

# The Local Church: Structure & Discipleship

Summer 2023

May 1–Aug. 14 | Mon. 6–9 pm

Conf. East, IDC Building



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## Course Description

This IDC Equip course is meant to lay a biblical foundation for the structure, leadership, and discipleship of the local church.

## Course Textbooks & Other Resources

1. Chester, Tim. *You Can Change: God's Transforming Power for Our Singul Behavior and Negative Emotions*. Crossway, 2010.  
ISBN: 978-1433512315
2. Hammett, John S. *Biblical Foundations for Baptist Churches: A Contemporary Ecclesiology*. Second Edition. Kregel Academic, 2019.  
ISBN: 978-0825445118
3. Dunlop, Jamie. *Budgeting for a Healthy Church*. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 2019.  
ISBN: 978-0310093862
4. Ince, Irwin. *The Beautiful Community: Unity, Diversity, and the Church at Its Best*. IVP, 2020.  
ISBN: 978-0830848317
5. Merker, Matt. *Corporate Worship: How the Church Gathers as God's People*. Crossway, 2021.  
ISBN: 978-1433569821

## Participation & Attendance Expectations

This is a discussion-heavy, collaborative course. Please come to each meeting prepared to discuss all scheduled readings and other assignments according to the Course Schedule (below). Come ready to ask questions and engage in discussion on topics covered.

Please prioritize attending all scheduled meetings, unless providentially hindered. **If you expect to miss 2 or more meetings during this course**, please talk with Pastor Shane before the course begins.

Class time will generally be divided into 3 segments: (1) study of a biblical text, (2) book discussion, and (3) discussion of position papers.

## Writing & Other Requirements

### [1] Scripture Study & Memorization –

Before each class meeting, **everyone** should read, reflect on, and memorize the assigned biblical text as laid out in the Course Schedule. Come with at least one discussion question related to pastoral ministry based on the passage studied that week.

### [2] Book Reading, Engagement & Discussion –

(a) Everyone should **read all assigned books and other resources** with reasonable care by the date indicated in the Course Schedule and come prepared to participate in group discussion.

(b) Everyone must complete a **book discussion guide** ([see the template here](#)) for each book we discuss. Please send these to the instructor **by the Sunday before class**. However, you **DO NOT** need to complete a discussion guide on the week(s) you are assigned to write a position paper (you still need to read the book, though).

### [3] Position Papers –

Each week we will consider one ministry topic, issue, or situation. One or more participants will be assigned to explain their position on that week's topic (working independently of one another) in a **2–3 page, single-spaced paper**. These papers will be the result of Bible study and research.

You will be assigned to write **1 of these position papers** ([unless you are doing this course for SEBTS credit, in which case you will write 2](#)). These papers should be sent **to all class participants by the Saturday before class**. In our class meeting, whoever was assigned to write on that week's topic will present their position briefly (5 mins or less) and be prepared to answer questions related to the topic. **Everyone else should read the position papers before the meeting** and come prepared to engage the topic with questions, observations, objections, etc.

### [4] Worship Planning –

Everyone will independently prepare **1 worship service**. This service will be built around a text identified in the charts below (assigned on the first day of class).

Worship Plans should contain the following elements:

1. **Worship Elements** arranged in order
2. **Time allotment** for each element.
3. **Officiant / Leader** for each element.
4. **Explanation** – please give a 2-3 sentence explanation of why you planned each element as you did.

Worship Planning Exercise 1	Assigned to
Romans 8:1-11	Faith, Jacob, Scott, Stone, Andrew, Nikki
Romans 8:31-39	Jake, Ashley, Jack, Austin, Marcus
Colossians 1:15-23	Joshua, Taylor, Patrick, Cody, Jillian

