CMWL 8302 (ProDoc Seminar)
Building Bridges for Intergenerational Worship
New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary
Division of Church Music Ministries
Fall Trimester (Oct 15-17, 2019)
Offered in New Orleans (CIV) and North Georgia

Dr. Michael Sharp, PhD
Professor of Worship Studies
Office: Sellers 231C
Phone: (504) 816-8022
Email: msharp@nobts.edu

Mission Statement

The mission of New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary is to equip leaders to fulfill the Great Commission and the Great Commandments through the local church and its ministries.

Core Value Focus

The seminary has five core values: Doctrinal Integrity, Spiritual Vitality, Mission Focus, Characteristic Excellence, and Servant Leadership. The core value focus for this academic year is *Spiritual Vitality*.

Curriculum Competencies

All graduates of NOBTS are expected to have at least a minimum level of competency in each of the following areas: Biblical Exposition, Christian Theological Heritage, Disciple Making, Interpersonal Skills, Servant Leadership, Spiritual and Character Formation, and Worship Leadership. The curriculum competencies addressed in this course are: Worship Leadership, Servant Leadership, and Interpersonal Skills.

Course Description

This seminar is designed to investigate the opportunities and challenges of planning for intergenerational corporate worship in the local church. Specific attention will be given to an understanding of the characteristics of four adult generational cohorts: Seniors, Boomers, Gen-Xers, and Millennials, while looking ahead to Gen-Z. Specific seminar sessions will examine generational attributes and influences, space for worship (facilities), styles for worship, service structures, songs for worship, and sermon delivery. Attention will also be given to possible resources for expanding the ability of church leaders to develop and implement strategies for intergenerational worship.

Student Learning Outcomes

We live at a time in U.S. history in which no less than five generational cohorts make up society, including the typical local church body. Seniors (born prior to 1946), Boomers (born 1946-1964), Gen-Xers (born 1965-1983), Millennials (born 1984-2002), and children (born 2002 or after) collectively make up our culture. Each of these generations shares characteristics which differ from the other cohorts. These differences may be found at every level of daily life, including corporate worship, and often give rise to conflicting preferences in worship practice and expectations. For church leaders, and worship leaders in particular, finding a viable strategy for ministry to all generations can be challenging. In the decades of the 1970s and 1980s, "worship wars" became an all too common reality in many churches—a result of the cultural shift then taking place.

For the past few decades, church leaders have approached this reality in various ways. Some have avoided the "transitional" headache by starting new churches from scratch. Others, perhaps intuitively believing that older established churches cannot easily and holistically adapt to a changing culture, have created additional service venues for corporate worship, segregating generational cultures in an attempt to quell the dissent over worship. This approach gave rise to the practice of providing alternative formats within a church body, such as traditional/blended

and contemporary services. At the same time, many other established churches have continued to worship, admittedly with some degree of friction, in one single format for all generations.

This seminar investigates possible answers to the following questions: Can five generations in the midst of a major culture shift realistically worship together in a unified manner? If so, how can leadership find a way to facilitate such worship experiences while staying true to "the kind of worship that pleases God the Father?" From a cultural perspective, what are some concepts which might guide the work of worship leaders and planners in these contexts? What works regarding worship planning for the various generational cohorts, and what does not? How might worship "bridges" be constructed across the various generational divides? And lastly, how does the philosophy of intergenerational worship ministry relate to the broader ministry philosophy of a local church? These are issues which will be explored throughout the student's work in this seminar. The student learning outcomes for the course are as follows:

1. Students will develop an understanding of generational cohorts and how the characteristics of each generational group contribute to the complexity of worship ministry in an intergenerational context.
2. Students will be challenged to appreciate the broad range of generational diversity and worship expressions present in the Body of Christ gathered to worship.
3. Students will discover to a greater degree how church leaders can begin to address the worship needs of every age group in order to provide meaningful worship experiences in the corporate environment while staying true to the biblical ideals of worship.
4. Through personal interaction with individuals in every generational group, students will learn to shift perspectives by viewing worship experiences through the lens of generations different from their own.
5. Students will be challenged to find ways to facilitate bridge-building between the generations through intentional worship planning.

