



# NEW ORLEANS

BAPTIST THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY

## **PATH8304 Critical Issues in Church Revitalization** **A Professional Doctoral Seminar** **August 23-25, 2021**

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### **NOBTS Mission Statement**

New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary and Leavell College prepare servants to walk with Christ, proclaim His truth, and fulfill His mission.

### **Course Description**

The purpose of this seminar is to explore and examine critical issues of churches experiencing plateau and decline. The seminar will identify common factors, specific implications, and strategic solutions involving church revitalization, utilizing case studies, reading assignments, demographic evaluations, and research applications.

### **Student Learning Outcomes**

1. Students will become familiar with significant church revitalization resources.
2. Students will analyze their ministry context in order to select appropriate church revitalization strategies.
3. Students will develop essential leadership skills necessary for revitalizing churches experiencing plateau and decline.
4. Students will develop specific action plans for revitalizing churches experiencing plateau and decline.
5. Students will explore biblical and theological foundations for church revitalization.

### **Required Textbooks**

Malphurs, Aubrey and Gordon E. Penfold. *Re:Vision: The Key to Transforming Your Church*. Grand Rapids: Baker Books, 2014.

Gary L. McIntosh. *There's Hope For Your Church: First Steps to Restoring Health and Growth*. Grand Rapids: Baker Books, 2012.

### **Pre-Seminar Assignments**

1. Each student will read the textbook: Malphurs, Aubrey and Gordon E. Penfold. *Re:Vision: The Key to Transforming Your Church*. Grand Rapids: Baker Books, 2014. In addition to the contents of the book, complete the Audits/Indicators/Surveys in Appendixes A – I. After reading the textbook and completing the Audits/Indicators/Surveys, write a personal

**Leadership Assessment**, to include the following components: (1) the book is divided into three parts. Write a two-page reaction to EACH Part, discussing four key insights and four challenges from each Part. (2) Utilizing a synthesis of Appendixes A – I, write a two-page, single-spaced assessment of your strengths and weaknesses as a revitalization leader. The Leadership Assessment is to be single-spaced, a space between each single-spaced paragraph, and no paragraph indentions, 8 pages total, informal writing style, first person allowed.

2. Each student will read ONE (1) of the textbooks listed below, and compose an **Annotated Analysis**, to involve the following components: (1) a one-page summary of the contents of the book, including strengths and weaknesses, (2) a two-page discussion of five [5] key insights and issues addressed in the book related to church revitalization, (3) a two-page synthesis of five [5] implications of the book for 21<sup>st</sup> century church revitalization. The Annotated Analysis is to be single-spaced, a space between each single-spaced paragraph, no paragraph indentions, and must utilize formal style according to Turabian, regarding cover page, margins, pagination, headings/subheadings, etc. Instead of footnotes, quotations can be referenced with end notes. No first person allowed.

**Students are to email Dr. Roudkovski (jaker@nobts.edu) their first choice, second choice, and third choice. Dr. Roudkovski will make the assignments, in the order of the emails received.**

Barrett, Desmond. *Revitalizing the Declining Church*. Eugene: Wipf@Stock, 2021.

Bolsinger, Tod. *Tempered Resilience*. Downer Groves, IL: InterVarsity Press, 2020.

Cheyney, Tom. *Church Revitalization in Rural America*. Orlando, FL: Renovate Publishing Group, 2018.

Cliffton, Mark and Kenneth Priest. *Rubicons of Revitalization*. Littleton, CO: Acoma Press, 2018.

Henard, Bill. *Can These Bones Live? (Revised Edition): a Practical Guide to Church Revitalization*. Athens, TN: ReClaimed Church Publishing, 2021.

Kentucky Baptist Convention. *Lead to Revitalize: 15 Practices of a Church Revitalization Leader*. Abbotsford, WI: Aneko Press, 2020.

Kotter, John P. *A Sense of Urgency*. Boston: Harvard Business Press, 2008.

Rainer, Thom. *Anatomy of a Revived Church*. Spring Hill, TN: Rainer Publishing, 2019.

Scazzero, Peter. *Emotionally Healthy Discipleship*. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 2021.

Stetzer, Ed and Mike Dodson. *Comeback Churches: How 300 Churches Turned Around and Yours Can, Too*. Nashville: B & H, 2007.

**Note: Each student will make a 12-15 minute presentation, verbal and/or visual, to the class regarding the annotated analysis of the book assigned.**

3. Each student will read: Gary L. McIntosh. *There's Hope For Your Church: First Steps to Restoring Health and Growth*. Grand Rapids: Baker Books, 2012. Develop a **Congregational Case Study** of your current church context, utilizing Chapter 13 of the textbook and the Stages in Church Revitalization Chart (Figure 18, page 164). The Case Study should contain the following components: (1) a one-page assessment of the church's current context (location, community profile, and a five-year average of worship attendance, budget receipts, baptisms, and other additions.) (2) a two-page discussion of the church's current stage of revitalization (Investigation, Development, Introduction, or Implementation), (3) of the 12 components (book chapters), discuss the three most challenging to accomplish in the current

church context (three pages). The Congregational Case Study can be written in informal style, first person allowed; single-spaced, a space between each single-spaced paragraph, no paragraph indentions.