## Course Schedule

### The Local Church: Structure & Discipleship

Wk	Date	Biblical Text	Scripture Memory	Resources	Position Papers
1	5/1	1 Tim. 1:1-11		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Platt <a href="#">“The Gospel &amp; Church Membership”</a> (sermon)</li> <li>Moore, <a href="#">“Jesus Didn’t Die for Your Campus Ministry”</a> (article)</li> </ul>	
	5/8				
2	5/15	1 Tim. 1:12-20	1:15-17	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Chester, <i>You Can Change</i></li> </ul>	How do you know if someone is a mature disciple? How do you know if someone is healthy, even if they aren’t mature? How can a church evaluate members’ spiritual health (practically)?  Jack Patrick Nikki
	5/22				
	5/29				
3	6/5	1 Tim. 2:1-15	2:1-6	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Hammett, <i>Biblical Foundations</i> (pp. 1-186)</li> </ul>	What makes a local church a church? What are the minimum requirements? What are the marks of health? What are the marks of maturity?  Jacob R. Taylor Ashley
	6/12				
	6/19				
4	6/26	1 Tim. 3:1-13	3:1-7	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Hammett, <i>Biblical Foundations</i> (pp. 187-387)</li> </ul>	Baptism and the Lord’s Supper: Who are they for? Who can administer them?  Scott Cody Andrew
	7/3				
5	7/10	1 Tim. 3:14-4:16	4:6-16	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Dunlop, <i>Budgeting for a Healthy Church</i> (all)</li> </ul>	Case Study <sup>1</sup>  Jacob F. Faith Austin
6	7/17	1 Tim. 5:1-25	5:19-25	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Dunlop, <i>Budgeting for a Healthy Church</i> (all)</li> </ul>	How much should pastors get paid? Other church staff?  Stone Josh
	7/24				
7	7/31	1 Tim. 6:1-10	6:3-6	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Merker, <i>Corporate Worship</i> (all)</li> </ul>	Worship Planning Exercise  ALL
	8/7				
8	8/14	1 Tim. 6:11-21	6:11-14	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Ince, <i>The Beautiful Community</i></li> </ul>	Who can plant a church? How should someone go about planting a church?  Jillian Marcus Austin

<sup>1</sup> An elderly woman comes into your office wanting to be baptized and join the church. She’s from a Catholic background and wants to know if it’s okay that she still prays to the saints/her dead husband. And she believes the Lord’s Supper elements turn into the physical body/blood of Christ. How do you respond?

## **Additional Info & Requirements for Those Receiving SEBTS Credit**

**Course:** Administration and Education in the Local Church (PMN 6721)

**Professor of Record:** Dr. Gregory Lawson (glawson@sebts.edu)

**EQUIP Office:** equip@sebts.edu | (919) 761-2460

### ***Course Description***

An in-depth study of church structure, administration, and Christian education in a practicum setting. This course may only be taken in conjunction with a SEBTS approved Great Commission Equipping Network Church or organization. 3 Semester hrs.

### ***Student Learning Objectives***

After completing this course, students should be able to:

2. Study key passages concerning the mission and vision of the local church and ministries.
3. Be introduced to helpful secondary literature concerning the ministry of a local Church.
4. Examine the theological nature of the ministry of the local church.
5. Begin to develop an understanding of the different aspects of the administrative and educational ministries of the church.
6. Articulate a biblical apology for the practice of ministry.
7. Research, discuss and write concerning issues in church administration and education.

### ***Practical Ministry Requirements***

Students are required to complete a total of 14 hours of practical ministry experience in the time of this course. SEBTS students should log their hours, including the date/time, ministry context, and specific activities.

### ***Grading Information***

<b><u>Assignments</u></b>		<b><u>Grading Scale</u></b>
Scripture Memory	10%	A 95-100
Book Response	20%	B 87-94
Position Paper	30%	C 77-86
Worship Planning	20%	D 70-76
Class Participation	20%	F Below 70

NOTE: Cheating or plagiarism of any kind will result in an immediate failing grade on the assignment with no chance for resubmission. The instructor does have the option either to allow the student to remain in and complete the course or to dismiss the student from the course completely. Regardless of the instructor's ruling, all cases of cheating or plagiarism will be reported to the Dean of Students Office and the appropriate Academic Dean(s) where further disciplinary action will be considered. At the very least, a permanent record of the infraction will be kept in the student's file. For further

information regarding this policy, please refer to the 'Plagiarism & Cheating' section of the Student Handbook.

### ***Syllabus Disclaimer***

The reading and writing assignments in this syllabus satisfy the SEBTS credit hour policy and have been calculated with these requirements in mind. Outside work includes reading textbooks, researching and writing papers or other exercises, completing online exercises, and viewing online lectures.

### ***SEBTS Mission Statement***

Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary seeks to glorify the Lord Jesus Christ by equipping students to serve the Church and fulfill the Great Commission (Matt. 28:19–20).

### ***SEBTS Core Competencies***

This course is designed for you to be able to grow in the following SEBTS core competencies:

- ***Spiritual Formation:*** Demonstrate the knowledge and skills necessary to pursue an authentically Christian way of life, manifested by trust in God, obedience to Christ's commands, and love of God and neighbor.
- ***Biblical Exposition:*** Demonstrate the ability to properly and effectively interpret, apply, and communicate the Scriptures.
- ***Theological Integration:*** Demonstrate the ability to understand and apply the doctrines of Christianity to life and ministry.
- ***Ministry Preparation:*** Demonstrate the knowledge, skills, and Christian disposition necessary for ministry and leadership in the church and the world.
- ***Critical Thinking and Communication:*** Demonstrate the ability to think critically, argue persuasively, and communicate clearly. We strive to do all of this while cultivating in students a delight in God, His Word, and His Church.