Embedded Assignment
This course has no embedded assignments.

Textbooks
Required:

Vanderwell, Howard (ed.). *The Church of All Ages: Generations Worshiping Together.* Herndon, VA: The Alban Institute, 2008.

MacDonald, Gordon. *Who Stole My Church?* Nashville: Thomas Nelson, 2007.

Parsley, Ross. *Messy Church: A Multigenerational Mission for God's Family.* Colorado Springs, CO: David C. Cook, 2012.

Rainer, Thom S. and Jess W. Rainer. *The Millennials.* Nashville: Broadman & Holman, 2011.

Weblogs

https://refocusministry.org/2015/08/17/why-intergenerational-worship-and-why-now/

https://intergenerationalworship.wordpress.com/2017/06/12/why-should-we-educate-ourselves-in-importance-of-intergenerational-ministryworship/

https://intergenerationalworship.wordpress.com/2017/06/05/organic-vs-intentional-intergenerational-worship/

https://www.renewingworshipnc.org/2015/04/22/worship-for-the-ages-intergenerational-unity/

Supplementary (Optional):

Allen, Holly Catterton and Christine Lawton Ross. *Intergenerational Christian Formation: Bringing the Whole Church Together in Ministry, Community and Worship.* Downers Grove, IL: IVP Academic, 2012.

Deprez, Matthew Donald. *Join Generations: Becoming Unashamedly Intergenerational*. AtlantiCreative, 2013.

Menconi, Peter. *The Intergenerational Church* Littleton, CO: Mt. Sage Publishing, 2008.

Course Teaching Methodology

Through individual presentations on assigned topics students will be encouraged to think critically about the course material. Students will be required to engage in interviews and other research methods and will report their findings to the seminar. Through additional tools of case study, lectures, and group discussion some of the course content will be addressed. This fall trimester seminar will be held in New Orleans (CIV) and North Georgia on Oct 15-17, 2019.

Course Assignments

Pre-Seminar (Due date: Beginning of first seminar meeting, Oct 15, 2019.)

1) Students will be notified once the Blackboard course shell is available to be accessed. Students should register in Blackboard at that time.

2) **Required textbook reading and pre-seminar reflection paper.** Each student will read all of the required textbooks and weblogs and then write a single *reflection paper* outlining the worship expectations of the various generations discovered through the reading assignments. Insights gleaned from the assigned textbooks will form the core of this paper. The content of the paper should focus on key ideas which the student identifies as useful in framing an intergenerational worship ministry in the local church. Any possible application within the student's current church fellowship should be addressed in the paper as well. Please use footnotes when citing a particular author. At the conclusion of the paper, please include a "Sources Cited" bibliography which should include (but is not limited to) primarily the assigned texts. (**Important note**: This paper is not a formal book review, but rather a *reflection paper encompassing all the required texts*.) Grading for the assignment will reflect how well the student addresses the specifics of the assignment as noted here. Papers should be written in a formal style according to Turabian format. The length should be approximately 2000 words. Please use Times New Roman 12 point font type double-spaced. Include a standard cover page. No Table of Contents is needed. The submission should be posted in the assignment folder in the course Blackboard prior to the first meeting of the seminar. The folder will be made available by Oct 8, 2019.

3) **Focused-discussion leaders.** Students will be assigned to lead focused discussion of (or a portion of) one of the assigned textbooks. Length of time allotted for the discussion assignments will be communicated once enrollment is complete and assignments have been made. Specific assignments will be made at least one month prior to the seminar meetings (Sep 15, 2019).

