



# NEW ORLEANS

BAPTIST THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY

## **PATH8304 Critical Issues in Church Revitalization** **A Professional Doctoral Seminar** **October 12-14, 2020**

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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.

### **NOBTS Core Values and Core Value Focus**

The Seminary's core values are: (1) Doctrinal Integrity, (2) Spiritual Vitality, (3) Mission Focus, (4) Characteristic Excellence, and (5) Servant Leadership. The 2020-21 core value focus is **Mission Focus**.

### **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**

Croft, Brian. *Biblical Church Revitalization: Solutions for Dying and Divided Churches*. Scotland, UK: Christian Focus Publications, 2016.

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 *Biblical Church Revitalization* by Croft and compose a **Reading Response**. The Reading Responses should be single-spaced, informal style and format, no first person allowed, involving the following components: (a) a one-page summary of the book's contents, to include a discussion of the author's purpose and the extent to which the purpose was realized. (b) a one-page discussion of two strengths and two weaknesses of the book. (c) the book contains 13 chapters. For EACH chapter, select two significant insights or takeaways, and give a one-paragraph discussion of the value of the insight or takeaway for church revitalization (why is this important). Note: Although the form and style for this assignment is informal, submit a Turabian 8th edition title page. Use endnotes instead of footnotes when referencing direct quotes.
2. 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 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.
3. 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.**

Clifton, Mark and Kenneth Priest. *Rubicons of Revitalization: Overcoming 8 Common Barriers to Church Renewal*. Littleton, CO: Acoma Press, 2018.

Henard, Bill. *ReClaimed Church: How Churches Grow, Decline, and Experience Revitalization*. Nashville: B & H Publishing, 2018.

Kritcher, Lee. *For a New Generation: A Practical Guide for Revitalizing Your Church*. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 2016.

McIntosh, Gary L. *Taking Your Church to the Next Level: What Got You Here Won't Get You There*. Grand Rapids: Baker Books, 2009.

Nall, Brian. *An Uphill Journey: One Small Church's Journey to Revitalization*. Orlando: Renovate, 2017.

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

**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.

4. 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; length not to exceed six pages, single-spaced, a space between each single-spaced paragraph, no paragraph indentions.

**Note:** Assignments 1, 2, 3, and 4 are to be posted on BLACKBOARD no later than midnight, Sunday, October 21, 2020.

**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 professors prior to the end of the seminar. This assignment will be graded by the Writing Assessment Coordinator. The grading assessment will involve logical development, grammar, writing style, supporting material, and citation of sources. More information will be provided during the seminar. **The Church Revitalization Strategy paper is to be posted in Blackboard no later than November 15, 2020.**

**Course Evaluation**

Reading Response	15%
Leadership Assessment	15%
Annotated Analysis	15%
Congregational Case Study	15%
Church Revitalization Strategy	30%
Seminar Discussion & Dialogue	10%

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)

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- Anthony, Micheal J., and Mick Boersma. *Moving On Moving Forward: A Guide for Pastors in Transition*. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 2007.
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- Bandy, Thomas G. *Moving Off the Map: A Field Guide to Changing the Congregation*. Nashville: Abingdon, 1998.
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