

ASSEMBLIES OF GOD THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY
Continuing Education Course
2 or 3 Credit Hours

PTHE 640 GROWING AND LEADING THE LARGE PENTECOSTAL CHURCH
www.agts.edu/flconference

A class/conference partnership of the Assemblies of God Theological Seminary
www.agts.edu

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First Assembly of God, Ft. Myers, Florida
Victory Church, Lakeland, Florida
Northland Cathedral, Kansas City, Missouri

at

First Assembly of God, Ft. Myers, Florida

March 24-26, 2004

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Spring 2004

COURSE SYLLABUS

COURSE DESCRIPTION

Growing and Leading the Large Pentecostal Church is a class/conference partnership cosponsored by AGTS, First A/G, Ft. Myers, Florida, Victory Church, Lakeland, Florida, and Northland Cathedral, Kansas City, Missouri. This class/conference examines the unique characteristics, organizational structures, necessary personnel, and unique challenges faced by large Pentecostal churches. Additionally, this class/conference will provide a significant opportunity for peer interaction among pastors and staff members who lead large Pentecostal churches.

COURSE REGISTRATION

Conference registration is available from the AGTS Continuing Education Office:

- ▲ Telephone: 417-268-1044 or 800-467-AGTS (ask for Vicki Jacobson)
- ▲ Email: agts-ext@agts.edu

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General conference information, including information regarding hotels and directions in Ft. Myers is available from the AGTS Development Office:

- ▲ Web: www.agts.edu/flconference
- ▲ Telephone: 417-268-1012 or 800-467-AGTS (ask for Veronica Smith)
- ▲ Email: partners@agts.edu

The conference registration fee will be waived for participants who register to take the conference for graduate credit.

COURSE OBJECTIVES

The class/conference is an arena for learning and growth in several arenas:

Large Church Culture: An understanding of the unique culture of the large Pentecostal church, including issues relating to its ideology, culture, structure, personnel, and mission.

Crisis Management: Insight into the personal and corporate crises that occur in a large Pentecostal church and the complex nature of crisis management.

Cultural Dynamics: Assessing the relationship between large Pentecostal churches and emerging culture and the methodology by which the church can appropriately engage and communicate with that culture.

Professional Networking: Developing relationships with ministry peers and pastors of large Pentecostal churches from around the country and discussing the Best Ministry Practices currently being utilized.

Ministry Enhancement: Nurturing biblical character, skills and giftings associated with leading large Pentecostal churches and effective ministry in the 21st century.

COURSE OUTLINE

1. Plenary sessions at the *Growing and Leading the Large Pentecostal Church* conference include seminars and presentations by Dan Betzer, Wayne Blackburn, Lowell Harrup, Byron Klaus, Charles Nestor, and Maurice Watson. Additional workshops and small group sessions will be included in the experience featuring other leading facilitators such as Earl Creps, Brad Liebe, Dan McBride, and John Palmer. Meals and other informal times of interaction and networking will enhance the conference seminar materials.

2. A brief orientation session will be held during the conference for those taking it as a for-credit class. You will be notified at the conference as to the time and place of this session. This will allow the opportunity for questions regarding the course assignments. Attendance is required.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

A. *Pre-session:*

1. *Read:*

- ▲ *Two-credit option:* Read at least 1,000 pages from the Text List (see below)
- ▲ *Three-credit option:* Read at least 1,500 pages from the Text List (see below)

If the student has previously read a textbook for academic credit, that book may not be used as part of the reading assignment.

2. *Write:*

- ▲ *Two-credit option:* Write a 4-5 page response to the pre-session readings
- ▲ *Three-credit option:* Write a 7-10 page response to the pre-session readings

The pre-session paper should contain two key components. It should describe some of the major themes in the materials read and provide discussion as to how those are applicable to your ministry context. This paper is to provide the student with the opportunity to reflect on and synthesize the reading materials in light of his or her specific ministry goals, opportunities, and challenges.

3. *Submission Options:*

You may submit your pre-session paper in hardcopy format or by email attachment (pmartinez@agts.edu). For email submissions, please save and attach the paper in a ".doc" format, such as Microsoft Word or WordPerfect. Whichever format you choose, submit the paper by the end of the conference on ***Friday, March 26, 2004.***

B. *Session:*

Attend and be an active participant in the "Growing and Leading the Large Pentecostal Church" conference. Active participation will allow for maximized learning, growth, and networking opportunities.