4) **Generational interviews**. Each student will interview three individuals from each of four generational cohorts (Seniors, Boomers, Gen-Xers, and Millennials) concerning corporate worship perspectives and expectations. Each student will prepare a written paper and present the insights discovered from the interviews during the seminar (Due Oct 15, 2019 in assignment folder in Blackboard). See below for possible interview questions which may help you discover what is appreciated and what is problematic for the various generations related to certain aspects of the corporate worship experience. Feel free to develop your own set of questions. In addition to the formal paper, your presentation to the seminar may be done in either of the following two ways:

    (1) Best: Video the interviews and then use video clips in the presentation to the seminar.

    OR,

    (2) Good: Collate the responses from the interview questions by topic and prepare a summary report by topic (sub-organized by generational cohort) in which the various responses to the same question are condensed.

    Possible categories of questions may include the following, but feel free to create your own categories and/or questions:

> (1) Space (worship environment)
> (2) Style (communication, musical, "feel of the service", dress, etc.)
> (3) Service Structure (format and organization, elements)
> (4) Songs for Worship (purpose, type of musical materials, content of musical materials)
> (5) Sermon Delivery (communication, style, content)
>
> Additional questions might include:
>
> -What part of the worship service do you find meaningful and why?
> -Can you tell me about a particular worship service which moved you spiritually?
> -Name a song sung in worship that is the most meaningful spiritually to you. Why is it meaningful?
> -What are the meaningful things that help people of your age group to worship that may be lacking in your experience of corporate worship?
> -Does technology (specific) help you to worship or not? Why or why not?

5) **Case study of churches which embrace an intergenerational model of congregational worship**. After reading the required texts and the additional articles assigned by the professor, each student will research and prepare two case studies of evangelical churches which *intentionally* embrace a philosophy and practice of intergenerational ministry throughout their church life. (Important note: In selecting the two churches, **make sure the approach to worship ministry is truly intergenerational from the standpoint of generations worshiping together in the same venue at the same time**.)

Combining several available methodologies (such as direct or video observation of a worship gathering, interviews with leaders and/or members, and other means), the student should prepare a report which highlights the following:

> (1) Intentional strategies which the leaders have adopted to implement both intergenerational ministry in general, and worship ministry specifically.
> (2) Challenges which the church has faced (and possibly are facing at the present) in the process of intergenerational ministry.
> (3) In what ways do the church leaders see intergenerational ministry (and specifically, worship ministry) as a healthy expression for their church?

(NOTE: If the church's website is used as a resource for assessing intergenerationality, please use additional resources, such as interviews with staff, etc, to gather supporting information about their intergenerational ministry). Each student will prepare two written case studies to be discussed during the seminar (Due on Oct 15 in the assignment folder in Blackboard). Copies of each case study should be made available to each seminar participant at the time of the seminar. Each student will lead the seminar in a discussion of each case study. As a result of discussion of each of the case studies, the seminar will work to identify any "best practices" for intergenerational worship ministry.

During Seminar Assignments
1) Attendance and engaged participation during all seminar meetings
2) Seminar presentations. Each student will have the opportunity to lead the seminar with the following presentations:
    (1) Individually (or in partnership with another student in the course-depending on number of students in the course), lead focused discussion of an assigned textbook.
    (2) Generational interviews presentation
    (3) Two case studies of churches which intentionally embrace an intergenerational model of worship ministry.

Post-Seminar Assignments (Due date: Nov 15, 2019.)
1) **Final Paper.** Details for this assignment will be provided at the time of the seminar. It is not designed to be done in advance of our seminar meetings.

Evaluation of Grade

Assigned reading and seminar participation	10%
Pre-seminar reflection paper	20%
Leading discussion of assigned text with prepared questions	10%
Generational interviews assignment and seminar presentation	20%
Two case studies and seminar presentations	20%
Final paper	20%

Technical Assistance

For assistance regarding technology, consult ITC (504-816-8180) or the following websites:

1. Selfserve@nobts.edu - Email for technical questions/support requests with the Selfserve.nobts.edu site (Access to online registration, financial account, online transcript, etc.)
2. BlackboardHelpDesk@nobts.edu - Email for technical questions/support requests with the NOBTS Blackboard Learning Management System NOBTS.Blackboard.com.
3. ITCSupport@nobts.edu - Email for general technical questions/support requests.
4. www.NOBTS.edu/itc/ - General NOBTS technical help information is provided on this website.

