

**NEW ORLEANS BAPTIST THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY**  
**Division of Church Music Ministries**

**MUWM 9302 Worship and the Task of Disciple-Making**

Dr. Michael Sharp, Professor of Worship Studies

DMA Seminar Fall 2010

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**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.

**Description**

The purpose of this seminar is to examine various means by which the ministry of corporate worship holds the potential to contribute to the process of spiritual formation and maturity in the lives of Christ-followers. Various contemporary models and approaches toward the task of disciple-making will be studied with particular attention given to how the ministry of congregational worship is able to work in concert with other ministries of the church in order to nurture the spiritual growth of church members.

**Core Values**

The seminary core values which are reinforced through this course are: Spiritual Vitality and Servant Leadership. Additionally, the competencies of Disciple-Making, Spiritual and Character Formation, and Worship Leadership are strengthened through this course.

**Student Objectives**

The worship experience of the gathered community has the potential to significantly contribute to the spiritual growth and development of Christ-followers through authentic corporate encounters with God, by educating them in the faith, and through the intentional encouragement of kingdom values expressed in fulfillment of the Great Commandments and the Great Commission.

At the conclusion of the course, the student will:

1. Be able to articulate a biblically-grounded understanding of the disciple-making task in the church and how corporate worship can contribute positively to the goals of that process.
2. Be familiar with research pertaining to the role of corporate worship in various effective disciple-making strategies and methodologies currently employed by evangelical churches.
3. Be able to think critically about the corporate worship planning process as it relates to spiritual formation of believers; and analyze how the classical elements of corporate worship are potential tools for the cognitive and affective development of spiritual growth in the life of the Christ-follower.
4. Understand the process of engaging in empirical research and analysis of factors found in the corporate worship environment which may contribute to the goal of on-going spiritual formation in the lives of Christ-followers, including: an understanding of God's character, the individual's need of confession and repentance, God's love expressed through Christ and the atonement, and what it means to be kingdom citizens.

**Required Texts:**

- Hawkins, Greg L. And Callie Parkinson. *Focus: The Top Ten Things People Want and Need from You and Your Church*. Willow Creek Association, 2009.
- Saliers, Donald E. *Worship and Spirituality*. 2d. ed. Akron, OH: OSL Publications, 1996.
- Schilling, S. Paul. *The Faith We Sing*. Philadelphia: Westminster Press, 1983.
- Wilhoit, James C. *Spiritual Formation as if the Church Mattered: Growing in Christ through Community*. Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Academic, 2008.
- Willard, Dallas. *Renovation of the Heart: Putting on the Character of Christ*. Colorado Springs, CO: Navpress, 2002.

**Articles:**

- Astley, Jeff. "The role of worship in Christian learning" in *Theological Perspectives on Christian Formation: A Reader on Theology and Christian Education*. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans Publishing Company, 1996, 244-251.
- Bauman, Lynn C. "Spiritual formation through the liturgy" in *The Christian Educator's Handbook on Spiritual Formation*. Wheaton, IL: Victor Books, 1994, 99-110.
- Berntsen, John A. "Christian affections and the catechumenate" in *Theological Perspectives on Christian Formation: A Reader on Theology and Christian Education*. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans Publishing Company, 1996, 229-243.
- Dykstra, Craig R. "The formative power of the congregation" in *Theological Perspectives on Christian Formation: A Reader on Theology and Christian Education*. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans Publishing Company, 1996, 252-265.
- Gangel, Kenneth O. "Spiritual formation through public worship" in *The Christian Educator's Handbook on Spiritual Formation*. Wheaton, IL: Victor Books, 1994, 111-129.
- McElrath, Hugh T. And Bill J. Leonard. "Spirituality and Worship" in *Becoming Christian: Dimensions of Spiritual Formation* (ed. Bill Leonard). Louisville, KY: Westminster/John Knox Press, 1990, 46-58.
- Richardson, Paul A. "Spiritual Formation in Corporate Worship" in *Review and Expositor* 96, no. 4 (1999): 519-35.
- Wilhoit, James C. "Following the Lord's pattern of prayer" in *The Christian Educator's Handbook on Spiritual Formation*. Wheaton, IL: Victor Books, 1994, 174-188.
- Wren, Brian. "Echoes of the Gospel: How Hymns Do Theology" in *Praying Twice: The Music and Words of Congregational Song*. Louisville: Westminster John Knox Press, 2000, 349-377.

Additional readings as provided by the professor

**Assignments:**

1. Required reading of textbooks, selected chapters from additional texts, and selected journal articles. A formal book review of the text *Spiritual Formation as if the Church Mattered: Growing in Christ through Community*. (Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Academic, 2008) will be due at the first seminar. Thorough notes should be compiled for each reading

resource and included in a course readings notebook to be submitted at the conclusion of the seminar. (May be submitted electronically).

