by God**

## CONFERENCE HIGHLIGHTS



### CONFERENCE ORIENTATION

Join us Sunday afternoon for conference orientation and important information to help maximize your experience.



### PASTORS' LUNCHEON PLENARY

Daily discussions designed to inspire, challenge, and equip today's church leaders.



### WOMEN'S PANEL DISCUSSION & NETWORKING LUNCH

Connect with dynamic women leaders in an engaging and empowering environment.



### AWARDS PRESENTATION & GRADUATION CEREMONY

Celebrate excellence as we honor graduates and outstanding Christian educators.

## Featured KEYNOTE SPEAKERS



**DR. MARCUS D. COSBY**  
Senior Pastor  
Wheeler Avenue Baptist Church  
Houston, Texas



**DR. REGINALD W. SHARPE JR.**  
Senior Pastor  
Fellowship Missionary Baptist Church  
Chicago, Illinois



**DR. HOWARD JOHN WESLEY**  
Senior Pastor  
Alfred Street Baptist Church  
Alexandria, Virginia



**DR. CAROLYN L. GORDON**  
Associate Professor & Chair of Mass  
Communications Mississippi Valley State University  
Itta Bena, Mississippi



**DR. JOHN W. KINNEY**  
Dean Emeritus and Professor of  
Theology Virginia Union University  
Richmond, Virginia



**DR. JANIECE WILLIAMS**  
Chief Executive Officer Deep  
Launch Solutions  
Largo, Maryland



**DR. JOHN R. ADOLPH**  
Senior Pastor  
Antioch Missionary Baptist Church  
Beaumont, Texas



**REV. NICOLE GUNS**  
Pastor, First Baptist Church  
Gary, Indiana



**DR. LETICHA P. HEFLIN**  
Public Health Analyst and Records  
Manager, Centers for Disease Control  
Atlanta, Georgia



REGISTRATION OPENS **JUNE 21, 2026**



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## **GAYLORD OPRYLAND RESORT & CONVENTION CENTER**

Nashville, Tennessee

**November 29–December 2, 2026**

Join Christian educators, pastors, and ministry leaders from across the country for 3-Days of transformative teaching, fellowship, and equipping—rooted in nearly five decades of service to the local church.

### **REGISTRATION**

*Early* June 21–August 31, 2026  
*Regular* September 1–November 16, 2026

### **FREE HOTEL PARKING**

Book your stay at the Gaylord Opryland for the full conference and parking is on us.

Reserve by **July 31, 2026**, to qualify.

### **Workshops**

Practical training for teachers & superintendents

### **Worship**

Daily preaching & corporate praise

### **Fellowship**

Connect with leaders from across the nation

### **Resources**

Curriculum & tools for the local church

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## ABOUT THE CONFERENCE



The Forty-seventh Annual Christian Educators Conference will take place from November 29 to December 2, 2026, at the Gaylord Opryland Resort and Convention Center in Nashville, Tennessee. For forty-six years, this conference has served as a leading gathering for Christian educators. Pastors, educators, church leaders, and others committed to Christian education come together to learn, celebrate, and collaborate, building community and advancing shared goals.

This conference offers a comprehensive three-day immersion in Christian education, integrating faith and practice through plenary sessions, seminars, workshops, and worship. Attendees can choose from over twenty-five classes and workshops designed to challenge and inspire. Highlights include the Sunday School Transformation Academy, the Dean's Intensive Training Seminar, and the addition of the Chaplains Ministry courses, all aimed at enhancing your skills for effective ministry.

Whether you are a returning participant or attending for the first time, we encourage you to join us for a meaningful and rewarding experience.

For the Cause of Christ,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Derrick Jackson". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a stylized "D" and "J".

**DERRICK JACKSON**  
Executive Director

# CONFERENCE SCHEDULE

## Sunday, November 29, 2026

2:00 p.m.–7:00 p.m. Registration

6:00 p.m.–7:00 p.m. Conference Orientation

## Monday, November 30, 2026

6:00 a.m.–6:00 p.m. Registration

7:30 a.m.–9:30 a.m. Concurrent Class Sessions Dean's Intensive Training Seminar Sunday School Transformation Academy

10:00 a.m. **Opening Plenary**

10:20 a.m. Lecture

11:00 a.m. **Sermon**

12:30 p.m.–1:30 p.m. Pastors' Luncheon Plenary Women's Panel Discussion & Networking Lunch Lunch and Learning Workshops

2:00 p.m.–5:00 p.m. Concurrent Class Sessions Dean's Intensive Training Seminar Sunday School Transformation Academy

7:00 p.m. **Evening Worship**

## Tuesday, December 1, 2026

7:30 a.m.–9:30 a.m. Concurrent Class Sessions Dean's Intensive Training Seminar Sunday School Transformation Academy

10:00 a.m. **Plenary**

10:20 a.m. Lecture

11:00 a.m. **Sermon**

12:30 p.m.–1:30 p.m. Pastors' Luncheon Plenary Women's Panel Discussion & Networking Lunch Lunch and Learning Workshops

2:00 p.m.–5:00 p.m. Concurrent Class Sessions Dean's Intensive Training Seminar Sunday School Transformation Academy

5:30 p.m.–6:30 p.m. Young Adult Coffee Hour

7:00 p.m. **Evening Worship**

## Wednesday, December 2, 2026

7:30 a.m.–9:30 a.m. Concurrent Class Sessions Dean's Intensive Training Seminar Sunday School Transformation Academy

10:00 a.m. **Plenary**

10:20 a.m. Lecture

11:00 a.m. **Sermon**

12:00 p.m.–1:00 p.m. Pastors' Luncheon Plenary Women's Panel Discussion & Networking Lunch Lunch and Learning Workshops

3:00 p.m. **Commencement**

## COURSE, SEMINAR, AND WORKSHOP OFFERINGS

### CHURCH LEADERSHIP DIVISION

#### *Pastors' and Ministers' Subdivision*

- Addressing the “Nones and Dones”: Reconnecting with Disaffiliated Black Christians
- Jesus as Disruptor: Challenging the Status Quo for Kingdom Transformation
- Growing Your Church From the Inside Out
- The Pastor as Shepherd: Leading with Care in Complex Times
- The Prophetic Voice in An Age of Polarization

#### *Church Ministries Subdivision*

- Biblical Foremothers: African American Women’s Interpretations of Female Biblical Figures
- Bridging the Generational Divide: Engaging Gen Z and Millennials in Church Life
- Church Leadership Under 40: Leading While Still Learning
- RE-CHURCH: Rebuilding for a New Season of Ministry
- Expanding Ministry Beyond the Building
- I Am She Who Is Valuable: A Journey of Self-value and Purpose
- Mental Health Ministry: Supporting Congregation Members through Crisis
- The Resilience of African American Men: Managing Mental, Physical, and Spiritual Health

### CHRISTIAN LEADERSHIP DIVISION

#### *Certification Subdivision*

- 10079—Survey of the Old Testament
- 11129—Survey of Revelation
- 10879—Survey of Paul’s Letters
- 2097—Rethinking Christian Education for Contemporary Innovations
- 2099A/B—Dean Certification (Parts I and II)
- 2099C/D—Dean Certification (Parts III and IV)
- 2100—Guidelines for Recertification of Deans
- 2110—Mentoring Dean Seminar

