

Dr. DJ Coleman, D. Min.

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Personal Profile

DJ serves as an Associate Professor of Practical Theology at Indiana Wesleyan University. He is passionate about joining God in His ministry of reconciliation. Driven by a desire to minister with excellence, D.J. completed his Doctor of Ministry in Church Leadership and Community Witness at Candler School of Theology. There he developed an interactive, seminar-style training to educate and equip church leaders for effective discipleship. D.J. utilizes this training to empower church leaders and congregations in fulfilling the Great Commission.

DJ has served in diverse pastoral roles, including children's ministry, student ministry, refugee ministry, prison ministry, and special needs ministry. His passion for the Global Church is evident by his extensive travels. DJ not only explores the world personally but also leads travel-based classes, providing students with the enriching opportunity to study abroad. DJ is a sought-after speaker who frequently preaches at local churches, ministry conferences, Christian College/University Chapels as well as youth camps.

Education

2020 Doctor of Ministry in Church Leadership and Community Witness

Candler School of Theology

Atlanta, GA

Culminating Project: "Colorful Church: Equipping the People of God to Make Disciples of All Nations"

Project Supervisor: Dr. Brent A. Strawn, Professor of Law and Old Testament at Duke Divinity School

2016 Master of Arts in Theological Studies

Columbia Theological Seminary

Decatur, GA

2012 Bachelor of Arts in Youth Ministry

Asbury University
Wilmore, KY

Employment

Associate Professor of Practical Theology and Homiletics, Indiana Wesleyan University, Marion, IN, 2022- present

Assistant Professor of Practical Theology and Homiletics at Indiana Wesleyan University, my teaching philosophy is profoundly shaped by the global church. Committed to innovation, I equip students for future leadership roles in diverse churches by providing tools and frameworks rather than simple answers. Grounded in a belief in the dignity of each student, my pedagogy prioritizes their growth and development, fostering a dynamic learning environment where I am the biggest advocate for the success of my students.

Student Pastor, Northwood Church, Keller, TX, 2020- 2022

Pastored middle and high school students in fulfilling the mission of Northwood to “live and love like Jesus” in their domains. Partnered with parents, the primary disciple makers, in the spiritual formation of their students. Focused on the leadership development of students through training and equipping students to disciple the next generation.

Curriculum Contributor, The Rethink Group, Inc., 2019-present

Edits youth ministry curriculum to ensure that it is relevant and inclusive of students from diverse ethnic and socioeconomic backgrounds.

Curriculum Contributor, Stuff You Can Use, 2018-present

Creates and edits youth ministry curriculum designed to aid in the spiritual formation and Christian discipleship of middle and high school students.

Camp, Conference, and Event Speaker, 2016-present

Preaches at various conferences, chapels, camps, and special events for Christian schools and churches across the United States.

Middle School Pastor, Grace Fellowship Church, Snellville, GA, 2016-2020

Pastored middle school students to see and join God at work in the nations, neighborhoods, and next generation. Led a team of staff and adult volunteers who in turn led high school students as they disciplined middle school students.

4th and 5th Grade Pastor, Grace Fellowship Church, Snellville, GA 2012-2015

Pastored 4th and 5th grade students through expository and topical preaching and interactive group discussion.

Local Outreach Coordinator, Grace Fellowship Church, Snellville, GA 2012-2015

Led several refugee ministry areas including but not limited to after school programs, job training programs, summer camps, and distribution of basic needs.

Scholarly Accomplishments

Scholar and facilitator of *Colorful Church: Equipping the People of God to Make Disciples of All Nations*

Facilitator of *Jesus and the Quran*

Membership in Scholarly and Professional Societies

Former Fellow of Mosaix Global Network (2021)

Former Committee Member of NRSV Updated Edition Bible Translation Review Committee (2021)

Member of Wesleyan Theological Society (WTS), since 2024

Member of American Academy of Religion (AAR), since 2024

Member of American Youth Ministry Educators (AYME), since 2024

Awards

Asbury University Servant Leadership Award

Community, Civic, Church Activities

Volunteer children's ministry bible teacher at College Wesleyan Church

Volunteer bible study leader at Grant County Jail

Indiana Wesleyan University Football Chaplain

DJ and emcee for local community and school events

Representative for the creation of a sister city partnership with Lilburn, GA and Suhareke, Kosovo

