

**ASSEMBLIES OF GOD THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY**  
**Doctor of Ministry Elective**

**PTH 972 INNOVATION IN MINISTRY:  
THE CREATIVE CHURCH CONFERENCE**

**Fellowship Church**  
**Grapevine, Texas**  
<http://www.fellowshipchurch.com>

**January 22-26, 2003**

**Earl G. Creps, Ph.D., D.Min.**  
<http://www.agts.edu/faculty/creps.html>

**Spring 2003**  
[ecreps@agts.edu](mailto:ecreps@agts.edu)  
1-800-467-AGTS

**COURSE SYLLABUS**

---

**COURSE DESCRIPTION**

Effective, growing churches are known for their innovative ways of reaching the unchurched and empowering their own membership for ministry. This elective will partner with Fellowship Church of Grapevine, Texas, one of the fastest growing churches in America, to explore the process of cultivating creativity in ministry today. This cutting-edge church of over 14,000 will challenge each participant to rethink present ministry practices and programs. The elective will also incorporate classroom sessions and field observations of churches to facilitate interaction and reflection.

**CONFERENCE REGISTRATION**

Conference information and registration are available online at: <http://www.fellowshipchurch.com/c3/> To take advantage of early bird conference registration rates and group discounts on housing, please confirm a registration with the D.Min. office by November 1, 2002.

**COURSE REQUIREMENTS & PROCEDURES**

**Pre-Session (10 total points)**

*Read:* Complete 1655 pages of reading from the Required (or Alternate) pre-session reading lists. Participants will submit a reading report (attached) on the first day of class indicating how much of the reading has been completed. Full credit requires all reading be complete. (5 points)

*Write:* Prepare a 3-5 page paper synthesizing the 3-5 ideas from the readings that made the greatest impact on you, and how those ideas apply to your ministry context. You will do an oral presentation of your paper in summary form during one of the class sessions. (5 points)

(NOTE: It is a violation of academic policy to claim credit for books read in prior courses. If you have previously read any book on the list for credit, *you must substitute another book* from the Alternative list.)

**Session (10 total points)**

- 1. Completion of all class exercises and activities (5 points)
- 2. Active contribution to the peer learning environment, including discussion, integration of pre-reading, and relationship-building. (5 points)

**Post-Session Project (80 total points)**

The post-session writing assignment is a reflective exercise in integrating readings, conference experiences, and class discussion into your ministry context. The project should approximately 30 pages in length. Refer to key sources and scriptures as necessary, but this is not primarily a library research piece.

**Project Evaluation**

- 1. *Cogency of argument*: are the major assertions clear, specific, and adequately supported by evidence and reasoning? (15 points)
- 2. *Clarity of organization*: is the structure readily understandable, making the development of the argument easy to follow? (15 points)
- 3. *Originality of concepts*: do the major ideas represent original thinking? (15 points)
- 4. *Depth of content*: are the ideas in the paper important, and the product of high-quality reflective thinking? (15 points)
- 5. *Quality of writing*: is the use of language clear, compelling, and professional? (10 points)
- 6. *Style of writing*: does the paper conform to the *Turabian* manual? (10 points)

**Style**

All written work is to be formatted according to the *Turabian* style manual 6<sup>th</sup> edition, [http://www.amazon.com/exec/obidos/ASIN/0226816273/qid=1025032200/sr=1-/ref=sr\\_1\\_1/103-8003118-1534215](http://www.amazon.com/exec/obidos/ASIN/0226816273/qid=1025032200/sr=1-/ref=sr_1_1/103-8003118-1534215)

and is to be original, high-quality, graduate level work. Writing from previous academic work may not be recycled. The D.Min. office can recommend several outstanding *Turabian* editors, as well as a Writing Coach. ([dfegler@agts.edu](mailto:dfegler@agts.edu))

**DUE DATE**

*Post-session project due date*: April 26, 2003. A hardcopy of the paper must be delivered to the D.Min. office postmarked no later than April 26<sup>th</sup>, 2003. Please do not use email.

