

**ASSEMBLIES OF GOD THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY**  
**Southeast Region branch Campus**  
**Lakeland, Florida**  
**June 11-18, 2005**

**PTHB 624 RENEWING THE ESTABLISHED CHURCH**  
**(3 Credits)**

**Paul F. Martinez, D.Min.**  
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**Summer 2005**

**COURSE SYLLABUS**

**COURSE DESCRIPTION**

This course examines the foundational biblical principles of church health as well as church growth principles and existing barriers that inhibit church growth. These barriers in church development will be analyzed, with particular emphasis being placed upon removing and exceeding those barriers. Additionally, the life cycle of churches, strategic planning, and change initiatives with regard to church growth will be examined.

**COURSE OBJECTIVES**

Each participant should demonstrate through the academic, relational and spiritual requirements of this course that he or she has satisfactorily met the following objectives:

***Knowledge***

1. Have a good understanding of the biblical foundation for church health,
2. Be familiar with the current body of literature pertaining to church health, church growth, and resources for ongoing church development and revitalization,
3. Have an awareness of the barriers that inhibit church growth,
4. Be familiar with specific strategies that can be utilized to break barriers to church growth,
5. Have an awareness of the unique challenges of a church in a postmodern society, and
6. Be familiar with principles and techniques proven effective in reversing the course of declining or plateaued churches.

***Attitudes***

1. Have an appreciation for the significant factors involved in growing a church,
2. Continued development of a burden for growing a church that reaches unsaved people,
3. Have a realistic understanding of the efforts required to lead a church through change,
4. Have a healthy self-critical perspective toward one's church and its existing growth barriers,
5. Demonstrate a sensitivity to the guidance of the Holy Spirit for breaking growth barriers, and
6. Share in the burden of prayer to see churches grow.

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### ***Skills***

1. Develop a network of people who can assist in the process of leading a church through change,
2. Be able to articulate church growth barriers and the specific strategies needed to move beyond those barriers,
3. Be able to evaluate the life cycle stages of a church, and
4. Be able to formulate a strategic plan and process for leading an established church through the entire renewal process.

### **REQUIRED TEXTBOOKS**

Collins, Jim. *Good to Great: Why Some Companies Make the Leap...And Others Don't*. New York: Harper Collins, 2001.

Herrington, Jim, Mike Bonem and James H. Furr. *Leading Congregational Change: A Practical Guide for the Transformational Journey*. San Francisco: Jossey-Bass, 2000.

Kotter, John. *Leading Change*. Cambridge, MA: Harvard Business School Press, 1996.

Lewis, Robert and Wayne Cordeiro. *Culture Shift: Transforming Your Church from the Inside Out*. San Francisco: Jossey-Bass, a Wiley Imprint, 2005.

Nelson, Alan and Gene Appel. *How to Change Your Church (Without Killing It)*. Nashville: W Publishing, a Division of Thomas Nelson, 2000.

Southerland, Dan. *Transitioning: Leading Your Church Through Change*. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 2000.

### **METHODOLOGY**

The course will utilize multiple learning methods including lectures, small group discussions, case studies, and interviews. The student will be required to interact during the class as well as with the required reading resources. This course is intended to be highly practical and useful in the student's personal ministry setting.

### **COURSE REQUIREMENTS**

1. *Required reading*. Read the required texts listed above. If the student has previously read any of those books for academic credit, another book may be substituted from the additional bibliography at the end of the syllabus, provided the number of pages

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read for all books totals at least 1,500. Complete a 1-2 page reading response for each book read. *Reading papers are due by the end of class on June 18, 2005.*

2. *Conduct an interview.* Interview, by phone or in person, a pastor who has successfully led a change initiative in a church within the past three years. The initiative should be a broad-based, church-wide initiative and not simply focused on the start of a new ministry program. Write the results of this interview giving attention to the strategies and methodology used, difficulties encountered, what would be done differently, what help was needed, impact on paid or volunteer personnel and budget, etc. The interview report should be 4-5 pages in length.
3. *Complete a project.* Complete a 15-20 page paper outlining a strategy for leading a church through a change or growth process. The strategy should be fully developed and include a breakdown of the planning, implementation and evaluation phases. This is intended to be a step-by-step process that can be followed in a church situation. Engage any significant strategic issues, including barriers to growth and/or change, church and community demographics, church mission and vision, personnel, finances, church organizational structure, facilities, implementation timeline, etc.

*Post-session course work is due postmarked no later than September 19, 2005.*

**Submit all assignments to:**  
**Assemblies of God Theological Seminary**  
**ATTN: Paul F. Martinez**  
**1435 N. Glenstone Avenue**  
**Springfield, MO 65802**  
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**GRADING PROCEDURE**

Reading and Reading Reports	30%
Classroom Attendance and Participation	10%
Interview	20%
Church Growth/Change Project	40%

**NOTE:** Late papers will be penalized at the discretion of the instructor. Work received after the post-session due date will result in a change of grade fee (\$15.00) being charged, even when an extension has been granted by the instructor.

## **ADDITIONAL BIBLIOGRAPHY**

- Anderson, Leith C. *Dying For Change*. Minneapolis: Bethany House Publishers, 1990.
- Barna, George. *Marketing the Church*. Colorado Springs: Navpress, 1988.
- \_\_\_\_\_. *User Friendly Churches; What Christians Need to Know About the Churches People Love to Go To*. Ventura, CA: Regal Books, 1991.
- \_\_\_\_\_. *The Second Coming of the Church*. Nashville: Word Publishing, 1998.
- Callahan, Kennon L. *Twelve Keys to an Effective Church*. San Francisco: Harper & Row, 1983.
- Hunter, George. *How to Reach Secular People*. Nashville: Abingdon, 1992.
- \_\_\_\_\_. *Church for the Unchurched*. Nashville: Abingdon Press, 1996.
- Hybels, Lynne & Bill. *Rediscovering Church*. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 1995.
- Logan, Robert E. *Beyond Church Growth*. Old Tappan, NJ: Fleming H. Revell, Co., 1989.
- Martin, Glen and Gary McIntosh. *The Issachar Factor: Understanding Trends That Confront Your Church And Designing A Strategy For Success*. Nashville: Broadman & Holman, 1993.
- McGavran, Donald and George G. Hunter III. *Church Growth Strategies that Work*. Nashville: Abingdon Press, 1980.
- McIntosh, Gary L. *Staff Your Church for Growth: Building Team Ministry in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century*. Grand Rapids: Baker Book House, 2000.
- McLaren, Brian. *Reinventing Your Church*. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 1998.
- \_\_\_\_\_. *The Church on the Other Side*. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 2003.
- Miller, C. John. *Outgrowing the Ingrown Church*. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 1986.
- Rainer, Thom. S. *Eating the Elephant; Bite-Sized Steps To Achieve Long-Term Growth In Your Church*. Nashville: Broadman & Holman, 1994.
- Schaller, Lyle E. *44 Questions for Congregational Self-Appraisal*. Nashville: Abingdon Press, 1998.
- Spader, Dan and Gary Mayes. *Growing a Healthy Church*. Chicago: Moody, 1991.

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Towns, Elmer L. *An Inside Look at 10 of Today's Most Innovative Churches*. Ventura, CA: Regal Books, 1990.

White, James Emery. *Rethinking the Church*. Grand Rapids: Baker Books, 1997.

**SPECIFIC DATA**

Syllabus prepared by Paul F. Martinez, May 2005.