#### *Specialization Education Studies Subdivision*

- SP0004—Christian Doctrine
- SP0016—Church Staff Development
- SP0006—Systematic Theology

### DEAN'S INTENSIVE TRAINING SEMINAR

**Module 1:** Leadership and Administration in Christian Education Ministry

**Module 2:** Staffing for Success: Faculty & Support Staff Selection

**Module 3:** Christian Leadership School Administration and Strategic Management

**Module 4:** Zoom Administration and Training

**Module 5:** Practical Application of Christian Education Leadership Principles

**Module 6:** Leadership Triumphs: Articulating and Sharing Achievements as Deans

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### SUNDAY SCHOOL TRANSFORMATION ACADEMY

#### LEVEL 1 • YEAR 1

- Transforming Bible Education: Mastering Teaching Excellence with Modern Tools
- Classroom Catalyst: Inspiring Life Change through Effective Teaching
- Command Central: Strategic Leadership for Kingdom Impact

#### LEVEL 2 • YEAR 2

- Stirring Up the Gift: Teaching, Planning, and Leading with Purpose
  - From Vision to Strategy: Building and Sharing Your Sunday School Strategic Plan
- 

### PASTORAL CARE/CHAPLAINS MINISTRY

- The Church as a Curative Community: Equipping Congregations to Respond to Suicide Risk, Grief, and Emotional Distress
  - The Dimensions of Personhood
- 

### LUNCH AND LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES

- Pastors' Luncheon Plenary
- Women's Panel Discussion and Networking Lunch
- Transformative FAITH Sunday School Workshop
- Vacation Bible School Workshop
- MMBB Financial Wellness Workshop

## ON THE THEME

### UNSHAKEN

Fearless, Stirred Up, and Empowered by God

*“For God has not given us a spirit of fear, but of power and of love and of a sound mind.”*

— 2 Timothy 1:7 (NKJV)

*“I have set the LORD always before me. Because He is at my right hand, I will not be shaken.”*

— Psalm 16:8 (NIV)

#### Biblical Basis

Paul wrote to Timothy not on a good day but in the middle of a dangerous one. Timothy’s opposition was not abstract—it was institutional, it was cultural, and it had teeth. Into that specific, hostile moment Paul spoke not a strategy but a theological fact: the spirit of fear did not come from God. What God gave was specific and still operative—power (dunamis, Spirit-given capacity that no court can legislate away), love (the force that holds community together when everything outside is pulling it apart), and a sound mind (clarity and wholeness of thought in the middle of chaos designed to disorient). The charge to stir up the gift was not a call to wait for better conditions. It was a call to act in the middle of the fire. Scripture grounds the declaration: “Because He is at my right hand, I will not be shaken.” (Psalm 16:8). David wrote those words as a man with real enemies and a real throne under threat. The unshaken life has never been the product of favorable circumstances. It is the product of a settled awareness of whose hand is holding you—and that hand has not moved.

#### Why This Theme Now

The Black church has never had the luxury of leading in easy times. And 2026 is not an easy time. The Supreme Court’s gutting of the 1965 Voting Rights Act—paid for in blood on the bridge at Selma—has left Black communities exposed to the very suppression the Act was designed to prevent. The systematic dismantling of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion initiatives across federal agencies, universities, and public institutions is erasing decades of hard-won progress. Affirmative action is gone. Executive orders are being used to scrub the language of equity from the public square. The institutions that many of our people were raised to trust are sending a clear message about whose dignity they are prepared to protect.

Our people are sitting in our pews carrying a weight that is not only spiritual but also civic, economic, and existential. They are afraid. And that fear deserves to be named honestly before it can be addressed faithfully.

The Black church has been here before. In Pharaoh's Egypt. In Babylon. On the auction block. In the back of the bus. On the bridge at Selma. And every time, the God who promised to be at our right hand was exactly there. The gift has not been revoked. The Spirit has not been rolled back by executive order. The power, love, and sound mind that God deposited in His people are not subject to judicial review.

This conference is where the people of God are reminded of that. Not with anger. Not with despair. But with the quiet, undefeated authority of a church that has outlasted every empire that ever tried to silence it.

And this theme refuses to speak only to leadership. The Sunday school teacher explaining to her class why their school's diversity programs are gone needs this word. The deacon whose voting precinct was just moved needs this word. The young minister watching his country dismantle the protections his grandparents marched for needs this word. The gift of 2 Timothy 1:7 belongs to every one of them—and this conference is where they hear it declared and leave carrying it home.

### Taglines

"Fear didn't come from God. Power did. Love did. A sound mind did."

"They can roll back the laws. They cannot roll back the Spirit."

"Unshaken — not because the fight is over but because God is still on the throne."

### The Three Pillars

**Fearless** — *God Did Not Give You That.* A direct confrontation of fear in all its forms—personal, congregational, and civic. Before the church can act, it must put down what it was never meant to carry.

**Stirred Up** — *Fan into Flame What God Deposited.* The gift is still in every believer—not revoked by circumstance, opposition, or legislation. The conference is the occasion of stirring.

**Empowered by God** — *Power, Love, and a Sound Mind.* The complete inheritance available to every believer: Spirit-given capacity, love that holds community together under pressure, and the clarity of mind to act with purpose when chaos is designed to paralyze.

## SYNOPSIS OF CLASSES

### CHURCH LEADERSHIP DIVISION

#### PASTORS' AND MINISTERS' SUBDIVISION

The Pastors' and Ministers' Subdivision helps pastors lead people from membership to discipleship. Through practical strategies and peer discussion, participants will explore effective ministry for the twenty-first century. The Pastors' Advanced Training Program (PATP) is an extended course of study for pastors and includes Phases II–IV. Students who enroll and complete the program will earn a Diploma of Pastoral Studies. Pastors may also take these classes for continuing education without seeking academic credit.

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### MORNING CLASSES

#### **The Prophetic Voice in an Age of Polarization (PATP)**

This keynote course examines how Black churches can maintain a clear prophetic witness on justice issues while navigating increasingly polarized political environments. Drawing on the rich tradition of Black prophetic preaching, the speaker will offer frameworks for addressing contemporary issues without becoming captured by partisan politics.

**Credit Option:** 9922—The History and Continuing Role of the African American Church in America

**Instructor:** Dr. Robert C. Scott, Charlotte, NC

#### **The Pastor as Shepherd: Leading with Care in Complex Times (PATP)**

This course explores the pastoral role beyond preaching—focusing on shepherding, counseling, and spiritual oversight. Students will examine how to care for congregations by navigating grief, trauma, and cultural pressure. The course emphasizes Christ-centered leadership marked by compassion, wisdom, and discernment. Supporting Scripture: 1 Peter 5:2–3

**Credit Option:** 9904—The Under-shepherd (Pastor) and God's Sheep

**Instructor:** Dr. Paul Lee, Philadelphia, PA

## AFTERNOON CLASSES

### Addressing the “Nones and Dones”: Reconnecting with Disaffiliated Black Christians (PATP)

The African American church has historically enjoyed high rates of religious participation. Still, recent decades have seen increasing numbers of Black Americans either leaving the church (“dones”) or never affiliating in the first place (“nones”). This course explores the specific reasons behind this disaffiliation in the Black community and offers evidence-based approaches for churches seeking to rebuild these connections through listening, healing, and creating new relationships.

