

**ASSEMBLIES OF GOD THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY**  
**Resident Module Course**  
**Springfield, Missouri**

***PTHM 640 “Putting an End to the Worship Wars!”***  
**January 27-31, 2003**

**Dr. Tom McDonald**

**Spring 2003**

**COURSE SYLLABUS**

**Course Description**

This course is a study of changing worship trends in the Pentecostal tradition, with a particular concentration on worship wars – within the local church. We will focus on worship philosophy, cultural shifts, worship leader traits, fodder for worship wars, conflict management skills and the emerging role of the music ministry.

**Course Objectives**

1. Identify the criteria inherent in contemporary worship philosophy and practice.
2. Define the competencies for leadership in a music ministry.
3. Understand the factors in a local church which contribute to the formation of a worship war.
4. Evaluate the veracity of the choir and the worship team ensemble in today’s climate of worship in the church.
5. Recognize the elements which formulate healthy and unhealthy pastoral staff interaction, with special emphasis on the tenuous relationship between pastor and worship leader.
6. Design an effective strategy to combat the alarming rate of pastoral staff transition and attrition.

**Textbooks**

Hayford, Jack W. *Worship His Majesty*. Dallas, Tex.: Word Books, 1987.

Liesch, Barry Wayne. *The New Worship. Straight Talk on Music and the Church*. Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Books, 1996.

Lucarini, Dan, Blanchard, John. *Why I left the Contemporary Christian Music Movement. Confessions of a Former Worship Leader*. (Evangelical Press, 2002.

Webber, Robert. *The Younger Evangelicals. Facing the Challenges of the New World*. Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Books, 2002.

## **Course Outline**

- I. A Contemporary Worship Context
  - a. A discussion of worship trends
  - b. A Philosophy of Leading Pentecostal Worship
  - c. Keeping the generations “under one roof” during worship encounters
- II. The Anatomy of a Worship Leader
  - a. Detail the Job description
  - b. List the relative competencies
  - c. Coming into the presence of the Lord – then what?
- III. Elements of a Worship War
  - A. Six factors which create a worship war
  - b. Strategies of conflict resolution and peace making
- IV. The Choir or the Worship Team
  - A. What do we want?
  - B. How do we achieve what we want?
  - C. What are the ironic consequences of focusing on a worship team or investing in the development of a sanctuary choir?
- V. The Healthy Pastoral Staff
  - A. Criteria, Personality traits, Pitfalls, and the effect of stress and temptation
  - b. What are the responsibilities of the pastor; worship leader in terms of keeping staff relationships healthy and strong?
  - c. What are the signals that the relationship is becoming unhealthy?
- D. Strategies for transition

## **Methodology**

Lecture and class discussion – including student presentations and video supplements – will comprise the method of communication in this class. Further enhancements will come from CDs and times of worship in class.

## **Course Requirements**

### *Pre-Session*

Read two of the required texts and be prepared to discuss them.

### *Session*

1. Attend class punctually.
2. Participate in all discussions and class projects with enthusiasm.
3. Prepare a class project – a mach worship encounter – with assigned colleagues
4. Take a blue book final examination on the last day of the class.

*Post Session*

Prepare a two-page reaction paper on each text required for this course.

Write a research paper (15 pages) in which you develop a philosophy of leading worship in a Pentecostal context and with a 21<sup>st</sup> century point of view. Include a history of Pentecostal worship; generational sensitivity; choir/worship team pro's and con's; how to build a band; how to rehearse and pastor the music department and how to both find a healthy pastor to serve and then, how to keep the relationship healthy and vital – all from the perspective of being a worship leader.

The paper should follow graduate requirements and length.

**Grading Procedures**

Reading Evaluations	20%
Class Participation	20%
Final Examination	30%
Research Paper	30%

**Selected Bibliography**

This will be distributed on the first day of class in January.

**Specific Data**

Prepared by Dr. Tom McDonald, December 16, 2002