

**ASSEMBLIES OF GOD THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY**  
**In conjunction with Church Life Resources Cohort**  
**Orlando, Florida**  
**January 6-9, 2009**

**PTH 640 RENEWING THE ESTABLISHED CHURCH**  
**(3 credit hours)**

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Spring 2009

**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**

This course will seek to:

1. Discuss a biblical theology of church transformation and renewal.
2. Outline the process of cultural changes that affect the contemporary church.
3. Analyze the established church in America in light of the changing culture.
4. Compare methods and procedures of revitalization currently utilized in various contemporary churches.
5. Describe the impact of change and the issues resulting from change for both church leaders and church members.
6. Propose processes that seek to accommodate church change, revitalization, and renewal.
7. Discover processes that reconnect the contemporary church to Christ's mission and also to contemporary culture.
8. Outline a process of spiritual and organizational church renewal considering the components of mission/vision, leadership/management, worship, spiritual life, spiritual community, ministries and discipleship, evangelism, and congregational readiness.

**TEXTBOOKS / REQUIRED READING**

Herrington, Jim, Mike Bonem and James H. Furr. *Leading Congregational Change: A Practical Guide for the Transformational Journey*. San Francisco: Jossey-Bass, 2000. (162 pages).

Kimball, Dan. *The Emerging Church: Vintage Christianity for New Generations*. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 2003. (272 pages).

Kotter, John P. *Leading Change*. Boston: Harvard Business School Press, 1996. (186 pages).

Rainer, Thom S. *Breakout Churches: Discover How to Make the Leap*. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 2005. (239 pages)

Southerland, Dan. *Transitioning*. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 1999. (172 pages).

Stetzer, Ed and Mike Dodson. *Comeback Churches: How 300 Churches Turned Around and Yours Can Too*. Nashville: B & H, 2007. (219 pages).

Wood, Gene. *Leading Turnaround Churches*. ChurchSmart Resources, 2001. (162 pages)

\* Obstacle and Solution Assessments from Church Life Resources, LLC:

*Visionary Leadership*  
*Resource Management*  
*Spiritual Life*  
*Spiritual Community*  
*Ministries*  
*Outreach*

### **Substitute Reading Text**

Roxburgh, Alan. *Crossing the Bridge: Church Leadership in a Time of Change*. Rancho Santa Margarita, CA: Percept Group, Inc., 2000. (172 pages)

\*These assessments will be made available on the first day of class.

### **OUTLINE**

Session 1	Syllabus and course requirements
Session 2	Overview of Church Life
Session 3	Overview of the Church Life Transformational Model – Part 1
Session 4	Overview of the Church Life Transformational Model – Part 2
Session 5	Theology of Spiritual Renewal
Session 6	Stage 1 – Analyze Realities
Session 7	Stage 2 – Articulate Urgencies
Session 8	Stage 3 – Inspire Spiritual Hunger and Thirst
Session 9	Theology of Spiritual Community
Session 10	Stage 4 – Gather Guiding Vision Team
Session 11	Stage 5 – Discern Church Vision/Values
Session 12	Stage 6 – Design Initial Movements for Change
Session 13	Theology of Spiritual Formation
Session 14	Stage 7 – Communicate and Implement Strategies
Session 15	Stage 8 – Empower Transitional Teams
Session 16	Stage 9 – Manage Difficulties and Make Adjustments
Session 17	Theology of Fruitfulness and Multiplication
Session 18	Stage 10 – Integrate New Identity Characteristics
Session 19	Stage 11 – Attract Newly Receptive
Session 20	Stage 12 – Evaluate and Celebrate Advances

### **METHODOLOGY**

Professors will utilize lectures, readings, small group activities, reflection, writing assignments, and assessment instruments to achieve the course objectives.

### **COURSE REQUIREMENTS**

1. Attendance and participation in each class session are required. Any absence over four hours will result in a deduction of 20 points per class hour. Approved exceptions are considered.
2. Read the required textbook(s) and complete the reading critique form for each book. *Critiques are due on Monday, February 16, 2009.*
3. Participate in various discussion, exercises, and assessment activities.
4. For the post-session paper, students will develop a strategic plan for change/renewal/revitalization for the churches and/or ministries they lead. Utilizing all information from the assessment instruments, the reading content, the lectures and discussions of the class sessions, students will determine the following: pertinent issues for renewal, the process for renewal, the plan for renewal and the implementations for renewal that best fit their particular contexts. A section for each of these areas of investigation may prove a good way to

organize the paper. This paper must reflect principle-centered, biblical strategies. It must culminate in the presentation of a suggested action plan for renewal with specified time limits.

This writing assignment should contain at least 30 pages and use Turabian format. ***This paper is due Friday, March 13, 2009.***

Please submit all completed homework assignments via email to [educationcohort@msn.com](mailto:educationcohort@msn.com) .