**Credit Option:** 7008—Witnessing to Un-churched People

**Instructor:** Rev. Reginald Buckley, Jackson, MS

### Growing Your Church From the Inside Out (PATP)

Churches across the country are asking the same question: How do we grow? Yet too often, the focus has been on attracting crowds rather than developing committed disciples. Regardless of if you have 5 members, 50 members, or 500 members, this course presents a clear and practical pathway for sustainable, healthy, biblical church growth of your members rooted in developing a culture of discipleship.

Course participants will learn how to turn church members into disciples for Jesus by showing the difference between growing the church from the outside in and growing people from the inside out. We will introduce practical systems, structures, and strategies to align every ministry in a church, across generational lines, around God’s mission for His church in order to help members become disciples who make more disciples. Special attention will be given to helping churches shift from attracting consumers to developing contributors, from drawing an audience to building an army, from maintaining programs to multiplying disciples, and from activity-driven ministry to purpose-driven transformation.

**Credit Option:** 7001—Building Healthy Churches

**Instructor:** Dr. D. Z. Cofield, Houston, TX

### Jesus the Disruptor: Challenging the Status Quo for Kingdom Transformation (PATP)

This seminar explores Jesus as a “holy disruptor” who challenged religious traditions, social systems, and cultural assumptions that hindered God’s redemptive work. Participants will examine how Jesus

turned the world upside down through truth, compassion, justice, and radical obedience to God’s mission. The seminar invites believers to consider how following Jesus requires courage to confront broken systems, rethink familiar practices, and participate in kingdom transformation today.

**Credit Option:** 8035—The African American Church and Social Justice

**Instructor:** Dr. Terrance D. Griffith, Philadelphia, PA

## **CHURCH MINISTRIES SUBDIVISION**

The Church Ministries Subdivision offers in-depth training opportunities for church leaders in specific areas of ministry within the local church. Lectures and workshop modules will be used to maximize the timely dissemination of information and subject materials. These classes are both informational and inspirational.

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## **MORNING CLASSES**

### **Biblical Foremothers: African American Women’s Interpretations of Female Biblical Figures**

This biblical studies course examines how African American women have uniquely interpreted and found inspiration in female biblical characters. Participants will explore distinctive interpretive approaches to figures such as Hagar, Vashti, the women at the tomb, and other biblical women whose stories resonate with the experiences of Black women. The course provides both scholarly perspectives and practical applications for teaching, preaching, and personal spiritual formation.

**Credit Option:** 1066—Women in the Old Testament or 1114—Women in the New Testament

**Instructor:** Dr. Sharon Caldwell, Nashville, TN

### **Bridging the Generational Divide: Engaging Gen Z and Millennials in Church Life**

With declining church participation among younger Black Americans, this class offers concrete strategies for meaningful engagement with Gen Z and Millennials. Topics include digital-first ministry approaches, addressing social-justice concerns, creating authentic intergenerational relationships, and developing leadership pathways that respect younger voices.

**Credit Option:** SP0023—Developing the Church for Christian Evangelism

**Instructor:** Dr. Leonard O. Griffin, Edgefield, SC

### **Church Leadership under 40: Leading while Still Learning**

This leadership development course addresses the unique challenges that young adults face when stepping into church leadership roles. Participants will explore approaches to leading effectively while still developing, build strategies for navigating intergenerational leadership dynamics, and develop skills for earning trust and respect across age groups. The course offers practical guidance for emerging leaders who seek to contribute meaningfully while upholding church traditions.

**Credit Option:** 5007—Leading Change

**Instructor:** Rev. James McCarroll, Murfreesboro, TN

### **The Resilience of African American Men: Managing Mental, Physical, and Spiritual Health**

This purpose-driven course helps men discern and embrace their unique calling. Participants will explore biblical teachings on purpose, examine how personal gifts and experiences shape divine assignment, and develop practical steps toward fulfilling their God-given mission. The course explores how cultural expectations and stereotypes can hinder authentic purpose while offering frameworks for aligning one's life with divine intention.

**Credit Option:** 7019—How to Become a Strong, Christian Black Man

**Instructor:** Dr. William Flippin Sr., Atlanta, GA

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## **AFTERNOON CLASSES**

### **I Am She Who Is Valuable: A Journey of Self-value and Purpose**

This transformative course is designed to help women overcome struggles with self-worth in a world of unrealistic expectations. Through guided discussion, personal reflection, and spiritual exploration, participants will learn to recognize their God-given value beyond cultural definitions and societal pressures. The course combines individual contemplative practices with supportive group dialogue to develop practical wisdom and spiritual encouragement, fostering growth in confidence and boldness as women step into their divine purpose.

**Credit Option:** 7018—How to Become a Strong, Christian Black Woman

**Instructor:** Rev. Shevalle T. Kimber, New Haven, CT

### **Expanding Ministry Beyond the Building**

This course equips churches to disciple believers through digital platforms and hybrid ministry models. Students will learn how to leverage social media, online teaching, and virtual engagement to extend the reach of the gospel. Emphasis will be placed on maintaining authenticity and theological depth in digital spaces. Supporting Scripture: Matthew 28:19–20

**Credit Option:** 7010—Introduction to Discipleship

**Instructor:** Dr. Leticha Heflin, Atlanta, GA

### **Mental Health Ministry: Supporting Congregation Members through Crisis**

Mental-health challenges affect a significant portion of every congregation, yet many African American churches lack the language, tools, and frameworks to address these needs effectively. This course combines clinical in-sights with theological perspectives to help church ministry leaders create mental-health ministries that reduce stigma, provide appropriate support, and foster overall wellness within their congregations.

**Credit Option:** 8058—Developing a Christian Counseling Ministry

**Instructor:** Dr. Thomas R. Farrow Jr., Charlotte, NC

### **RE-CHURCH: Rebuilding for a New Season of Ministry**

**REVISION:** Clarifying the Future by Honoring the Past

Understanding where your church has been and where it's going. Learn how to align history and vision for a fresh, Spirit-led direction.

**REVITALIZE:** Strengthening the Leadership Core

Bridging the gaps within your leadership team—unifying seasoned leaders with emerging voices to create a team that's aligned, empowered, and ready for the next season of ministry.

**REBUILD:** Structuring Your Church for Growth

Learn how to develop systems and core leadership structures that sustain church health and prepare for the harvest.

RELAUNCH: Reintroducing Your Church to the Community

Practical steps to refresh your church's mission, engage new people, and create momentum for the future.