Policies

All assignments should be submitted by the due date. Late work will be penalized one-half letter grade per day. Attendance at all seminar sessions is required.

Help for Writing Papers at "The Write Stuff"

NOBTS maintains a Writing Center designed to improve English writing at the graduate level. Students can receive writing guides, tips, and valuable information to help in becoming a better writer.

Plagiarism on Written Assignments

NOBTS has a no tolerance policy for plagiarism. Plagiarism in certain cases may result in expulsion from the seminary. See the NOBTS Student Handbook for definition, penalties, and policies associated with plagiarism.

Course Schedule

The seminar will meet on Tue, Oct 15, 2019 (1PM-9PM); Wed, Oct 16 (8AM-4PM); Thu, Oct 17 (8AM-4PM). NOTE: All times listed are Central Time Zone.

Selected Bibliography

Books

Allen, Holly Catterton and Christine Lawton Ross. *Intergenerational Christian Formation: Bringing the Whole Church Together in Ministry, Community and Worship.* Downers Grove, IL: IVP Academic, 2012.

Brinson, R. Tyler. "Discovering Vocal Music Ministry Expectations among Millennials within the Corporate Worship of Tennessee Southern Baptist Churchs." DMA diss., New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary, 2017.

Carroll, Jackson W., and Wade Clark Roof, *Bridging Divided Worlds: Generational Cultures in Congregations*. San Francisco: Jossey-Bass, 2002.

Carson, D.A. *Becoming Conversant with the Emerging Church: Understanding a Movement and Its Implications.* Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 2005.

Cooperman, Alice, Gregory Smith, and Katherine Ritchey. "America's Changing Religious Landscape: Christians Decline Sharply as Share of Population; Unaffiliated and Other Faiths Grow." Pew Research Center, May 12, 2015.

Deprez, Matthew Donald. *Join Generations: Becoming Unashamedly Intergenerational*. AtlantiCreative, 2013.

Gambone, James V. *All Are Welcome*. Minneapolis: Elder Eye Press, 1998.

Greer, Robert C. *Mapping Postmodernism: A Survey of Christian Options.* Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press, 2003.

Hammett, Edward. *Reaching People Under 40 while Keeping People over 60: Being Church for All Generations.* St. Louis, MO: Chalice Press, 2007.

Henderson, David W. *Culture Shift: Communicating God's Truth to Our Changing World.* Grand Rapids: Baker Books, 1998.

Lakeland, Paul. *Postmodernity: Christian Identity in a Fragmented Age.* Minneapolis, MN: Fortress Press, 1997.

Lancaster, Lynne C. and David Stillman. *When Generations Collide.* New York: Collins Business, 2005.

Long, Jimmy. *The Leadership Jump: Building Partnerships between Existing and Emerging Christian Leaders*. Downers Grove: IVP.

Long, Thomas G. (ed.) *Beyond the Worship Wars: Building Vital and Faithful Worship.* Herndon, VA: Alban Institute, 2001.

Mabry, John R. *Faithful Generations: Effective Ministry Across Generational Lines.* New York: Morehouse Publishing, 2013.

MacDonald, Gordon. *Who Stole My Church: What to Do When the Church You Love Tries to Enter the Twenty-First Century.* Nashville: Thomas Nelson, 2007.

McIntosh, Gary L. *Make Room for the Boom…or Bust: 6 Church Models for Reaching Three Generations.* Grand Rapids: Fleming Revell, 1997.

