



NEW ORLEANS

BAPTIST THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY

EVAN9407 Church Revitalization & Strategic Leadership

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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 identify factors common to leaders and their churches which have experienced growth from a plateau or declining position. The factors associated with church health and revitalization will be compared and contrasted with characteristics of churches experiencing plateau and decline. Implications will be drawn for strategic planning, the S.B.C., and the personal development of the church's leaders.

Student Learning Outcomes

1. Students will explore biblical and theological foundations for church revitalization and strategic leadership.
2. Students will become familiar with significant literature on church revitalization and strategic leadership.
3. Students will examine a relationship between strategic leadership and church revitalization.
4. Students will identify essential leadership skills necessary for church revitalization.
5. Students will develop specific leadership strategies for revitalizing churches experiencing plateau and decline.

Required Textbooks

Adair, John. *Strategic Leadership: How to Think and Plan Strategically and Provide Direction*. Philadelphia: Kogan Page, 2010.

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

- Cheyney, Tom. *Church Revitalization in Rural America*. Orlando, FL: Renovate Publishing Group, 2018.
- Henard, William. *Can These Bones Live? (Revised Edition): A Practical Guide to Church Revitalization*. Athens, TN: ReClaimed Church Publishing, 2021.
- Hughes, Richard L., Katherine Colarelli Beatty, and David L. Dinwoodie. *Becoming a Strategic Leader: Your Role in Your Organization's Enduring Success*. San Francisco: Jossey-Bass, 2014.
- Malphurs, Aubrey and Gordon E. Penfold. *Re:Vision: The Key to Transforming Your Church*. Grand Rapids: Baker Books, 2014.
- Maxwell, John. *Leader Shift: 11 Essential Changes Every Leader Must Embrace*. New York: HarperCollins Leadership, 2019.
- McIntosh, Gary. *There's Hope For Your Church: First Steps to Restoring Health and Growth*. Grand Rapids: Baker Books, 2012.
- Olson, Aaron K. and B. Keith Simerson. *Leading with Strategic Thinking: Four Ways Effective Leaders Gain Insight, Drive Change, and Get Results*. Hoboken, New Jersey: John Wiley and Sons, 2015.
- Rainer, Thom. *Anatomy of a Revived Church*. Spring Hill, TN: Rainer Publishing, 2019.
- Tripp, Paul David. *Lead: 12 Gospel Principles for Leadership in the Church*. Wheaton, IL: Crossway, 2020.

Seminar Assignments

1. **Reading and Review of Books** - Each student will read and review the required textbooks. Each review must include: title page, a synopsis of major themes of the book, a critical analysis of strengths and limitations of the book, an evaluation of the degree to which the author accomplishes the purpose, and several principles (3-5) the student can derive for church revitalization and strategic leadership. Each review is to be 4-6 pages, double-spaced, employing Turabian.
2. **Dialogue/Discussion/Presentation** - Students will discuss the required textbooks with the professor. Be prepared to discuss and present concepts/issues in each book as well as to dialogue about its relevance to church revitalization and strategic leadership. Students will be required to address specific aspects from each book as instructed by the professor. Active dialogue is expected. If a student is not prepared to discuss any book and demonstrates insufficient knowledge of a book, an additional assignment may be given to the student.
3. **Case Study of a Biblical Leader** - Students will develop a Case Study of a Biblical leader who modeled strategic leadership. The Case Study will employ the Seven Functions of Strategic Leadership in Part Two of *Strategic Leadership* by John Adair. The Case Study should include: a brief description of the strategic personality of the Biblical leader, two examples from the life of the Biblical leader for each of the Seven Functions of Leadership, and a discussion of 4-6 applications from the case study for church revitalization. The Case Study is to be 8-10 pages, double-spaced. Choices of Biblical leaders for the Case Study: Noah, Abraham, Joseph, Moses, Joshua, David, Ezra, Nehemiah, Daniel, Jesus, Peter, and Paul. Students must email Dr. Roudkovski their first, second, and third choices of Biblical leaders. The professor will assign the leaders based on the order in which he receives the emails.
4. **Congregational Case Study** - Students will develop a Congregational Case Study of a church that has experienced a significant turnaround. The list of potential churches will be provided on the first day of the seminar. The Congregational Case Study should employ Church Revitalization Model developed by Gary McIntosh in *There's Hope for Your Church: First Steps*

to Restoring Health and Growth. The Case Study should include the following components: an assessment of the selected church's current context (location, community profile, pertinent demographic information, and a five-year average of worship attendance, budget receipts, baptisms, and other additions), a discussion of the church's current stage of revitalization based on Chapter 13 by McIntosh, and an analysis of the twelve components (book chapters) of church revitalization in the selected church. The assignment should be 8-10 pages, double-spaced employing Turabian. More information about the Congregational Case Study will be given on the first day of the seminar.

5. Major Research Paper - Students are required to submit a major research paper (**at least 22-25 pages, double-spaced body**) on a topic related to church revitalization and strategic leadership. The topic must be approved by the professor, and should reference at least 12-15 sources, to be a combination of books, journal articles, research reports, doctoral dissertations and projects while employing Turabian style.
6. Professional Society/Academic Journal Research – Students will research a professional society or an academic journal of their choice highlighting requirements for submission/presentation. No formal paper is required for this segment of the assignment: however, each student will be expected to share his or her findings with the class. Furthermore, each student will adjust his or her Major Research Paper to meet the requirements for submission/presentation in the selected professional society/academic journal. The modified version of the Major Research Paper will be submitted to the professor. More information about the assignment will be available on the first day of the seminar.

Schedule of Seminar Sessions

This seminar will be taught in a non-traditional format. Since the seminar will only meet four times during the semester, students should take careful note of the assignments and the corresponding due dates given below. All assignments are to be uploaded in Blackboard, no later than 11 p.m. on Wednesday preceding the seminar. Students are to bring a hard copy of all assignments to the professor on the due date. The seminar will meet on the NOBTS Campus in the Sanders Center for Ministry Excellence Classroom.

Friday, September 3: 8:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.

Introductions and Review of Assignments

Strategic Leadership

Becoming a Strategic Leader

11 Essential Changes Every Leader Must Embrace

Leading with Strategic Thinking

12 Gospel Principles for Leadership in the Church

Friday, October 1: 8:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.

Can These Bones Live?

Re:Vision: The Key to Transforming Your Church

There is Hope for Your Church

Church Revitalization in Rural America

Tempered Resilience

Anatomy of a Revived Church

Friday, November 5: 8:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.

Case Study of a Biblical Leader

Congregational Case Study

Friday, December 3: 8:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.

Major Research Paper

Professional Society/Academic Journal

Course Evaluation

Reading and Review of Books - 20%
Dialogue/Discussion/Presentation -10%
Case Study of a Biblical Leader - 15%
Congregational Case Study-15%
Major Research Paper - 30%
Professional Society/Academic Journal - 10%



Blackboard
learn⁺



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

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- Anderson, Andy. *Effective Methods of Church Growth: Growing the Church by Growing the Sunday School*. Nashville: Broadman Press, 1985.
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- Anderson, Leith. *A Church for the 21st Century*. Minneapolis: Bethany House Publishers, 1992.
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