**Instructor:** Rev. Henry Tolbert, CEO of Simple Systems, Birmingham, AL

**Credit Option:** 8055—The Church's Response to the 21st Century

## CHRISTIAN LEADERSHIP DIVISION

### CERTIFICATION SUBDIVISION

This subdivision is designed to acquaint moderators, congress presidents, state directors, deans, and instructors with the policies and procedures governing Christian Leadership Schools. The Christian Leadership School functions under the auspices of the local church, district, state, or the National Baptist Convention, USA, Inc. Courses in this section will assist the students in completing the Certified Christian Educators (CCE) and address the process and requirements for leadership school accreditation, certification, and the recertification of deans and instructors.

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## MORNING CLASSES

### 1112—Survey of Revelation

This course will explore the book of Revelation, with emphasis on authorship, date, theme, and recipients. Discuss the prophetic themes, symbols, and interpretations of various revelations.

**Instructor:** Dr. Johnny Flakes III, Columbus, GA

### 2099A/B—Dean Certification (Parts I and II)

Course 2099A will focus on "Christian education," historical trends, current developments, and the future of theological education in the United States of America. The class will introduce the students to the concept of virtual learning. Course 2099B will focus on the skills, strategies, and training to build reliable and efficient CLS leadership and CLS. The discussion topics are leadership development, team building, and mentoring students. Additionally, the course will introduce the students to online

learning and video platforms for hosting meetings and conducting virtual training.

**Instructor:** Rev. Rory Thompson, Houston, TX

### **2097—Rethinking Christian Education for Contemporary Innovations**

This class will focus on enhancing teaching skills. Course 2097 examines the current trends, methodologies, technological advances, and practices in Christian education and Christian teaching.

**Instructor:** Dr. Roberta Hatcher, Augusta, GA

### **2110—Mentoring Dean Seminar**

This class will focus on enhancing teaching skills. Course 2097 examines the current trends, methodologies, technological advances, and practices in Christian education and Christian teaching.

**Instructor:** Dr. Albertine Marshall, Stone Mountain, GA

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## **AFTERNOON CLASSES**

### **1007—Survey of the Old Testament**

This survey will be a general overview of the divisions, times, places in the Old Testament. It will emphasize the nation of Israel, events, people, and archaeology of the Old Testament.

**Instructor:** Dr. Geoffrey V. Guns, Norfolk, VA

### **1087—Survey of Paul's Letters**

Cover the teachings of Paul from the books of 1 and 2 Thessalonians, Galatians, 1 and 2 Corinthians, Romans, 1 and 2 Timothy, and Titus. Focus on Paul's prison letters (the books of Ephesians, Philippians, Colossians, and Philemon). Probe the mind of this man who, while incarcerated, addressed the early churches.

**Instructor:** Dr. DeSean Horne, Reno, NV

### **2099C/D—Dean Certification (Parts III and IV)**

This course will focus on developing skills for Christian education ministry, organizational skills, time

management, and leadership development. The main aim of the course is to provide an understanding of how to establish and manage a Christian Leadership School (CLS). Participants will learn how to organize and lead a CLS, including how to complete relevant paperwork online. Additionally, the course will focus on team building, leadership, and technologies required for preparing deans for the first CLS.

**Instructor:** Dr. Benjamin E. V. Lett, Athens, GA

### **2100—Guidelines for Recertification of Deans**

The class will focus on the administrative, leadership, and management skills needed to maintain a CLS. In addition, course 2100 will explore current trends in Christian education organizations and leadership.

**Instructor:** Rev. Eric D. Williams, Jackson, MS

## **SPECIALIZATION EDUCATION STUDIES SUBDIVISION**

The Specialization Education Studies Program (SESP) is an advanced study program intended for those students who have completed the four phases of the Certified Christian Educators (CCE). In addition, it is designed for those persons desiring to focus on a selected area of Christian ministry. However, any interested delegate can register for specialization courses.

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## **MORNING CLASS**

### **SP0004—Christian Doctrine**

This course will focus on the central doctrines of the Christian Church. In addition, the instructor will discuss critical individuals and events that gave rise to what we believe.

**Instructor:** Dr. George Brooks Sr., Nashville, TN

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## AFTERNOON CLASSES

### SP0016—Church Staff Development

This course equips church leaders with the tools to build, develop, and maintain an effective and unified church staff. Students will explore biblical leadership principles, team dynamics, conflict resolution, and strategies for fostering a healthy church culture. Topics include staff training, delegation, communication, and spiritual well-being in ministry leadership.

**Instructor:** Dr. René Brown, Baton Rouge, LA

### SP0006—Systematic Theology

This course will discuss the development of essential topics in Christian theology. The instructor will emphasize prominent Individuals and their contribution to traditional and contemporary theological discussions on God, Jesus Christ, the Holy Spirit, and the Human condition.

**Instructor:** Dr. Terrance Chandler-Harrison, Clarksville, TN

## PASTORAL CARE/CHAPLAINS MINISTRY

### MORNING CLASS

#### **The Church as a Curative Community: Equipping Congregations to Respond to Suicide Risk, Grief, and Emotional Distress**

To equip pastors, associate ministers, deacons, missionaries, Sunday school teachers, health ministry leaders, chaplains, and lay caregivers with a biblically grounded, Christ-centered framework for recognizing emotional distress, responding compassionately to suicide risk, grief, and crisis, and cultivating congregations that embody Christ's healing ministry through hope, healing, resilience, and human flourishing. Through biblical teaching, practical application, and evidence-informed principles, participants will be prepared to strengthen their churches as Curative Communities™—places where individuals and families are welcomed, supported, restored, and connected to appropriate spiritual, congregational, and community resources.

**Instructor:** Rev. Dr. Michael Chambers, Atlanta, GA

## **AFTERNOON CLASS**

### **The Dimensions of Personhood**

Human behavior always arises out of the interplay of the dimensions of personhood. When we engage in clinical pastoral care, our objective should not be the behavior modification of our clients.

It should be on transformation, helping them to become something altogether new (2 Corinthians 5:17). Therefore, it is crucial that we understand that human behavior always arises out of the interplay of the dimensions of personhood. We are better equipped to minister from a clinical perspective when we understand the totality of human personhood.

This session focuses on the six dimensions of personhood:

1. Heart
2. Thoughts
3. Feelings
4. Body
5. Social Context
6. Soul

**Instructor:** Chaplain Dr. Walter Gibson, Dallas, TX

## DEAN'S INTENSIVE TRAINING SEMINAR

The Dean's Intensive Training Seminar is designed to provide certified deans with a rich, in-depth learning experience that strengthens their understanding of the roles and responsibilities of Christian education leadership. It also offers an opportunity to explore emerging trends and innovative practices that enhance the delivery and effectiveness of Christian education ministries and programs at every level of denominational work. The seminar will be presented in six modules, each focusing on essential dimensions of the dean's work during the Conference.

### **Prerequisites:**

The Dean's Intensive Training is for those who

1. are certified Deans with at least five years of experience.
2. have taken course #2100—Guidelines for Recertification of Deans.
3. have served as the Dean for at least three certified Christian Leadership Schools.

