

## VITA

Chris Smith

Assistant Professor of Worship Leadership  
East Texas Baptist University  
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### EDUCATION:

**Doctor of Musical Arts in Worship and Hymnology** (projected graduation December 2022)

New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary, New Orleans, Louisiana

Courses completed as of May, 2020:

Advanced Studies in Church Music History

Supervised Reading Colloquium 1: Worship in Ministry and Practice

Advanced Studies in Historical Perspectives of Worship

Advanced Studies in Lyrical Theology

Introduction to Research and Writing

Contextual Dimensions in Current Worship Research

### **Master of Music in Church Music, 2015**

Samford University, Birmingham, Alabama

Principle Instrument: Guitar

Areas of Research: guitar pedagogy (with an emphasis on multi-genre approaches), hymnology, culture and aesthetics of worship

\*Inducted in the national music honor society, Pi Kappa Lambda

### **Bachelor of Music in Guitar Performance, 2005**

Samford University, Birmingham, Alabama

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Primary Instrument: Guitar

Secondary Instrument: Percussion, Piano

Additional private training in voice, conducting, and composition

Ensembles include: A Cappella Choir, Jazz Band, Steel Drum Band, Percussion

Ensemble, Marching Band, and Wind Ensemble (Band Chaplain 2002)

### TEACHING EXPERIENCE:

**East Texas Baptist University 2018-Present**

**Assistant Professor of Worship Leadership**

Worship Studies Coordinator

Lead and give vision to the Worship Studies major, recruit and advise students, coordinate events such as the Worship Summit and the Student Night of Worship, supervise senior students practicum placement, teach and develop course

curriculum designed to prepare and educate future music leaders in theology and musicianship

Courses instructed include Planning Worship, Worship of God, Leading Worship, Worship Music, and Modern Musicianship I and II

Ensembles directed include Worship Band, and Lampsato (auditioned worship band)

#### Guitar Instructor

Instruct students in technique and musicality across a variety of genres used in both secular and church music settings, evaluate incoming students and potential guitar majors, develop curriculum for skill levels ranging from fundamental to advanced, prepare students for performance evaluations

Courses instructed include Applied Guitar, and Class Guitar I and II

Director of Guitar Ensemble

#### Music Technology Instructor

Introduce and educate students across a wide variety of technology used in professional and church music settings such as notation software, digital audio workstations, studio recording, presentation software, and pro audio

Courses instructed include Worship Media Technology, and Music Technology

### **Samford University 2013-2018**

#### **Adjunct Professor**

##### Class Guitar I, II Instructor

Develop curriculum to establish practical and fundamental guitar skills, evaluate incoming students to ensure proper class placement, instruct students in technique and musicality across a variety of genres, instruct students in music theory as it relates to transposition and improvisation, assess students both individually and as an ensemble

##### Applied Guitar Instructor

Evaluate incoming students and potential guitar majors, develop a teaching strategy for each individual student, select repertoire designed to instill proper technique and increase fretboard knowledge, provide exercises to aid in the student's weaknesses while simultaneously enhancing their strengths, adequately prepare each student for performance evaluations

##### Music Technology Instructor

Introduce and educate students across a wide variety of technology used in professional music settings such as notation software, digital audio workstations, studio recording, and pro audio

##### "Animate" Guitar Instructor

Birthered out of *Anima*, Samford's forum for worship and arts, "Animate" is essentially a summer camp for aspiring worship leaders. Instruction is given to groups of beginner and advanced students detailing practical application of the guitar in common worship settings

### **Guitar Instructor, 2005-2013**

Dawson Memorial Baptist Church Music Academy

Hunter Street Baptist Church Arts Academy

First Baptist Church of Trussville Conservatory

Shades Crest Baptist Church Arts Academy

Provided instruction to students of all ages and skill levels, developed individualized learning strategies, instructed students on proper guitar techniques ranging from fundamental to advanced, prepared students for performances, introduced students to various genres of music

\*The culmination of lessons over this period totals over 10,000 lessons given.

### **OTHER WORK EXPERIENCE:**

#### **2001-Present**

Including but not limited to church services, worship events, Christian conferences and retreats, weddings, musicals, recitals, commissions, and studio recordings

Notable musicians with which I have shared the stage:

Cleve Eaton- Bassist for Count Basie Orchestra, Ella Fitzgerald

Sonny Harris- Drummer, member of Alabama Jazz Hall of Fame

Joel Bouchillon- Keyboardist for Trisha Yearwood, Producer for Michael W. Smith

Billy and Cindy Foote- writers of "Sing to the King," and "You are My King (Amazing Love)"

Paul Janeway- lead singer of St. Paul and the Broken Bones

Michael John Clement- Worship Leader, co-writer for "You Do All Things Well," featured on Christ Tomlin's album, *Arriving*

Hector Santana- Latin Grammy nominated bassist

### **Associate Worship Minister, 2018-Present**

Oakland Heights Baptist Church, Longview, Texas

Plan and lead worship for contemporary services, lead rehearsals for praise band, assist in other worship services as needed, lead and rehearse with youth worship band for Wednesday night services

### **Minister of Music and Students, 2013-2018**

Cedar Grove Baptist Church, Leeds, Alabama

Music responsibilities: Plan and lead worship for traditional and contemporary services, lead and rehearse praise band, direct adult choir, oversee technical aspects of worship, organize special services such as Easter and Christmas

Youth responsibilities: Plan Sunday and Wednesday services, select curriculum for Bible studies, oversee Sunday school classes, retreat planning

Projects Overseen: Installed new sound system in contemporary worship facility, remodeled youth wing, remodeled children's worship area, modernized church website; upgraded sound and media to digital technologies in recent sanctuary renovation

**Clinician, 2006-Present**

Provide expertise to various churches in areas of music and worship, and worship related technology. Common environments include student-age music camps, rehearsals and retreats for adult praise bands, and studio projects

**Contracted Guitarist/ Worship Leader, 2006-2009**

Hunter Street Baptist Church, Birmingham, Alabama

Guitarist and worship leader for weekly services and special events

Assisted in worship planning, assisted in developing student-led worship band

Led worship for middle and high school services

**Contracted Guitarist/ Worship Leader, 2009-2013**

Dawson Memorial Baptist Church, Birmingham, Alabama

Guitarist and worship leader for weekly services and special events

Assisted in worship planning, assisted in developing student-led worship band

Led worship for middle and high school services

**Youth and Music Intern, 2002-2005**

First Baptist Church of Birmingham, Alabama

Responsibilities included: leading youth praise and worship, directing youth choir, teaching Bible studies, playing in and directing orchestra, retreat planning, coordinating Wednesday night youth activities

**PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT EXPERIENCES:**

**PRESENTATIONS AND PUBLICATIONS:**

**OTHER RELEVANT INFORMATION:**