



# NEW ORLEANS

BAPTIST THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY

December 21, 2019

## ANSWERING GOD'S CALL

Dear Executive Committee Member,

On behalf of the New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary and Leavell College family I extend you greetings. I offer my deep thanks and gratitude for the men and women and churches of the Southern Baptist Convention that you represent. NOBTS and Leavell College depend on the partnership of Southern Baptists through the Cooperative Program to accomplish the ministry assignment we have been given to fulfill.

I am now just past the six-month mark in my presidency at NOBTS and Leavell College. Much has been accomplished, and the days have been full. We have plenty of work left to do, but I and the rest of the NOBTS and Leavell College family are taking great joy in the work we are doing. One of the first things we have done is to consider the mission of NOBTS and Leavell College. We looked carefully at what NOBTS and Leavell College have accomplished in the last one hundred years and the impact she has had in the region. We considered what NOBTS and Leavell College are positioned to do well right now for the Kingdom. Finally, we looked ahead to the great things God will accomplish through the NOBTS and Leavell College family. At the end of that process, we had determined a mission statement that will, as long as I serve in this role, drive everything we do as an institution.

*New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary and Leavell College prepare servants to walk with Christ, proclaim His truth, and fulfill His mission.*

We pray that God will send us men and women with the disposition of servanthood ready and willing to serve the Kingdom. As an institution we will prepare these servants to walk closely with Christ. We will prepare these men and women to answer God's call to proclaim His truth wherever He will lead them. NOBTS and Leavell College will prepare these Kingdom servants to fulfill His mission in the smaller-membership churches, in the hard inner-city neighborhoods, in church plants, on the international mission field, or to whatever ministry God calls them to accomplish. We believe so strongly in this mission that it will become the ethos of everything we do.

In the past six months, we have also hired three vice-presidents to lead key divisions of the institution: enrollment (Larry Lyon), development (Mike Wetzel), and business affairs (Pattie Shoener). These individuals are ready to serve and retell the story of NOBTS and Leavell College.

When I arrived I was delighted to learn of the men and women of the NOBTS and Leavell College family who serve faithfully as faculty, staff, and students of this institution. They serve in ministries across the city and region, all while leading their classes and serving the students of NOBTS and Leavell College. All of our faculty serve faithfully in local churches, many of them in leadership

and staff positions. Our faculty serve just as so many of our pastors do, in bi-vocational ministry. The students of NOBTS and Leavell College are dedicated to their studies while also serving in the churches around our region. Over one hundred of our students serve in leadership or attend NAMB church plants in the New Orleans area.

When I was elected as President, I shared with the NOBTS and Leavell College trustees that I would focus on four initiatives in my first few years. I am committed to the following initiatives as we seek to build on the work of the last one hundred years:

1. Leavell College. We are going to dedicate ourselves to making Leavell College into the regional college for those men and women preparing for Gospel-ministry.
2. Enrollment. NOBTS and Leavell College are going to work hard to recruit men and women ready to be servants in the Kingdom. We are going to work just as hard to help them finish their degree as quickly and efficiently as possible.
3. Communications. NOBTS and Leavell College have much to offer the churches of the SBC. We are going to tell the story of this place and her people and the faithful service offered each day.
4. Denominational Relationships. We are going to work hard to serve the churches of the SBC to build relationships and partnerships. We seek as an institution to faithfully steward the men and women and financial resources the churches of the SBC send to New Orleans.

These are fun and exciting days at NOBTS and Leavell College. My family and I have quickly come to love the city of New Orleans alongside the NOBTS and Leavell College family. We are grateful for the opportunity to answer God's call in such a beautiful place.

Pray for us. Come visit us.

Your servant,



Jamie Dew

President

New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary and Leavell College