**Instructor:** Dr. Edward Williamson, White Plains, NY

### **Module 1: Leadership and Administration in Christian Education Ministry (Review/Revisit/Reexamine**

#### **Module Description:**

This module is designed to provide certified deans of Christian education with a comprehensive understanding of their roles and responsibilities as deans, revisit the certification process for Christian Leadership Schools, and reexamine the CLS Manual and explain manual updates and changes in policies and procedures to ensure maintenance of educational and SSPB certification standards.

### **Module 2: Staffing for Success – Faculty (Instructors)/Support Staff Selection and Development**

#### **Module Description:**

This module will focus on developing a comprehensive framework for the intentional and prayerful selection, support, and development of faculty and staff for Christian Leadership Schools and Christian education ministries. Emphasis will be placed on equipping and training faculty and staff at all levels to function as a team to ensure the delivery of a quality Christian education ministry that aligns with the vision, mission, and core values of the SSPB and the National Baptist Convention, USA, Inc.—whether at the local, state, or national levels of the denomination.

### **Module 3: Christian Leadership School Administration and Strategic Management**

#### **Module Description:**

This module is designed for certified deans in Christian education to provide a comprehensive exploration of essential skills needed for Christian Leadership School and Christian education ministry administration, strategic planning, and financial management.

### **Module 4: Zoom Administration and Training**

#### **Module Description:**

This module will focus on engaging participants in an interactive learning experience on the use of Zoom in Christian Leadership Schools and Christian education ministries. Participants will review the twelve-step process for administering and organizing a Virtual Leadership School.

### **Module 5: Practical Application of Christian Education Leadership Principles**

#### **Module Description:**

This module is designed to bridge theoretical knowledge with real-world scenarios, providing participants with hands-on experience in applying Christian educational leadership principles. Through engaging scenarios and practical elements, the participants will navigate common challenges faced by academic leaders, developing the skills and confidence needed to lead with integrity and impact within a Christian educational context.

### **Module 6: Leadership Triumphs: Articulating and Sharing Achievements as Christian Education Deans**

#### **Module Description:**

This specialized module is designed to empower Christian Education Deans with the skills and strategies needed to articulate and share achievements effectively. As deans play a pivotal role in steering educational institutions, this module delves into the nuances of celebrating success within the context of Christian leadership.

# SUNDAY SCHOOL TRANSFORMATION ACADEMY

**Where Vision Meets Action: Revitalizing Ministries for Lasting Impact**

## LEVEL 1 — YEAR ONE

### Revitalizing Ministries for Lasting Impact

#### For Teachers, Superintendents, and Christian Education Leaders

Are you ready to move beyond mere survival to a dynamic state of **thriving**? Join us for transformational courses that will invigorate your educational ministry and create meaningful change in your church and community.

**Our Mission:** We are committed to equipping Christian education leaders and teachers with proven strategies, innovative tools, and ongoing peer support to cultivate enduring spiritual growth and deep discipleship.

**Contemporary Relevance:** Our seminars directly address the unique challenges of the post-pandemic landscape, including inconsistent attendance, volunteer shortages, technological demands, and diverse learning needs—all while maintaining biblical authority and theological soundness.

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## MORNING COURSE

### FOR TEACHERS AND SUPERINTENDENTS

**Who Should Attend:** Bible study teachers, Sunday school teachers, superintendents, Bible study directors, and Christian education leaders ready to elevate individual teaching standards and develop organizational systems that amplify ministry-wide effectiveness.

### Transforming Bible Education: Mastering Teaching Excellence with Modern Tools

This comprehensive, three-day course provides Bible study leaders and Sunday school teachers with research-driven teaching strategies and the latest technological tools that can revolutionize

Christian education. Participants will delve into adult learning theories, refine their skills with digital presentation tools, and discover creative resources that enrich biblical teaching while upholding theological integrity. The emphasis will be on practical applications of educational technology, interactive learning methods, and impactful evaluation techniques that foster profound spiritual growth across varied learning styles and generations.

**Technology Integration Excellence:** Engage in hands-on training covering PowerPoint optimization, Canva design, interactive polling tools, digital Bible resources, and Google Classroom management.

**Credit Option:** 6022—Teaching Strategies for Spiritual Formation of Children and Youth, or 6023—Teaching Strategies for Spiritual Formation of Adults

**Instructors:** Dr. Chantaye Knotts, Huntsville, AL; and Ms. Michelle Thierry, Clayton, NC

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## AFTERNOON INTENSIVE COURSES

### SUPERINTENDENTS' TRACK

**Who Should Attend:** Sunday school superintendents, Bible study directors, discipleship ministry directors, Christian education directors, and ministry leaders ready to spearhead strategic initiatives that enhance biblical education while effectively tackling the modern challenges of ministry.

### Command Central: Strategic Leadership for Kingdom Impact

This robust leadership seminar empowers Sunday school superintendents, directors, and ministry leaders with research-backed strategies to transform struggling educational ministries into vibrant, mission-driven successes. Drawing on insights from leading Sunday school growth experts like Ken Hemphill, Thom Rainer, Allan Taylor, Steve Parr, and David Francis, participants will learn to navigate crises, reorganize structures, craft compelling visions, and manage sustainable change, all while addressing critical issues such as post-pandemic recovery, fluctuating attendance, and a lack of volunteers.

**Credit Option:** 6013—Organizing the Church for Christian Education

**Instructor:** Dr. Chantaye Knotts, Huntsville, AL

## TEACHERS' TRACK

**Who Should Attend:** Sunday school instructors and small group leaders prepared to create meaningful change using research-backed, relationship-focused teaching strategies that develop committed disciples, not just passive learners.

### **Classroom Catalyst: Inspiring Life Change through Effective Teaching**

This engaging seminar equips Sunday school teachers and small-group leaders with evidence-based strategies for creating transformational learning experiences, even in the face of challenges such as inconsistent attendance, diverse learning needs, and limited resources. Participants will delve into relationship-centered teaching, adaptive lesson design, and sustainable ministry practices—all while maintaining a focus on biblical faithfulness and spiritual transformation.

**Seminar Philosophy:** Shift from an information-driven approach to one that prioritizes transformational teaching, producing dedicated disciples rather than mere students

**Credit Option:** 6013—Organizing the Church for Christian Education

**Instructor:** Ms. Michelle Thierry, Clayton, NC

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## LEVEL 2 — YEAR TWO

### **Building Your Sunday School Strategic Plan**

#### **For Graduates of the 2025 Sunday School Transformation Academy Level 1**

The Sunday School Transformation Academy returns with a **Level 2 experience designed for superintendents and teachers who are ready to go deeper — and go further.** You have vision. Now it is time to build the strategy that brings it to life.

**Our Mission:** We are committed to equipping Christian education leaders and teachers to move from vision to action — building a prayerfully developed, personally owned Sunday School Strategic Plan that reflects each leader's unique church, congregation, and calling.

**Why Level 2:** Participants arrive with a year of real ministry experience. Over three days, in the company of peers who understand exactly what Sunday School leadership looks like on the ground, they do the focused, Spirit-led work of crafting a strategic plan for their own church. Every session feeds directly into the plan. Every idea gets tested in the room. Every participant walks away with a written strategic framework ready to put to work.

