

ASSEMBLIES OF GOD THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY
Valley Forge Christian College
Phoenixville, PA
June 21-25, 2004

PTHB 624 RENEWING THE ESTABLISHED CHURCH
(3 Credits)

Paul E. Grabill, D. Min.

Summer 2004

COURSE SYLLABUS

COURSE DESCRIPTION

A study of the dynamics of church planning and church growth focusing on the psychological and sociological hindrances to lay participation. Attention is also given to approaches which may assist in the revitalizing of the ministries and growth of the local church that has experienced declining effectiveness.

COURSE OBJECTIVES

Each participant should demonstrate through the academic, relational and spiritual requirements of this course that he or she has met the following objectives:

1. Develop a biblical theology of the church with a focus on the function and expression of healthy congregations.
2. Comprehend the historical development of the church from the time of the Reformation until today.
3. Analyze the reality of the established church in America today in light of the changing culture of our contemporary mission field.
4. Analyze and critique some of the competing congregational models for addressing post-modern organizational dynamics in a Christian context.
5. Explore and critique some of the varying contemporary calls for restorationist ecclesiology within a Pentecostal milieu, including the restoration of the "five-fold ministry."
6. Grasp the essential understanding of organizational change and its impact on individuals within the congregation.
7. Guide the congregation through a process of renewal by applying appropriate leadership skills and vision.

REQUIRED TEXTBOOKS

Anderson, Leith. Dying for Change. Minneapolis: Bethany House Publishers, 1998.

Furr, James, Mike Bonem and Jim Herrington. Leading Congregational Change. San Francisco: Jossey-Bass Publications, 2000.

Nelson, Alan and Gene Appel. How To Change Your Church Without Killing It. Waco, TX: Word Publishing, 2001.

RECOMMENDED TEXTBOOKS

Easum, William. Leadership on the Other Side: No Rules, Just Clues. Abingdon Press, 2000.

Haggard, Ted. Primary Purpose. Orlando: Creation House, 1995.

Johnston, Graham. Preaching to a Postmodern World: A Guide to Preaching to Twenty-First Century Listeners. Grand Rapids: Baker Books, 2001.

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

_____. The Church on the Other Side: Doing Ministry in the Postmodern Matrix. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 2000.

Roxburgh, Alan and Mike Regele. Crossing the Bridge: Church Leadership in a Time of Change. Percept Group, 2000.

Southerland, Dan. Transitioning. Loveland, CO: Serendipity House, 1999.

Sweet, Leonard. Aqua Church: Essential Leadership Arts for Piloting Your Church in Today's Fluid Culture. Loveland, CO: Group, 1999.

_____. Post-Modern Pilgrims. Broadman & Holman Publishers, 2000.

Towns, Elmer and Warren Bird. Into The Future: Turning Today's Church Trends into Tomorrow's Opportunities. Grand Rapids: Fleming H. Revell, 2000.

White, James Emery. Rethinking the Church: A Challenge to Creative Redesign in an Age of Transition. Grand Rapids: Baker Books, 1997.

Wood, Gene. Leading Turnaround Churches. St. Charles, IL: ChurchSmart Resources, 2001.

BASIC OUTLINE

1. A Biblical Focus on the Nature and Mission of the Church
2. Understanding the Current American Cultural and Spiritual Climate
3. Understanding the Established Congregation
4. Models of Effective Congregations in America
5. Competing Models of Change in a Pentecostal Milieu
6. Qualities and Diagnosis of Healthy Congregations
7. An Overview of Organizational Change
8. The Personal Impact of the Change Process
9. Leading Change Effectively
10. Guiding the Renewal Process

METHODOLOGY

This course will utilize a wide variety of learning methods and approaches including lectures, class discussion, audio/video presentations, special guests, and other teaching resources which are all designed to help facilitate the learning process. Emphasis will be placed on student involvement that is designed to enhance the learning experience for each participant.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

1. **Reading Requirements:** A minimum of 800 pages of reading is required which includes the required textbooks and recommended resources compiled by the professor. A “Reading Analysis Critique” is required for each of the books. You are to prepare a two-page critique that identifies three or four basic concepts that you determined to be personally significant. State the concepts and support them with one or two pertinent quotes. (You do not need to directly quote the reference and may choose instead to restate the concepts within the framework of your own thoughts and simply cite the page number). **Due on the first day of class.** Coming from the class experience, the student will choose an additional 600 pages of reading to supplement and help shape the project below. A two-page critique of each book (or section) will be included with the Paper Project.
2. **Classroom Assignments:** Each student will participate in classroom discussions, both with the professor and with special guests.
3. **Paper Project:** Each participant will be required to prepare a 20-25 page paper (double-spaced, 12 font) from one of the following options:
 - (1) If you are a full-time student and NOT currently working as a pastor, then write your paper under the title; *"From Ineffective to Effective: Renewing the Established Church"*. This paper will be more "principle" based.