C. *Post-session:*

- ▲ *Two-credit option:* Choose 2 of the following options
- ▲ *Three-credit option:* Choose 3 of the following options

1. *Ministry Development Plan:* Write a 7-10 page paper detailing a development plan specifically focused on an area in your ministry context that requires growth. Examples might include a plan to change some portion of your ministry's infrastructure or develop a new ministry in your church or detail a strategic plan to produce growth in your personal leadership skills. The paper should include a synthesis of elements from the pre-session reading, conference seminars, peer

networking and other background research. Indicate any challenges that will need to be confronted as well as an implementation timeline.

2. *Crisis Management Project:* Choose one of the following crisis situations and develop a 7-10 page paper that details the necessary strategic response:
 - ▲ A pastor/staff member who is charged with child abuse/molestation
 - ▲ A youth sponsor who crashes the church van, killing one youth and injuring several others and is found to be driving while intoxicated
 - ▲ A male pastor who is charged with sexual harassment by his female administrative assistant
 - ▲ A business administrator/executive pastor found guilty of embezzlement or significant misappropriation of funds
 - ▲ A staff pastor who is found to be having an affair with the wife of a prominent board member

In each case, describe the entire crisis management process, including repercussions, future safety precautions needed, and communication to and with the following groups: (1) the main parties involved, (2) the church staff and board, (3) the church body, (4) the governing denominational bodies, and (5) the local community. In addition to spiritual and moral responses, discuss any legal or popular (i.e. community and public relations) ramifications and how those should be addressed.

3. *Research Paper:* Choose a major theme related to the conference and write a 7-10 page formal research paper on that topic. The paper should utilize the conference materials and pre-session readings as its foundation with further research and exploration done on the topic. This paper should identify major facets of the chosen topic, compare key literature and writings, and derive applicable conclusions for your ministry context. This paper should include supporting notational elements (footnotes, endnotes, or parenthetical references) and at least a 15-item bibliography/reference list.
4. *Reflective Essay:* Read one of the texts not included in the 1,000 or 1,500 pages read for the pre-session work and write a 7-10 page paper that discusses the author's central theme. Compare and contrast the book with the experiences derived in your ministry context. While this is not a research project per se, it should reflect an understanding of the topic in light of other prominent literature available.
5. *Historical Analysis:* Write a 7-10 page paper that discusses the development of the large Pentecostal church in the United States over the past century. Examine any relevant biblical, spiritual, political, social, economical, denominational, or cultural factors which may have contributed to the growth of the large Pentecostal church. Relevant research data can include analysis of mega-church statistics in light of their historical context.

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6. *Case Study*: Do a case study analysis of a large Pentecostal church that you do not currently pastor and present the findings in a 7-10 page report. To do this case study, you may want to look at the church's historical records, examine church staffing and structure, interview present and previous pastors and staff members, or even plan a site visit. This case study analysis is meant to enable you to elucidate the factors that have been instrumental in the growth of the church. In this analysis, choose churches that currently have more than 1,500 persons in attendance during Sunday morning services or have experienced triple-digit percentage growth in each of the previous three years, based upon a minimum of 100 persons in the church three years earlier.
7. *Self-Designed Project*: Each student has the option of completing a self-designed project that specifically ties together elements of the conference and the student's own ministry context. If chosen, this project must be approved in advance by the professor.

All assignments are to be typed, double-spaced, original, graduate-level work. They should follow the *Turabian* style manual, 6th edition.

All assignments can be submitted in hardcopy format or by email attachment (pmartinez@agts.edu). For email submissions, please save and attach the assignments in a ".doc" format, such as Microsoft Word or WordPerfect. Please include a title page with your name, address, telephone, email, course number, course title, and course location.

Whichever format you choose, all post-session work is due postmarked no later than June 26, 2004.

A student may request an extension, however, the grade for late work will be lowered by one letter grade for each week it exceeds the due date.

Note: Work received after the post-session due date will also result in a change of grade fee (\$15.00) being charged, even when an extension has been granted by the instructor.