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## MORNING COURSE

### FOR ALL LEVEL 2 PARTICIPANTS

**Who Should Attend:** Graduates of the 2025 SSTA Level 1 — Sunday school teachers, superintendents, Bible study directors, and Christian education leaders who are ready to move from foundational skills to strategic ministry planning.

### Stirring Up the Gift: Teaching, Planning, and Leading with Purpose

This three-day morning course pairs experience-driven instruction with immediate, hands-on application. Each session equips participants with the content they need to complete the next section of their Sunday School Strategic Plan that same afternoon. Topics include taking an honest assessment of your current ministry, setting prayerful and realistic goals, building faithful action steps grounded in the SSPB curriculum and resources already available to you, and identifying the signs of growth that tell you your ministry is moving in the right direction.

**Course Framework:** Participants build their Sunday School Strategic Plan section by section across the three days, guided by instructors and sharpened by peer engagement throughout.

**Credit Options:** 6018—Organizing and Administering the Church School/Sunday School

**Instructor:** Dr. Mary McConnell, Kansas City, KS

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## AFTERNOON INTENSIVE COURSE

### FOR ALL LEVEL 2 PARTICIPANTS

**Who Should Attend:** All Level 2 participants – teachers and superintendents work side by side in one room, bringing their hard-won ministry experience into a collaborative, innovative learning environment.

### From Vision to Strategy: Building and Sharing Your Sunday School Strategic Plan

Each afternoon is a **guided work session** where participants apply the morning’s teaching directly to their plan, with real-time instructor coaching and honest feedback from peers at the table. The four sections of the Sunday School Strategic Plan – *Where God Has Us, Where God Is Calling Us, Steps of Faithful Action, and Signs of Growth* – are completed one by one over the three afternoons. On the final afternoon, every participant presents their completed plan to the group in five minutes. The room celebrates, encourages, and sends each leader home with a plan, a purpose, and the unshakeable confidence of those who have set the Lord before them.

**Seminar Philosophy:** This is not a lecture series. It is a prayerful, innovative space where experienced Sunday School leaders think creatively, plan strategically, and leave with something real – a written, personally owned road map for the ministry God has placed in their hands.

**Credit Option:** 6014—Administration of Christian Education

**Instructor:** Dr. Mary McConnell, Kansas City, KS



**Prerequisite:** Completion of the 2025 SSTA Level 1 is required.

## LUNCH LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES

### **Pastors' Plenary – Reconnecting the Pulpit and the Pew: Conversations for Church Renewal**

Reconnecting the Pulpit and the Pew invites pastors into a candid and meaningful conversation about the challenges and possibilities facing churches in the 21st century. This plenary will address key issues such as declining engagement, discipleship, generational transitions, community impact, leadership credibility, and the changing expectations of church members.

**Facilitators:** Dr. D. Z. Cofield, Houston, TX; and Rev. Cameron D. Jenkins, Houston, TX

### **Women's Panel Discussion and Networking Lunch: Called and Connected: Building Sisterhood among Women in Christian Service**

This thought-provoking panel discussion will focus on the unique experiences, challenges, and opportunities for African American women in church contexts. This engaging conversation will feature a diverse group of women leaders who will share their experiences, insights, and visions for empowering communities through a woman's lens.

**Facilitators:** Dr. Barbara Peacock, Charlotte, NC; and Dr. LaShante Walker, Nashville, TN

### **Transformative FAITH Sunday School Workshop**

This workshop emphasizes the importance of Sunday school to the vitality of the local church and the spiritual maturity of Christians. It introduces church leaders, teachers, and volunteers to the rich and engaging content of the Faith Series Sunday school curriculum product line.

**Facilitator:** Dr. Margarette W. Williams, Pine Bluff, AR

### **Vacation Bible School Workshop**

Vacation Bible School (VBS) continues to be one of the most effective evangelistic opportunities for churches. Learn more about administering a successful and exciting VBS by utilizing the SSPB VBS resources. Come and discover proven ways to recruit volunteers, train teachers, increase attendance, and communicate the biblical principles offered in the 2027 SSPB VBS.

**Facilitator:** Rev. Joe Ella Darby, SSPB VBS Coordinator

### **MMBB Financial Wellness Workshop**

This course will offer you peace of mind and financial security. In addition, you will learn how to adequately prepare for retirement so that you will be able to retire with dignity.

**Facilitators:** MMBB Representatives

## HOUSING INFORMATION

The Conference will take place at the Gaylord Opryland Resort and Convention Center in Nashville, Tennessee. We have negotiated a preferred room rate at the hotel. Unfortunately, space in our room block is limited, so reserve your room right away. Make your room reservations online through the SSPB website: [www.sspbnbc.com](http://www.sspbnbc.com)—where there is a direct link to the hotel’s online reservation system—or by calling the hotel directly. When you call the hotel to make reservations, please ask for the **“Sunday School Publishing Board Group”** for rate discounts. The hotel reservation deadline is **Monday, November 9, 2026**. Hotel cancellations must be received three (3) business days before the reservation date.

**The daily resort fee of \$28.00 is included in the guest room rate. In-room amenities include the following:**

- Daily scheduled shuttle service to Opry Mills and The Inn at Opryland for two (2) guests.
- Daily transportation to Gaylord Springs Golf Links, practice range access and a daily bucket of balls for two (2) guests (rental club provided; appropriate attire required).
- Daily Resort Wide Internet Access, to include
  - enhanced in-room wireless Internet access for up to six (6) devices.
  - basic wireless Internet access in public areas and Convention Center on a shared network.
- Daily Sunrise Yoga Meditation for two (2) guests.

**Added Value Offerings include the following:**

- Bottled water (two daily), replenished daily with housekeeping service.
- Unlimited local and long-distance calls.
- Shuttle transportation to scheduled Grand Ole Opry and General Jackson Showboat performances
- Bottled water (two daily), replenished daily with housekeeping service.
- Unlimited local and long-distance calls.
- Shuttle transportation to scheduled Grand Ole Opry and General Jackson Showboat performances.

Headquarters Hotel Name	Distance to Conference Center	Single/Double Occupancy	Contact Information
Gaylord Opryland Resort and Convention Center 2800 Opryland Drive Nashville, TN 36214	Connected	\$227.00 + 15.25% Tax (\$199.00+28.00)	877.382.7299 or 615.889.1000

## GENERAL INFORMATION

### COMMENCEMENT SERVICE

The commencement service will be held on Wednesday, December 2, 2026, at 3:00 p.m. All persons who completed the Pastors' Alternative for Teacher Certification (PATC), Pastors' Advanced Training Program (PATP), Certified Christian Educators (CCE), Dean's Certification courses or the Sunday School Transformation Academy During 2025 and 2026 are invited to participate. All graduation participants are to wear black. Please check with the Division of Christian Education Accreditation and Credentials for additional information.

### EQUIVALENCY CREDITS

Students may choose to enroll in a class that carries equivalency credit for another course. However, when meeting the requirements of a particular program of study, the students can use the course one time. For example, if the course card (certificate) is submitted for Specialization credit, it cannot be used for a CCE credit.