**Late Work**

Any participant may have a two-week extension simply by requesting it. After that, the maximum course grade will decline by one letter grade for each week beyond the extended due date.

**COURSE GRADING**

Expectations are high. An “A” is awarded for excellent work, a “B” for a good effort; a “C” is marginal, etc. Grading is a composite of points earned in each phase of the course:

Pre-Session Reading: 10 points		92 + points = A
Session Involvement: 10 points		82 + points = B
Post-Session Project: 80 points		72 + points = C, etc.
TOTAL: <u>100 points</u>		

## **PRE-SESSION READING LIST**

Read approximately 1655 pages prior to the conference from the list below. Substitute books from the Alternate Text list for those read previously. (*Note: you can save on shipping costs by ordering all the texts from the AGTS bookstore. Call Arlene at 1-800-467-AGTS x1055, or email her at [adilley@agts.edu](mailto:adilley@agts.edu)*)

Clegg, Tom and Warren Bird. *Lost in America: How You and Your Church Can Impact the World Next Door*. Loveland, CO: Group Publishing, 2001. (176 pages)

Easum, William. *Unfreezing Moves: Following Jesus into the Mission Field*. Nashville: Abingdon, 2002. (144 pages)

Fraze, Randy. *The Connecting Church: Beyond Small Groups to Authentic Community*. Grand Rapids: Zondervan Publishing, 2001. (246 pages)

Gallup, George, Jr. and Timothy Jones. *The Next American Spirituality: Finding God in the Twenty-First Century*. Colorado Springs, CO: Cook Communications, 2000. (196 pages)

Jewell, John. *New Tools for a New Century: First Steps in Equipping Your Church for the Digital Revolution*. Nashville: Abingdon, 2002. (176 pages)

Kelly, Tom. *The Art of Innovation: Lessons in Creativity from Ideo, America's Leading Design Firm*. New York: Doubleday, 2001. (307 pages)

Slaughter, Michael. *The Unlearning Church: Just When You Thought You Had Church All Figured Out*. Loveland, CO: Group, 2001. (244 pages)

Stanley, Andy and Ed Young, Jr. *Can We Do That? 24 Innovative Practices That Will Change the Way You Do Church*. Howard Publishing, 2002. (206 pages)

## **ALTERNATIVE TEXTS**

Bandy, Thomas C. *Christian Chaos: Revolutionizing the Congregation*. Nashville: Abingdon, 1999. (335 pages)

Careaga, Andrew. *Eministry: Connecting with the Net Generation*. Grand Rapids: Kregel, 2001. (216 pages)

Chand, Samuel R. and Cecil Murphey. *Futuring: Leading Your Church Into Tomorrow*. Grand Rapids: Baker, 2002. (224 pages)

Easum, Bill. *Leadership on the Other Side: No Rules, Just Clues*. Nashville: Abingdon, 2000. (215 pages)

Hamilton, Adam. *Leading beyond the Walls: Developing Congregations with a Heart for the Unchurched*. Nashville: Abingdon, 2002. (192 pages)

