

2026 Southwest Region 1 Christian Education Conference
April 24-25, 2026

Location: St. John Missionary Baptist Church
2000-18th Avenue

Meridian, Mississippi 39301

Rev. Dr. Ecclesiastes Goodwin, Sr. Host Pastor
Ms. Barbara L. Young, Dean, Meridian, Mississippi

Courses Offered:

2097 – Rethinking Christian Education for Contemporary Innovations

This course will examine the current trends, methodologies and practices in Christian education to determine their validity and alliance with scripture.

Instructor: Rev. Dr. Michael O. Minor, Hernando, Mississippi

5001-Introduction to Leadership

This course introduces the student to leadership in the church. In it, they will become familiar with various forms of leadership.

Instructor: Rev. Dr. Eric D. Williams, Jackson, Mississippi

9914-Connecting the Local Church to the Community

This course will Examine the mission of the church to serve the community. Consider the biblical mandate for the church to be missionaries to the community and serve the spiritual, social, and physical needs of the people therein. Help students to better understand the spiritual nature of the church, thus creating an incentive to reach out as servants to the community.

Rev. Dr. Ecclesiastes Goodwin, Meridian, Mississippi

SP0020-Conflict Management

This course will examine the causes of conflict and how to minimize the tension that may result from disputes. Students will focus on putting systems in place, understanding personalities, cultural traditions, and developing a Christian ethical process for navigating and managing issues that lead to conflict.

Instructor: Rev. Dr. Victor Harkins, Bessemer, Alabama

VBS Seminar: Hooked – Reeled In to Serve God

This seminar equips VBS teachers and directors with a biblical and practical understanding of the 2026 VBS theme, “*Hooked: Reeled In to Serve God.*” Participants will explore the scriptural foundation of God’s call, discipleship, and service using the fishing imagery found in Scripture. The course provides thematic insight, teaching direction, and ministry application to help leaders confidently present lessons, engage children, and reinforce service-centered faith throughout VBS.

Instructor: Mrs. Loretta Miller, Memphis, Tennessee