### CONTINUING EDUCATION UNITS (CEU) CREDITS AVAILABLE

American Baptist College will grant Continuing Education Units (CEU) for courses offered at the Sunday School Publishing Board's Conference of Christian Education. No additional academic work will be required. Those who qualify for the SSPB Course Card will also be eligible to receive the CEU credit. The registration fee for the CEU credit will be \$50. More information will be available at the Conference in Nashville.

### SPECIAL MEAL PACKAGE OPTION

For an additional fee, an affordable three-day meal package (breakfast and lunch) will be made available during the registration process. For your convenience, meals will be served in the main gathering area daily.

### COMPLIMENTARY PARKING

We are pleased to offer an exclusive early registration opportunity for attendees. To take advantage of complimentary parking, please complete your registration by July 31, 2026. This offer applies to individuals who will be staying at the Gaylord Opryland Resort and Convention Center throughout the duration of the Conference.

## GENERAL INFORMATION

### PARKING

There is a \$33.30 self-parking rate per day.

### RESTAURANTS

With restaurants only steps from meeting spaces, attendees can easily and conveniently continue the momentum of the sessions, starting at breakfast and moving into lunch and dinner.

### TRANSPORTATION

Courtesy cars will run between the airport and host hotel Sunday–Thursday. In addition, there will be transportation desks located at the airport in the baggage claim area and the hotel lobby.

### CANCELLATION/REFUND POLICY

Please notify the SSPB immediately of the cancellation. The SSPB will refund the registration fee minus a fifty-dollar (\$50) non-refundable cancellation fee for individual registrations. An attendee can transfer their registration to another person attending the Conference. The person attending will complete the transaction before the Conference or on-site. The person registering must present the registered delegate's registration receipt. Conference registrations are NOT transferable to the following year. All cancellation requests must be in writing via e-mail, fax, or mail within fifteen (15) days after the Conference.

### SUNDAY WORSHIP SERVICE OPPORTUNITIES

**First Baptist Church Gallatin**

290 E. Winchester Street  
Rev. Derrick L. Jackson, Pastor  
8:00 a.m./10:45 a.m. Worship Services  
(615) 452-8189

**Fifteenth Avenue Baptist Church**

1203 9th Avenue North  
Rev. Byron Jackson, Pastor  
10:00 a.m. Worship  
(615) 256-4326

**Greater Pleasant View Baptist Church**

2710 Hillsboro Road  
Rev. Henry A. Wilson Jr, Pastor  
10:45 a.m. Worship Service  
(615) 373-8219

**First Baptist Church East Nashville**

601 Main Street  
Rev. Morris E. Tipton, Pastor  
10:00 a.m. Worship Service  
(615) 254-6268

**Friendship Baptist Church**

1109 32nd Avenue North  
Rev. Jimmie D. Greer Sr., Pastor  
11:00 a.m. Worship Service  
(615) 329-9363

**St. James Missionary Baptist Church**

600 28th Avenue North  
Dr. George T. Brooks Jr., Pastor  
8:00 a.m./10:45 a.m. Worship Services  
(615) 320-7616

## REGISTRATION INFORMATION

Participants must register for plenary sessions or classes, workshops, and sponsored events. You are encouraged to register online at **www.sspbncb.com**. Confirmations are automatically generated and sent to the e-mail address listed. Contact the Division of Christian Education Accreditation and Credentials at 800-359-9398, ext. 5784/5794, if you do not receive an e-mail confirmation or to ensure that you are registered. (Please Note: No Phone Registrations.)

**Early registration deadline is August 31, 2026** (at midnight CST). **Register by July 31, 2026, to receive free parking.** Regular registration rates apply September 1, 2026, through October 31, 2026. Late registration rates start November 1, 2026.

### PRICING INFORMATION

**Discount Code: SSPB2026**—The discount code is for only two (2) classes. Seminars and Lunch-and-Learn Workshops do not apply.

	Early Registration June 21– August 31, 2026		Regular Registration September 1– October 31, 2026		Late Registration November 1–16, 2026		On-site Registration November 30– December 1, 2026	
1 Class	\$145.00		\$180.00		\$190.00		\$190.00	
2 Classes	\$210.00		\$250.00		\$260.00		\$260.00	
Dean's Intensive Training Seminar	\$170.00		\$195.00		\$210.00		\$210.00	
SS Transformation Academy	\$170.00		\$195.00		\$210.00		\$210.00	
Plenary Session Only	\$85.00		\$100.00		\$100.00		\$100.00	
Lunch-and-Learn Workshop (Includes Lunch)	\$100.00		\$100.00		\$100.00		\$100.00	
Breakfast and Lunch (Mon–Wed)	\$135.00		\$135.00		\$135.00		\$135.00	
Breakfast Only (Mon–Wed)	\$85.00		\$85.00		\$85.00		\$85.00	
Lunch Only (Mon–Wed)	\$85.00		\$85.00		\$85.00		\$85.00	
<b>Amount Submitted</b>								

## REGISTRATION FORM

Please complete the registration form and return it to the Division of Christian Education, P.O. Box 70990, Nashville, TN 37207-0990. These major credit cards (AMEX, Master Card, and VISA) can be used for online and mail-in registrations. Make checks and money orders payable to the Division of Christian Education. A \$35 service charge will be applied to checks returned for insufficient funds. All registration confirmations will be e-mailed to the e-mail address provided on the registration form unless notified otherwise. You may register online at **[www.sspbnbc.com](http://www.sspbnbc.com)**.

### Personal Contact Information

First Name	Middle Initial	Last Name
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Address	City	State	Zip Code
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Home Phone Number	Other (Cell) Phone Number
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E-mail Address (Use the e-mail address to which you want the registration confirmation sent.)

### Church's Contact Information

Pastor's Last Name	First Name	Telephone Number
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Pastor's E-mail Address

Church's Name

Address	City	State	Zip Code
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Church E-mail Address	Church Telephone Number
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**Select the Program in which you are enrolled.**

- Sunday School Transformation Academy  
 CCE (Formerly COPP)       Specialization  
 CLS       PATC  
 CLS Dean Certification       PATP

Is this your first time attending?     Yes     No

What is your age group?     20-40     41-60     61-80     81 and older

**PAYMENT INFORMATION**

Check or Money Order    Credit Card:  AMEX     Master Card     VISA

Name on Card

Card Number

Expiration Date

Signature

Credit Card Billing Address

**OPTIONS:**

1. You may select the **Dean's Intensive Training Seminar**; or
2. Select **Sunday School Transformation Academy**; or
3. Select up to **two (2) Classes** (one morning and/or one afternoon class from the Church Leadership or Christian Leadership (CLS) Divisions).

**COURSE SELECTION**

I am registering for the following (*place a check in the box of your selection*):

**OPTION 1: DEAN'S INTENSIVE TRAINING SEMINAR**

- Dean's Intensive Training Seminar (includes morning and afternoon sessions)

**OPTION 2: SUNDAY SCHOOL TRANSFORMATION ACADEMY LEVEL 1**

- Sunday School Transformation Academy (includes morning and afternoon sessions)

**OPTION 2: SUNDAY SCHOOL TRANSFORMATION ACADEMY LEVEL 2 (Prerequisite:** Completion of the 2025 SSTA Level 1 is required.)

