



## **Dr. J. Steven Layton**

### **Family**

Spouse: Melinda Taylor Layton

Children:

Kristen Patton (Reid and Ceile Ruth)

Meaghan Kinkade (Brent and Caleb)

Matthew Layton

Michael Layton

John Davis (Megan and Hannah Jo)

### **Life Mission Statement**

To equip and encourage people on their journey toward Christlikeness.

To be and make disciples with Jesus.

### **Education**

D.Min. - New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary

Leadership and Administration

M.Div. - New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary

Pastoral Ministries

B.G.S. - Samford University

A.S. - Samford University

### **Bio:**

Prior to entering the ministry I was a training manager for a Burger King franchise in Birmingham, AL. My “Ah Ha!” moment in my call to ministry came at Fultondale First Baptist Church where I taught tenth grade boys in Sunday School. The Minister of Music and Youth at the church resigned and he asked me if I would consider leading the

Student Ministry until they called someone to fill the position. I enjoyed being with the students and thought it would be fun to hang out with some cool kids and teach them about being on journey with God. Many of these students remain in contact today and I deeply value their friendship. Not long into the interim, my wife asked me, “When are you going to stop running from the Lord so that we can do what God has called US to do?”

Wow, I guess I had never considered that God had called her to ministry as He was calling me. Her statement reached deep into my soul and caused me to rethink God’s call on my life. We discussed the challenges and opportunities and took our first steps.

Starting out as the interim Student Minister, I grew into my leadership roles eventually accepting the full time position of Minister of Education and Youth. At that point in my life I did not have any real “ministry” experience or formal education, but I had a strong call on my life; and that was enough to do what God was calling me to do to serve Him. I have served five congregations, worked at LifeWay Church Resources as a Regional Consultant, and taught at New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary and Jefferson State Community College in over thirty years of professional ministry.

My wife Melinda and I both had our lives changed drastically when each of lost our first spouses to cancer. My first wife Lois died of breast cancer and Melinda’s first husband, Dr. Steve Davis, died of Leukemia. Melinda and I married in March 1998 and blended our families together. We have five adult children Kristen Layton Patton, Meaghan Davis Kincade, Matthew and Michael Layton and John Davis.