- Hirshberg, Jerry. *The Creative Priority; Driving Innovative Business in the Real World*. New York: HarperBusiness, 1998. (261 pages)
- Lewis, Robert. *The Church of Irresistible Influence*. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 2001. (224 pages)
- Mallory, Sue. *The Equipping Church*. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 2001. (208 pages)
- McLaren, Brian. *Church on the Other Side: Doing Ministry in the Postmodern Matrix*. Grand Rapids: Zondervan Publishing, 2000. (240 pages)
- McManus, Erwin. *Unstoppable Force: Daring to Become the Church God Had in Mind*. Loveland, CO: Group, 2001. (224 pages)
- Mittleberg, Mark. *Building Contagious Churches: Revolutionizing the Way we View and Do Evangelism*. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 2000. (404 pages)
- Nierenberg, Gerard I. *The Art of Creative Thinking*. New York: Barnes & Nobel, 1996 (240 pages)
- Nixon, Paul D. and Thomas Bandy. *Flinging the Doors Open: Giving the Church Away to the Community*. Nashville: Abingdon, 2002. (176 pages)
- Northrup, Dary. *Garage Door Evangelism: Opening Your Church to the Community*. Group, 2001. (174 pages)
- Pocock, Michael and Joseph Henriques. *Cultural Change and Your Church: Helping Your Church Thrive in a Diverse Society*. Grand Rapids: Baker, 2002. (238 pages)
- Rainer, Thom S. *Surprising Insights from the Unchurched and Proven Ways to Reach Them*. Grand Rapids: Zondervan Publishing, 2001. (304 pages)
- Richardson, Rick. *Evangelism Outside the Box: New Ways to Help People Experience the Good News*. Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press, 2000. (190 pages)
- Schaller, Lyle E. *The New Context for Ministry: The Impact of the New Economy of Your Church*. Nashville: Abingdon, 2002. (340 pages)
- \_\_\_\_\_. *What Have We Learned?: Lessons for the Church in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century*. Nashville: Abingdon, 2001. (224 pages)
- \_\_\_\_\_. *Innovations in Ministry: Models for the 21<sup>st</sup> Century*. Nashville: Abingdon, 1994. (156 pages)
- Sjogren, Steve, ed. *Seeing Beyond Church Walls: Action Plans for Touching Your Community*. Loveland, CO: Group, 2001. (208 pages)

Smith, Chuck, Jr. *The End of the World As We Know It: Clear Direction for Bold and Innovative Ministry in a Postmodern World*. Waterbrook Press, 2001. (256 pages)

Sweet, Leonard. *Carpe Manana: Is Your Church Ready to Seize Tomorrow?* Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 2001. (204 pages)

### **TENTATIVE SCHEDULE**

Tuesday, January 21<sup>st</sup>

- Fly into Dallas/Ft. Worth airport (meet at airport at 3:00 PM)
- DINNER
- Evening Session (7:00 - 9:00 PM)

Wednesday, January 22<sup>nd</sup>

- Class Session: (8:30 AM - 4:30 PM)
- DINNER
- Evening: Church visit in the area

Thursday, January 23<sup>rd</sup>

- Class Session (8:30 AM - 4:30 PM)
- DINNER
- Evening: Group Time

Friday, January 24<sup>th</sup>

- Creative Church Conference (8:00 AM – 5:30 PM)
- DINNER
- Group Time: (6:30 PM - 7:30 PM)

Saturday, January 25<sup>th</sup>

- Creative Church Conference (8:00 AM – 12:15 PM)
- Church Service at Fellowship Church (5:00 PM)
- Dinner and Group Time

Sunday, January 26<sup>th</sup>

- Church Service at Pantego Bible Church-Ft. Worth (9:00 AM)
- Fly out of Dallas/Ft. Worth Airport any time after 12:00 pm

**AGTS Doctor of Ministry  
Reading Report  
PTH 972 Innovation in Ministry: The Creative Church Conference**

**Name** (Please print): \_\_\_\_\_

Please verify the portions of the assigned “Pre-session Reading List” which you have read for this course. A minimum of 1655 pages is required. (Where substitutions have been made, note accordingly.) *This form is to be turned in on the first day of the course.*

**Books:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Pages read:** \_\_\_\_\_

Clegg, Tom and Warren Bird. *Lost in America.* \_\_\_\_\_

Easum, William. *Unfreezing Moves.* \_\_\_\_\_

Frazer, Randy. *The Connecting Church.* \_\_\_\_\_

Gallup, George, Jr. *The Next American Spirituality.* \_\_\_\_\_

Jewell, John. *New Tools for a New Century.* \_\_\_\_\_

Kelly, Tom. *The Art of Innovation.* \_\_\_\_\_

Slaughter, Michael. *The Unlearning Church.* \_\_\_\_\_

Stanley, Andy and Ed Young, Jr. *Can We Do That?* \_\_\_\_\_

*Substitute:* \_\_\_\_\_

*Substitute:* \_\_\_\_\_

**Total number of pages read:** \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature

**Points Awarded:** \_\_\_\_\_