- Sunday School Transformation Academy (includes morning and afternoon sessions)

**OPTION 3: COURSES****CHURCH LEADERSHIP DIVISION**Pastors' and Ministers' Subdivision**Morning Classes**

- The Pastor as Shepherd: Leading with Care in Complex Times
- The Prophetic Voice in an Age of Polarization

**Afternoon Classes**

- Addressing the "Nones and Dones": Reconnecting with Disaffiliated Black Christians
- Growing Your Church From the Inside Out
- Jesus the Disruptor: Challenging the Status Quo for Kingdom Transformation

Church Ministries Subdivision**Morning Classes**

- Bridging the Generational Divide: Engaging Gen Z and Millennials in Church Life
- Biblical Foremothers: African American Women's Interpretations of Female Biblical Figures
- Church Leadership under 40: Leading while Still Learning
- The Resilience of African American Men: Managing Mental, Physical, and Spiritual Health

**Afternoon Classes**

- I Am She Who Is Valuable: A Journey of Self-value and Purpose
- Expanding Ministry Beyond the Building
- Mental Health Ministry: Supporting Congregation Members through Crisis
- RE-CHURCH: Rebuilding for a New Season of Ministry

## CHRISTIAN LEADERSHIP DIVISION

### Certification Subdivision

#### **Morning Classes**

- 1112—Survey of Revelation
- 2097—Rethinking Christian Education for Contemporary Innovations
- 2099A/B—Dean Certification (Parts I and II)
- 2110—Mentoring Dean Seminar

#### **Afternoon Classes**

- 1007—Survey of the Old Testament
- 1087—Survey of Paul's Letters
- 2099C/D—Dean Certification (Parts III and IV)
- 2100—Guidelines for Recertification of Deans

### Specialization Education Studies Subdivision

#### **Morning Class**

- SP0004—Christian Doctrine

#### **Afternoon Classes**

- SP0016—Church Staff Development
- SP0006—Systematic Theology

### Pastoral Care/Chaplains Ministry

#### **Morning Class**

- The Church as a Curative Community: Equipping Congregations to Respond to Suicide Risk, Grief, and Emotional Distress

#### **Afternoon Class**

- The Dimensions of Personhood

## LUNCH LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES

- Pastors' Luncheon Plenary
- Women's Panel Discussion and Networking Lunch
- Transformative FAITH Sunday School Workshop
- Vacation Bible School Workshop
- MMBB Financial Wellness Workshop

## SPONSORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

We invite you to become a sponsor for our Conference in 2026! Your support will enhance attendees' experience and align your organization with a mission-driven event focused on faith, leadership, and community impact. Together, we can inspire and equip leaders in their essential ministry work.

This conference offers a unique opportunity for your brand to connect with ministry leaders who are making a positive impact in their communities. We invite you to consider sponsoring the 2026 event.

### Who Attends

- Pastors ~ Ministers ~ Christian Education Directors ~ Sunday School Teachers ~ Youth Leaders ~ Women's Ministry Leaders ~ Deacons/Deaconesses ~ Worship Leaders ~ Trustees ~ Ushers ~ Church Administrators ~ Church Volunteers . . . and many more!

### Attendance

- Projected attendance: more than 1,500 attendees on-site over the three-day event; attendees comprise 40 percent men, 60 percent women.
- Attendees' average age is 35 and older.
- Attendees come from all across the United States.
- Attendees represent churches ranging in size from an average attendance of 50 in worship to 5,000 in worship.

### Sponsorship Levels

#### **GOLD —**

- \$10,000 Benefits include: Premium exhibit space (10 X 16)
- Opportunity to show preapproved video or five-minute presentation at an evening worship session
- Sponsorship signage on PowerPoint
- Sponsorship listing and logo on event social media
- Opportunity to lead a Breakout Session

- Full-page ad in the Conference Program Book
- May distribute a promotional flyer/brochure in worship center chairs before the evening worship session

**SILVER —**

- \$5,000 Benefits include: Premium exhibit space (10 X 8)
- Opportunity to show preapproved, one- to three-minute video at an evening worship session (maximum of three minutes in length)
- Sponsorship signage on PowerPoint
- Sponsorship listing and logo on event social media
- Full-page ad in the Conference Program Book
- May distribute a promotional flyer/brochure in worship center chairs before the evening worship session

**BRONZE —**

- \$2,500 Benefits include: Premium exhibit space (10 X 8)
- Recognition at the beginning of the Conference
- Sponsorship ad on PowerPoint
- Half-page ad in the Conference Program Book
- May distribute a promotional flyer/brochure in worship center chairs before the evening worship session

We welcome the opportunity for your company, organization, or ministry to partner with us—and we look forward to meeting you at the Conference!

## FACULTY AND STAFF

### Faculty

George Brooks Sr., TN  
René Brown, LA  
Reginald Buckley, MS  
Sharon Caldwell, TN  
Michael Chambers, GA  
D. Z. Cofield, TX  
Joe Ella Darby, TN  
Thomas R. Farrow Jr., NC  
Johnny Flakes III, GA  
William Flippin Sr., GA  
Walter Gibson, TX  
Leonard O. Griffin, SC  
Terrance D. Griffith, PA  
Geoffrey V. Guns, VA  
Terrence Chandler-Harrison, TN  
Roberta Hatcher, GA  
Leticha Heflin, GA  
DeSeane Horne, NV  
Cameron D. Jenkins, TX  
Shevalle T. Kimber, CT  
Chantaye Knotts, AL  
Paul R. Lee, PA  
Benjamin E. V. Lett, GA  
Albertine Marshall, GA  
James McCarroll, TN  
Mary E. McConnell, KS  
Barbara L. Peacock, NC

Robert C. Scott, NC  
Michelle Thierry, NC  
Henry Tolbert, AL  
Rory L. Thompson, TX  
LaShante Walker, TN  
Eric D. Williams, MS  
Margarette W. Williams, AR  
Edward O. Williamson, NY

### Deans Office

Carolyn Hulsey, TN  
Lawanna Griffin, IL  
Linda Payne, TN  
Gloria Epps, NE

### DCEAC Staff

Breon Cox, Manager  
Aaron Wilson, CCEP Coordinator  
Eric D. Williams, CED Associate  
George Brooks Jr., CED Associate

### CED Executive Council

James Blackburn, NY, Chair  
Geoffrey V. Guns, VA, Co-Chair  
Roberta Hatcher, GA  
Leticha Heflin, GA  
Edward O. Williamson, NY



**SUNDAY SCHOOL**  
TRANSFORMATION  
ACADEMY

**Where Vision Meets Action**  
**Revitalizing Ministries for**  
**Lasting Impact**

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HELD IN CONJUNCTION WITH  
THE 47TH ANNUAL CHRISTIAN  
EDUCATORS CONFERENCE

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ONLINE REGISTRATION OPENS JUNE 21, 2026  
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