**Note: Assignments #1, #2, and #3 are to be posted on BLACKBOARD no later than midnight, August 22, 2021.**

**During the Seminar Assignment:**

Each student should be prepared to be involved in class discussion and dialogue regarding the pre-seminar assignments.

**Post-Seminar Assignment:**

Each student will develop a **Church Revitalization Strategy** for their church. The Strategy must utilize all of the seminar textbooks and class discussions. Specific instructions regarding the format, structure, and components of the Strategy will be given by the professor prior to the end of the seminar. **The Church Revitalization Strategy paper is to be posted in Blackboard no later than October 1, 2021. The Strategy paper will be graded by the Writing Assessment Coordinator for Turabian 8th edition form and style. After posting the paper in Blackboard email it to Mrs. Phyllis Garrett, prodocproject@nobts.edu in a WORD document format.**

**Directed Study Requirements:**

1. Directed Study Students will complete **Pre-Seminar Assignments #1 and #3** and post in Blackboard by the due date listed above.
2. Directed Study Students will complete **Pre-Seminar Assignment #2** by completing an Annotated Analysis of any **Four** of the textbooks listed, posting in Blackboard no later **August 31, 2021.**
3. Directed Study Students will complete the **Post Seminar Assignment – Church Revitalization Strategy** and post it in Blackboard no later than **October 1, 2021.**
4. Directed Study Students will **Interview** the Pastor of a church that experienced a turnaround following a period of plateau and decline, and write a five page, double-spaced **Interview Report**. The Report is to provide a brief summary of the church's situation before and after the turnaround and a summary/synthesis of the Interview. This Report is not to be a verbatim of the Interview. A copy of the Interview Questions should be attached to the Interview Report as a separate page. Post in Blackboard on or before **September 17, 2021.**

**Course Evaluation**

**In Residence Seminar Students:**

Leadership Assessment	20%
Annotated Analysis	20%
Congregational Case Study	20%
Church Revitalization Strategy	30%
Seminar Discussion & Dialogue	10%

**Directed Study Seminar Students:**

Leadership Assessment	15%
Annotated Analyses (4)	40%
Congregational Case Study	15%
Church Revitalization Strategy	20%



**Blackboard**  
learn<sup>+</sup>



Click [HERE](#) for a link to Helpful Playlist, including topics on how to view your grades, submit assignments, and post on the discussion board.

Click [HERE](#) for a video tutorial on how to navigate Blackboard and enroll in courses.

Click [HERE](#) to sign up for a one-on-one virtual assistance opportunity with ITC personnel.

\*Make sure to schedule your appointment at least 2 weekdays in advance.

Be sure to write down any questions you may have concerning Blackboard and bring them to the orientation session. ITC Student Support will be present and able to assist you with your inquiries.

**If you have any further questions feel free to contact us at**

[blackboardhelpdesk@nobts.edu](mailto:blackboardhelpdesk@nobts.edu)

## **Selected Bibliography**

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- Ammerman, Nancy T., Jackson W. Carroll, Carl S. Dudley, and William McKinney, eds. *Studying Congregations: A New Handbook*. Nashville: Abingdon Press, 1998.
- Anderson, Leith. *A Church for the 21st Century*. Minneapolis: Bethany House Publishers, 1992.
- Anthony, Micheal J., and Mick Boersma. *Moving On Moving Forward: A Guide for Pastors in Transition*. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 2007.
- Atherton, Michael. *The Revitalized Church: Forfeiting Self to Follow God*. Bloomington: Cross Books Press, 2012.
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- Barna, George and David Barton: *U Turn: Restoring America to the Strength of Its Roots*. Lake Mary, FL: Frontline, 2014.
- Barna, George and David Kinnaman. *Churchless: Understanding Today's Unchurched and How to Connect with Them*. Carol Stream, IL: Tyndale, 2014.
- Bridges, William. *Managing Transitions: Making the Most of Change*. Reading, Mass.: Addison-Wesley Publishing Co., 1991.
- Buttry, Daniel. *Bring Your Church Back to Life: Beyond Survival Mentality*. Valley Forge: Judson Press, 1988.
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- Crandall, Ron. *Turn Around Strategies for the Small Church*. Nashville: Abingdon, 1995.
- DeVine, Mark and Darrin Patrick. *Replant: How a Dying Church Can Grow Again*. Colorado Springs: David C. Cook, 2014.
- Deymaz, Mark. *Building a Healthy Multi-Ethnic Church: Mandate, Commitments, and Practices of a Diverse Congregation*. San Francisco: Jossey-Bass, 2007.
- Dickerson, John S. *The Great Evangelical Recession: 6 Factors That Will Crash the American*

- Church...and How to Prepare*. Grand Rapids: Baker Books, 2013.
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