**GRADING PROCEDURE:**

Student evaluation and assessment will be based upon the following criteria:

1. Reading and Completion of Book Critiques	200
2. Attendance, Class Presentations, Participation, Class Assignments, and Assessments	200
3. Final Paper (30 + pages)	<u>600</u>
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,000</b>

AGTS Grading Scale:

Publishable	A+
100% - 94%	A
93% - 90%	A-
89% - 87%	B+
86% - 84%	B
83% - 80%	B-
79% - 77%	C+
76% - 74%	C
73% - 70%	C-
69% - 67%	D+
66% - 64%	D
63% - 60%	D-

**SELECTED BIBLIOGRAPHY**

Anderson, Leith. *Dying for Change: An Arresting Look at the New Realities Confronting Churches and Para-Church Ministries*. Minneapolis: Bethany House, 1990.

Anderson, Ray S. *The Soul of Ministry: Forming Leaders for God's People*. Louisville: Westminster John Knox Press, 1997.

Bierly, Steve. *Help for the Small Church Pastor*. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 1995.

Blumhofer, Edith L. *Restoring the Faith: The Assemblies of God, Pentecostalism, and American Culture*. Urbana: University of Illinois, 1993.

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

Crandall, Ron. *Turn Around Strategies for the Small Church*. Nashville: Abingdon Press, 1995.

Gibbs, Eddie. *Church Next: Quantum Changes in How We Do Ministry*. Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press, 2000.

Grenz, Stanley J. *A Primer on Postmodernism*. Grand Rapids: William B. Eerdmans, 1996.

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

- Hunter III, George G. *Church for the Unchurched*. Nashville: Abingdon, 1996.
- Kimball, Dan. *The Emerging Church: Vintage Christianity for New Generations*. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 2003.
- Kotter, John P. "Why Transformation Efforts Fail," *Harvard Business Review*. Harvard Business School, 1995, 61. Quoted in John Kotter, *Leading Change*. Boston: Harvard Business School, 1996, 21.
- Land, Steven J. *Pentecostal Spirituality: A Passion for the Kingdom*. Sheffield, England: Sheffield Academic Press, 2001.
- Malphurs, Aubrey. *Advanced Strategic Planning: A New Model for Church and Ministry Leaders*. Grand Rapids: Baker Books, 1999.
- McIntosh, Gary L. *One Size Doesn't Fit All*. Grand Rapids: Fleming H. Revell, 1999.
- McLaren, Brian D. *The Church on the Other Side: Doing Ministry in the Postmodern Matrix*. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 2000.
- McManus, Erwin Raphael. *An Unstoppable Force: Daring to Become the Church God Had in Mind*. Orange, CA: Group Publishing, 2001.
- Mead, Loren B. *Five Challenges for the Once and Future Church*. : The Alban Institute, 1996.
- Morganthaler, Sally. *Worship Evangelism: Inviting Unbelievers into the Presence of God*. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 1995.
- Niebuhr, H. Richard. *Christ and Culture*. New York: Harper and Row, 1975.
- Rainer, Thom S. *Breakout Churches: Discover How to Make the Leap*. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 2005.
- \_\_\_\_\_, and Eric Geiger. *Simple Church: Returning to God's Process for Making Disciples*. Nashville: B&H, 2006.
- Roxburgh, Alan. *Crossing the Bridge: Church Leadership in a Time of Change*. Santa Margarita, CA: Percept Group, Inc, 2000.
- Shawchuck, Norman and Roger Heuser. *Managing the Congregation: Building Effective Systems to Serve People*. Nashville: Abingdon Press, 1996.
- Southerland, Dan. *Transitioning: Leading Your Church Through Change*. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 1999.
- Stetzer, Ed and Mike Dodson. *Comeback Churches: How 300 Churches Turned Around and Yours Can Too*. Nashville: B&H, 2007.
- VanGelder, Craig. *The Essence of the Church: A Community Created by the Spirit*. Grand Rapids: Baker Books, 2000.
- Wacker, Grant A. *Heaven Below: Early Pentecostals and American Culture*. Cambridge: Harvard University Press, 2001.
- White, James Emery. *Rethinking the Church: A Challenge to Creative Redesign in an Age of Transition*. Grand Rapids: Baker Books, 1997.
- Dempster, Murray, Byron D. Klaus, and Douglas Peterson, eds. *The Globalization of Pentecostalism*. Irvine: Regnum Books International, 1999.
- Wood, Gene. *Leading Turn-around Churches*. St. Charles: Church Smart Resources, 2001.

See textbook notes and appendices for additional suggested readings. Professors may distribute appropriate topical bibliographies as needed.

**SPECIFIC DATA**

Syllabus prepared by Wayne and Sherry Lee on December 5, 2008.