2. Each student will lead the seminar discussion during each of the three meetings on selected chapters/articles of the assigned course reading. This should take the form of prepared questions for discussion based on the assigned material.
3. Assignments will be made to each participant of the seminar to research specific disciple-making models/instruments available for (or pioneered by) local congregations. The research should overview the model but should also seek to determine how the ministry of corporate worship particularly relates to the overarching strategy of the disciple-making task within the model. Sample models, among others, include:
  - (1) Willow Creek Association's *Reveal* studies  
[<http://www.revealnow.com/>]
  - (2) Lifeway's Transformational Church Initiative  
[<http://www.transformationalchurch.com/>]
  - (3) The Church at Brookhills' *RadicalExperiment*  
[<http://www.radicalexperiment.org/>]

Due date: Second seminar

4. Working as a team, each student in the seminar will participate in a research project designed to assess how different variables within the corporate worship experience affect the process of spiritual formation of those who attend worship services. With guidance from the professor, this research project will span the duration of the semester and it is expected that the results will be reported in a jointly-authored journal article. Further details regarding the project will be provided by the professor at the first seminar meeting. Due date: Conclusion of the seminar
5. Case study. From a list of churches provided by the instructor, the student will randomly select three recorded worship services from a selected congregation and will compile a written full-text transcript of each service. Using these transcripts, the student will perform a content analysis regarding the extent to which the target worship services address specific indicators related to spiritual formation: understanding of the character of God, the human condition/need for God, the provisions of God through Christ and the Holy Spirit, the process of becoming Christ-like, and the deepening commitment to Kingdom values and citizenship. Insights from the case study will be reported in a paper to be presented to the seminar. Due date: Third seminar
6. As a final assignment, each student will write a 2000-word reflection paper which seeks to answer the question: "How can the corporate worship experience contribute to the process of making mature Christ-

followers?” This paper should address the various aspects of corporate worship and their potential (over time) for transformational impact. As a synthesis assignment, the student should reflect on current trends and research which can aid worship planners and worship leaders as they face the task of discipleship within the congregations they serve. The student should use Turabian guidelines for this formal paper. Due Date: Monday, December 6, 2010.

7. The course shell in Blackboard (from the NOBTS homepage) will serve as a clearinghouse for the seminar. If you have enrolled in Blackboard for any class at NOBTS, you need not enroll again, only look up the course “MUWM9302 Worship and the Task of Disciple-making.” The password for enrollment will be emailed to all course registrants. All written assignments should be submitted in the Digital Drop Box. No email submissions will be accepted.

**Evaluation:**

Participation, required reading, and leading discussion	10%
Book Review	10%
Research of models	20%
Group research project	20%
Case Study: Content analysis of three worship services	20%
Final reflection paper	20%

**On Campus Seminar Sessions:**

Sep 30, 2010 12:00 pm - 9:00 pm

Oct 1, 2010 8:00 am - 10:00 am

Nov 4, 2010 12:00 pm - 9:00 pm

Nov 5, 2010 8:00 am - 10:00 am

Dec 2, 2010 12:00 pm - 9:00 pm

Dec 3, 2010 8:00 am - 10:00 am

## Bibliography

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- Astley, Jeff. "Christian Worship and the Hidden Curriculum of Christian Learning" in *The Contours of Christian Education*. ed. Jeff Astley and David Day, 141-152. Great Wakering, Essex, England: McCrimmons, 1992.
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- \_\_\_\_\_. *The Frog in the Kettle: What Christians Need to Know about Life in the Year 2000*. Ventura: Regal Books, 1990.
- \_\_\_\_\_. *User Friendly Churches: What Christians Need to Know about the Churches People Love to Go To*. Ventura: Regal Books, 1991.
- Beale, G. K. *We Become What We Worship: A Biblical Theology of Idolatry*. Downers Grove, IL: IVP Academic, 2008.
- Benedict, Daniel T. *Patterned by Grace: How Liturgy Shapes Us*. Nashville, TN: Upper Room Books, 2007.
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- Bolsinger, Tod E. *It Takes a Church to Raise a Christian: How the Community of God Transforms Lives*. Grand Rapids: Brazos Press, 2004.
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- Burgess, John P. *After Baptism: Shaping the Christian Life*. Louisville: Westminster John Knox

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- Deymaz, Mark. *Building a Healthy Multi-Ethnic Church: Mandate, Commitments, and Practices of a Diverse Congregation*. San Francisco: Jossey-Bass, 2007.
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- Farhadian, Charles E. *Christian Worship Worldwide: Expanding Horizons, Deepening Practices*. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 2007.
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- \_\_\_\_\_. *Reveal: Where Are You? (Reveal Series)*. Barrington, IL: Willow Creek Association, 2007.
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- Hoffman, Lawrence A. *The Art of Public Prayer: Not For Clergy Only*. 2d. ed. Woodstock, VT: Sky Light Paths Publishing, 1999.
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- \_\_\_\_\_. *High Expectations: The Remarkable Secret of Keeping People in Your Church*. Nashville: Broadman & Holman Publishers, 1999.

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