

**Assemblies of God Theological Seminary
NORTH CENTRAL UNIVERSITY BRANCH CAMPUS
910 Elliott Avenue South
Minneapolis, Minnesota
July 22-26, 2002**

PTHB 624 RENEWING THE ESTABLISHED CHURCH

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Summer 2002

COURSE SYLLABUS

COURSE DESCRIPTION

A Study of the biblical theology of the church which will focus on the function and expression of healthy and unhealthy churches. Special emphasis will be on analyzing the established church in America today, strengths and weaknesses, in the light of the changing culture, and discussion the implications affecting every area of the church including leadership, styles of services, preaching, evangelism, staff and organization. Attention will be given to renewing church ministries while building healthy churches that will grow.

COURSE OBJECTIVES

Upon completion of this course, the student should be able to:

1. Discuss a Biblical Theology of the church with a focus on the function and expression of healthy churches.
2. Outline the process of cultural changes that affect the church today.
3. Analyze the established church in America in light of the changing culture of the post modern era.
4. Compare methods and procedures being used in various contemporary churches with suggested changes and improvements needed to fulfill the Great Commission in the unsettled landscape of our mission field in America.
5. Describe the difficulties and impact of change on churches and individuals.
6. Outline a process of spiritual and organizational renewal considering vision, leadership and congregational readiness.

REQUIRED TEXTBOOKS

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

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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: Word Publishing, 2001

RECOMMENDED READING

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

Dempster, Murray W. Byron D. Klaus, and Douglas Petersen. *The Globalization of Pentecostalism: A Religion Made To Travel*. Carlisle, CA: Paternoster Publishing, 1999 (Pages 3-116; 261-395)

Gangel, Kenneth O. *Feeding And Leading: A Practical Handbook on Administration in Churches and Christian Organizations*. Grand Rapids: Baker Books, 1996

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

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

Laurie, Gregg. *The Upside-down Church*. Wheaton: Tyndale House Publishers, Inc.

McLaren, Brian D. *A New Kind Of Christian: A Tale Of Two Friends On A Spiritual Journey*. San Francisco, Jossey-Bass, 2002

_____ *The Church On The Other Side: Doing Ministry In The Postmodern Matrix*. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 1998

_____ *Reinventing Your Church*. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 1998

Nash, Robert N., Jr. *An 8-Track Church In A CD World*. Macon: GA: Smyth & Helwys Publishing, Inc, 1997

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

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

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VanGelder, Craig. *The Essence Of The Church: A Community Created By The Spirit*. Grand Rapids: Baker Books, 2000.

Warren, Rick. *The Purpose Driven Church*. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 1998.

White, James Emery. *Rethinking The Church: A Challenge To Creative Redesign In An Age Of Transition*. Grand Rapids: Baker Books, 1997

BASIC OUTLINE

1. A Biblical Theology on the Mission and Methodology of The Church.
2. Understanding the Current American Landscape and Culture.
3. Looking at the Established Churches.
4. Models of Effective Churches in America.
5. Characteristics of Healthy Churches.
6. The need and process of Change.
7. The impact of the process of Change.
8. Directing the process of Renewal.

METHODOLOGY

This Course will utilize a wide variety of learning methods and approaches including lectures, audio/visual presentations, on-site visits to successful, healthy churches with staff interviews. Emphasis will be placed on student involvement in discussions, both in class and on-site at churches visited. The primary method will be group thinking and brainstorming regarding areas all areas of church ministry, what needs to be renewed, and the process by which this takes place.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

1. Reading: A minimum of 1,000 pages of reading is required which includes the required textbooks plus, at least one other, to make up the required pages. (if you have read any of these for another course, you must select a different text from the Recommended List). A "Reading Analysis Critique is required for each book read. You are to prepare a two-three page critique that identifies three or four basic principles you determined to be personally significant. It is not necessary to quote the book to support the concepts, but page numbers should be given. **DUE THE FIRST DAY OF CLASS.**
2. Classroom And Off-Site Discussions: Each student will be expected to participate in all discussions, both in class and with the staffs of the churches we will be visiting.

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- 3. Discussion Questions: It is expected that each student will prepare a list of questions to discuss with the off-site church staffs.
- 4. Evaluation Reports of Off-Site Meetings: Each student is expected to prepare a summary of areas discussed by the staff’s at off-site churches with an evaluation of each area whether it is an idea that is only effective locally, or if it is an idea that could be implemented to increase effectiveness in other situations, along with suggestions of how to implement the ideas. DUE THE DAY AFTER THE OFF-SITE MEETING.
- 5. Project: Each participant will be required to prepare an extensive 20-25 page paper from one of the following options:
 - a. 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 should be principle based, and should include things you have observed in attending various churches which suggest change is needed.
 - b. If you are currently serving as a pastor then write your paper under the title: *An Action Plan For Renewal of (enter your church name)*. This paper will include key principles for change and renewal, but will be more “case Study” based.

PAPERS DUE FRIDAY, OCTOBER 25TH.

GRADING PROCEDURE

The final grade will reflect the total score for each of the following components:

Reading Analysis Critiques.....	20%
Classroom discussion.....	15%
Off-site discussion and reports.....	15%
Paper.....	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 George Westlake, April, 2002.