

PMEV8303 Case Studies in Healthy, Evangelistic Churches
Dr. Bill Day
May 26-8, 2009

Helpful Information

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I. Course Description

The purpose of this seminar is to lead students to develop an understanding of biblical, congregational, and contextual factors in evangelistic church growth, and to develop strategic planning skills in order to develop healthy, evangelistic churches.

II. Course Methodology

A. Lectures. Lectures by the professor related to healthy, evangelistic churches will be part of the resource material for the course.

B. Discussion. Students are expected to be involved in the seminar discussions based on questions raised in the assigned reading, case studies, and assigned projects.

C. Research. Students will be expected develop a case study of a healthy, evangelistic church assigned by the professor.

D. Application. Students will apply the principles learned in the course to a specific problem in their church.

III. Course Objectives

A. To explore the application of church health/growth principles in actual church settings.

B. To develop the ability to analyze the dynamics of churches in various settings and propose strategic plans for strengthening the health of churches.

C. To develop an action plan applying church health/growth principles in the student's ministry context.

IV. Pre-Seminar Requirements

A. Each student will read the three required textbooks: Becoming a Healthy Church by Stephen Macchia, Thriving Churches in the Twenty-First Century by Gary McIntosh and R. Daniel Reeves, and Breakout Churches by Thom Rainer. A knowledge of the assigned textbooks will be necessary for adequate discussion in the seminar.

B. Each student will prepare a five page written review on each of the required textbooks. The critical book reviews should include identification of the author, a statement of the author's purpose(s), a brief synopsis of the content (message) of the book, and a critical analysis of the strengths and weaknesses of the book. These reviews (with cover sheet) should be in acceptable Turabian form (no footnotes necessary).

These book reviews are due on the first day of the seminar, May 28, 2009.

C. Students will read an assigned D.Min. project or Ph.D. dissertation dealing with church growth or health. The student will be prepared to summarize the study and lead a discussion of relevant issues on the last day of class. Potential projects and dissertations are listed in the church growth and church health dissertation and project sections of the course bibliography. Student will indicate their selection to the professor by phone or email. Upon contact with the professor, students will be provided access to a copy of the dissertation or project. Students will not be allowed to select a study already chosen by another student.

V. Requirements during May Classes:

A. The professor will lead the class to understand some of the vital signs of healthy, evangelistic churches. Students will be prepared to engage in discussion of the topics discussed.

B. Case studies of churches in different contexts and varied problems will be presented by the professor during the seminar. Students will analyze critical growth stages related to each case study, work with a group of other students in order to develop proposed action plans, and interact with the professor and other students regarding group recommendations.

C. Through lectures and interaction with the professor and class members, students will develop the knowledge and skills necessary to lead churches in healthy, evangelistic church growth.

VI. Requirements after Class

1. In consultation with the professor, students will select, study, and develop a case study on a church that has experienced significant healthy, evangelistic growth over the past three years.

This church does not have to be a Southern Baptist Church. However, the church must meet the criteria agreed upon in the seminar. Students should study issues including, but not limited to:

- 1) The role of the senior pastor in the overall effort
- 2) Growth barriers
- 3) Developing priorities related to a strategic plan for church growth
- 4) The process used to determine mission, vision statements, goals, and actions.
- 5) Staff needs and responsibilities
- 6) Sunday School or small group organization
- 7) Outreach efforts
- 8) Assimilation approaches

The format for this report will be explained in the seminar.

2. The student will complete a “Turabian” style paper on a need in the student’s church. Students will administer a church health assessment survey (provided in class) in the student’s church. Relying on the results of the survey, the student will select one factor related to church health that needs to be addressed by the student’s congregation. From the seminar discussions and their own case study research, the student will develop a plan for effectively dealing with this issue in their church.

These two reports are due by July 15, 2009.

VII. