

Assemblies of God Theological Seminary
Doctor of Ministry Elective Course
PTH 964: Willow Creek Leadership Institute

Dr. Steve Lim - May 14-19, 2002

Pre-session Phase:

Read 2000 pages as indicated from each section identified below. If you have previously read any of the books in a given section for credit use other books from section 5 you have not read for credit.

Section 1: Orientation to Willow Creek (867 pages)

Rediscovering Church by Lynn & Bill Hybels. Zondervan. 213 pages.

An Inside Look at Willow Creek Community Church. 5th edition. Willow Creek Association. 265 pages.

Membership Manual by Willow Creek Community Church. Willow Creek Community Church. 128 pages.

Leading Life Changing Small Groups by Bill Donahue. Zondervan. 190 pages.

Network: Leaders Guide by Bungee, Cousins and Hybels. Zondervan. 261 pages.

Section 2: Critic of Willow Creek Church (290 pages)

Willow Creek Seeker Services by G.A. Pritchard. Baker. 290 pages.

Section 3: Church Services for the 21st Century (136 pages)

Out on the Edge: A Wake-up Call for Church Leaders on the Edge of the Media Reformation by Michael Slaughter. Abingdon. 136 pages.

Section 4: Leadership (329 pages)

How to Change Your Church (without killing it) by Alan Nelson & Gene Appel. 329 pages

Section 5: Your Choice (378 pages)

(You do not need to read complete books, only those chapters of interest to you.)

Building a Contagious Church by Mark Mittleberg. (Willowcreek evangelism)
Zondervan. 387 pages

Leading Life Changing Small Groups by Bill Donahue. (Willowcreek small groups)
Zondervan. 190 pages.

Inside the Mind of Unchurched Harry and Mary by Lee Strobel. (Boomer evangelism)
Zondervan. 225 pages

Inside the Soul of a New Generation by Tim Celek and Dieter Zander. (Gen-X ministry)
Zondervan. 172 pages

Starting A Seeker Sensitive Service by Ed Dobson. Zondervan. 157 pages.

Opening the Front Door: Worship and Church Growth by James Emery White.
Convention Press.

Session Phase:

Note: Schedule specifics subject to change, if necessary.

Monday

Arrive, check into motel

Tuesday

8:30 AM – 5 PM Attend Workshops

Wednesday

8:30 AM – 5 PM Attend Workshops

5:00 PM Dinner at Willow Creek Atrium

7:00-9:00 Attend New Community Believer (Worship)

9:00 – 10:00 PM Class session 1 (Discuss books from Section 1)

Thursday

8:30 AM -5 PM Attend Church Leadership Conference

5:00 PM Dinner together at local restaurant

7:00 - 9:00 PM Class session 2 (Discuss books from Section 1 & 2)

Friday

8:30 AM -5 PM Attend Church Leadership Conference

5:00 PM Dinner together at local restaurant

7:00 - 9:00 PM Class session 3 (Discuss books from Section 3 & 4)

Saturday

8:30 AM -Noon Attend Church Leadership Conference

Noon Lunch together at local restaurant

2:00 - 4:00 PM Class session 4 (review books from section 4 & 5)

5:00 PM Attend Axis (Gen X seeker service)

7:00 PM Attend Willow Creek (seeker service)

9:00 - 10:00 PM Post conference wrap up

NOTE: You will be free to leave at 10:00 PM.

On Sunday morning we will try to visit two additional seeker churches in the Chicago area.

Post-Session Phase:

1. Prepare a 14 to 16 page evaluation and reflection on your reading and experiences at the Willow Creek Leadership Conference. Indicate what you believe can and cannot be adapted to your present (or future) ministry.

2. Prepare a 14 to 16 page paper on one of the following topics:

A Plan for Implementing Insights from Willow Creek in My Ministry (present or future)

What can the Assemblies of God Learn from Willow Creek?

Recommendations for Churches Reaching Out to Secular People

Recommendations for Pastors Transitioning a Traditional Church to Being More Seeker Oriented

Recommendations for Pastors Starting a Seeker Sensitive (or Seeker Targeted) Church

A Biblical Critique of Willow Creek (This must include strengths and weaknesses.)

Cross-Cultural Insights and the Willow Creek Model

All work must be postmarked by *August 16, 2002*.