

**ASSEMBLIES OF GOD THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY**  
**Continuing Education Module**  
**Springfield, Missouri**  
**September 10-14, 2001**

**PTHM 624 RENEWING THE ESTABLISHED CHURCH**

**John H. Spurling, D. Min.**

**Fall 2001**

**COURSE SYLLABUS**

**COURSE DESCRIPTION**

A study of established "traditional" churches and the numerous factors that have contributed to the diminishing impact that many of these churches are having within their community. Special emphasis will be given to the change process and its effect on both the church's organization and individuals within the church. Attention will also be given to renewing church ministries while building healthy churches that will grow.

**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 churches.
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. Grasp the essential understanding of organizational change and its impact on individuals within the church.
5. Guide the church through a process of renewal by applying appropriate leadership skills and vision.

**REQUIRED TEXTBOOKS**

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

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

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

Selected Resources prepared by Dr. Spurling and available in the AGTS bookstore.

### **RECOMMENDED TEXTBOOKS**

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

### **BASIC OUTLINE**

Introduction: The Impact of the Church in America Today

1. A Biblical Focus on the Mission of the Church
2. Understanding the Established Church
3. Models of Effective Churches in America
4. Qualities and Diagnosis of Healthy Churches
5. An Overview of Organizational Change
6. The Personal Impact of the Change Process
7. Leading Change Effectively
8. Guiding the Renewal Process

### **METHODOLOGY**

This course will utilize a wide variety of learning methods and approaches including lectures, class discussion, audio/video presentations, in class assignments, 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. **Read Requirements:** A minimum of 1,000 pages of reading is required which includes the required textbooks and resources compiled by the professor. A “Reading Analysis Critique” is required for each of the three textbooks. 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.**

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2. **Integrative Classroom Assignments:** Each student will participate in a series of in class exercises that are designed to aid in the learning process.
3. **Take Home Exam:** One take-home exam is scheduled for the course. Due date for completion of the exam is **Friday, September 28, 2001.**
4. **Paper Project:** Each participant will be required to prepare an extensive 20-25 page paper 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. An in-depth overview of the paper project will be distributed during the class.
  - (2) If you are currently serving as a pastor then write your paper under the title: *"An Action Plan for Renewal at (enter your church name)"*. This paper will include key principles for change and renewal, but will be more "case study" based.

Due date for the paper is: **Friday, December 14, 2001.**

### **GRADING PROCEDURE**

The final grade for this course will reflect the cumulative score for each of the following components:

- |                              |     |
|------------------------------|-----|
| • Reading Analysis Critiques | 20% |
| • Take-Home Exam             | 30% |
| • Paper Project              | 50% |

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

### **SPECIFIC DATA**

Syllabus prepared by John H. Spurling, July 2001.

(NOTE: A thorough bibliography will be distributed on the first day of class).