Treasurer, Board of Directors – City of Marion Community Development Corporation

Recent Ministry, Academic, and Leadership Engagements

2022

Breakout Group Leader – Mosaix Conference, Dallas, TX, November 8–10, 2022

Speaker – IWU Chapel, March 25, 2022

Speaker – IWU Chapel, November 21, 2022

2023

Attendee – The Gathering (Wesleyan Conference), Orlando, FL, January 4–7, 2023

DJ – Indiana University Athletics DJ for Football, Soccer, and Volleyball, 2023–present

Coach – Hatchathon (Orlando), Feb 24–Mar 5, 2023

Retreat Leader – MFNN (Multi-Faith Neighbor's Network) Retreat, Khartoum, Sudan, February 13–17, 2023

Speaker – Cornerstone Student Ministry Conference, Cornerstone Church, March 24–25, 2023

Leader – Faith Integration Workshop on Christianity and Islam, Indiana Wesleyan University, March 29, 2023

Speaker – Fusion Youth Conference, March 31–April 1, 2023

Guest Speaker – Rethinking Youth Ministry Podcast, Atlanta, GA, May 30, 2023

Attendee – Kern Ministry Conference, Denver, CO, June 5–6, 2023

Attendee – Footsteps of Paul Study Tour, Greece, June 9–18, 2023

Speaker – Wildcat Summer Academy, Indiana Wesleyan University, June 25–29, 2023

Bible Study Leader – Grant County Jail, July 2023–present

Member – Marion Ministerial Alliance, June 2023–present

Pastoral Coach – Youth Pastors Noah Shigley (2023–2024)

Ministry Incubator Coach – Orlando, September 25–29, 2023

DJ – Fallapalooza, Indiana Wesleyan University, October 13, 2023

Speaker – YouthFront Conference, Kansas City, KS, October 26, 2023

Presenter – Association of Youth Ministry Educators (AYME) Conference, October 27–28, 2023

Speaker – JCB (College Wesleyan Church Youth Ministry), Marion, IN, November 12, 2023

Speaker – MLK Celebration, Indiana Wesleyan University Student Center, January 11, 2024

2024

Speaker – Grace Student Ministry Retreat, Atlanta, GA, January 26–28, 2024
Workshop Leader – Tabled, College Wesleyan Church, January 20, February 24, & March 23, 2024
Football Chaplain – Indiana Wesleyan University, 2024–present
Advisory Team Member – WonderSpace, Jan 2024–present
Speaker – Johns Hopkins University Chapel, February 6, 2024
Attendee – Wesleyan Theological Society Annual Meeting, February 28 – March 2, 2024
Retreat Leader – MOC (Men of Color) Retreat, Jan 31–Feb 2, 2024
Pastoral Coach – Youth Pastors Abigail Hume & Paula Rye (2024–2025)
Faculty Leader – Travel Course to Accra & Tamale, Ghana, May 5–10, 2024
Roundtable Leader – Global Peace Leadership Conference, Nairobi, Kenya, June 25–27, 2024
Roundtable Leader – Inter-Religious Family Festival, Kampala, Uganda, June 29, 2024
Attendee – Global Leadership Summit, Huntington University, August 8–9, 2024
Presenter – Cultivating the Presence of God Through Education Project, Indiana Wesleyan University, September 15, 2024
Speaker – FUEL Conference, October 11–12, 2024
Speaker – Winter Wonder Conference, Northwood Church, Fort Worth, TX, December 7–8, 2024

2025

Ministry Incubator Coach – Orlando, February 25 – March 1, 2025
Panelist – Wildcat Jr. Summer Academy Panel, Indiana Wesleyan University, April 15–16, 2025
Speaker – YBL (Youth Becoming Leaders), Asbury University, June 9–11, 2025
Speaker – Fairmount Youth Camp, June 10–14, 2025
Speaker – NTS Youth Camp, June 15–19, 2025
Speaker – Wildcat Summer Academy, June 15–19, 2025
Search Committee Member – Headmaster Search, Kings Academy, Summer 2025
Bible Teacher – College Wesleyan Church, 4th Grade, July 2025–present
Advisory Council Member – DCC Discipleship Advisory Council, July 2025–present

References

Dr. Brent A. Strawn, Professor of Law and Old Testament at Duke Divinity School
bstrawn@div.duke.edu

Dr. Bob Roberts Jr., Founder of Glocal Net and Multi-Faith Neighbors Network

bob@global.net

Dr. Miranda Cruz, Professor of Historical Theology at Indiana Wesleyan University
miranda.cruz@indwes.edu

Dr. Paul Murray, Vice President of Religious Freedom Initiative
pmurray@globalpeace.org

Micah Fries, Director of Programs at the Multi-Faith Neighbor's Network
micahfries@mfnn.org