GRADING PROCEDURE

	<u>2-credit option</u>	<u>3-credit option</u>
Pre-session writing	25%	19%
Participation in <i>Growing and Leading</i> conference	15%	15%
Post-session options	60%*	66%*

*For the two-credit course, each post-session option is worth 30% of the grade. For the three-credit course, each post-session option is worth 22% of the grade.

COURSE READINGS – TEXT LIST

Cladis, George. Leading the Team-Based Church. San Francisco: Jossey-Bass, 1999. (208 pages)

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Herrington, Jim. Leading Congregational Change. San Francisco: Jossey-Bass, 2000. (208 pages)

Hybels, Bill. Courageous Leadership. Grand Rapids, Mich.: Zondervan, 2002. (256 pages)

Klopp, Henry. The Ministry Playbook: Strategic Planning for Effective Churches. Grand Rapids, Mich.: Baker Book House, 2002. (304 pages)

Malphurs, Aubrey. Advanced Strategic Planning: A New Model for Church and Ministry Leaders. Grand Rapids, Mich.: Baker Book House, 1999. (288 pages)

McIntosh, Gary. Biblical Church Growth. Grand Rapids, Mich.: Baker Book House, 2003. (192 pages)

McIntosh, Gary. Staff Your Church for Growth. Grand Rapids, Mich.: Baker Book House, 2000. (208 pages)

McManus, Erwin. An Unstoppable Force: Daring to Become the Church God had in Mind. Group Publishing, 2001. (224 pages)

Mims, Gene. The Kingdom-Focused Church: A Compelling Image of an Achievable Future for Your Church. Nashville: Broadman & Holman, 2003. (182 pages)

Quinn, Robert. Deep Change. San Francisco: Jossey-Bass, 1996. (236 pages)

Rainer, Thom. Book of Church Growth: History, Theology and Principles. Nashville: Broadman & Holman, 1998. (352 pages)

Russell, Bob. When God Builds a Church: 10 Principles for Growing a Dynamic Church. Howard Publishing, 2000. (304 pages)

Schaller, Lyle. The Very Large Church. Nashville: Abingdon Press, 2000. (256 pages)

Stanley, Andy. Visioneering. Multnomah Publishers, 2001. (272 pages)

Stanley, Andy and Ed Young. Can We Do That: 24 Innovative Practices that Will Change the Way You Do Church. Howard Publishing, 2002. (206 pages)

OTHER SELECTED RESOURCES

Barna, George. The Second Coming of the Church. Nashville: Word Publishing, 1998.

Clegg, Tom and Warren Bird. Lost in America: How You and Your Church Can Impact the World Next Door. Loveland, Colo.: Group Publishing, 2001.

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Easum, William and D. Travis. Beyond the Box: Innovative Churches that Work. Loveland, Colo.: Group Publishing, 2003.

Hunter, George. How to Reach Secular People. Nashville: Abingdon, 1992.

_____. Church for the Unchurched. Nashville: Abingdon Press, 1996.

McLaren, Brian. Reinventing Your Church. Grand Rapids, Mich.: Zondervan, 1998.

_____. The Church on the Other Side. Grand Rapids, Mich.: Zondervan, 2003.

Ogden, G. Unfinished Business: Returning the Ministry to the People of God. Grand Rapids, Mich.: Zondervan Publishing, 2003.

Rainer, Thom S. The Unchurched Next Door: Understanding Faith Stages as a Key to Sharing Your Faith. Grand Rapids, Mich.: Zondervan Publishing, 2003.

_____. Eating the Elephant: Bite-Sized Steps To Achieve Long-Term Growth In Your Church. Nashville: Broadman & Holman, 1994.

Reid, A.L. Radically Unchurched: Who They Are and How to Reach Them. Grand Rapids, Mich.: Kregel, 2002.

Sjogren, Stephen. The Perfectly Imperfect Church: Redefining the "Ideal" Church. Loveland, Colo.: Group Publishing, 2002.

White, James Emery. Rethinking the Church. Grand Rapids: Baker Books, 1997.

SPECIFIC DATA

Syllabus prepared by Paul F. Martinez, February 2004.