_____. *One Church Four Generations: Understanding and Reaching All Ages in Your Church.* Grand Rapids: Baker Books, 2002.

Menconi, Peter. *The Intergenerational Church* Littleton, CO: Mt. Sage Publishing, 2008.

Malefyt, Norma de Wall & Howard Vanderwell. *Designing Worship together: Models and Strategies for Worship Planning.* St. Louis, MS: Chalice Press, 2007.

Nieman, James R. and Thomas G. Rogers. *Preaching to Every Pew: Cross-Cultural Strategies.* Minneapolis, MN: Fortress Press, 2001.

Powell, Kara., Jake Mulder, and Brad Griffin. *Growing Young: Six Essential Strategies to help Young People Discover and Love Your Church.* Grand Rapids: Baker Books, 2016.

Rainer, Thom S. and Jess W. Rainer. *The Millennials.* Nashville: Broadman & Holman, 2011.

Rendle, Gil. *The Multigenerational Congregation: Meeting the Leadership Challenge.* Alban Institute, 2002.

Sweet, Leonard (ed.), *The Church in Emerging Culture: Five Perspectives* (Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan, 2003).

Vanderwell, Howard, (ed.) *The Church of all Ages: Generations Worshipping Together*. Herndon, VA: Alban Institute, 2007.

Webber, Robert (ed.) *Listening to the Beliefs of Emerging Churches: Five Perspectives*. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 2007.

Westphal, Merold (ed.) *Postmodern Philosophy and Christian Thought.* Bloomington, IN: Indiana University Press, 1999.

Whittaker, Will. "Exploring Characteristics of Choral Ministry within Georgia Southern Baptist Churches Committed to Intergenerational Ministry." DMA diss., New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary, 2015.

White, Heath. *Postmodernism 101*. Grand Rapids, MI: Brazos Press, 2006.

York, Terry W. *America's Worship Wars*. Peabody, Massachusetts: Hendrickson Publishers, 2003.

Articles

Boström, Ann-Kristin and Bernhard Schmidt-Hertha. "Intergenerational Relationships and Lifelong Learning." *Journal of Intergenerational Relationships* 15, no. 1 (2017): 1-3, DOI: 10.1080/15350770.2017.1260408

Chechowich, Faye. "Intergenerational Ministry: A Review of Selected Publications since 2001." *Christian Education Journal* (series 3) 9, no. 1 (Spring 2012):182-93.

Davies, William G. "Worship and Learning: A Case for the Liturgical Classroom." *Religious Education* 88, no.4 (Fall 1993):577-584.

Hansen, Collin. "The X Factor." *Leadership Journal* (Summer 2009):25-29.

Harkness, Allan G. "Intergenerational Corporate Worship as a Significant Educational Activity." *Christian Education Journal* 7 NS, no. 1 (Spring 2003):5-21.

Harkness, "Intergenerational Education for an Intergenerational Church?" *Religious Education* 93 no.4 (Fall 1998):431-447.

Kauflin, Bob. "The Future of Worship: Passing the Baton." Keynote address at Worship09 Conference, Aug 5, 2009. Downloadable audio file. http://worshipgodconference.com/worshipgod09-main-messages-available/

Long, Jimmy. "Determine Your Ministry Age." *Leadership Journal* (Summer 2009): 39-42.

McKnight, Scot. "The Gospel for iGens." *Leadership Journal* (Summer 2009): 20-24.

Ortberg, John. "The Gap: The Fractured World of Multi-Generational Church Leadership." *Leadership Journal* (Summer 2009):49-52.

Shelley, Marshall and Brandon O'Brien. "Is the Era of Age Segregation Over? An Interview with Kara Powell." *Leadership Journal* (Summer 2009): 43-47.

Shelley, Marshall and Skye Jethani. "The Good Fight." *Leadership Journal* (Summer 2009): 31-34.

Ward, Angie. "Let the Little Children Come." *Leadership Journal* (Summer 2009): 53-57.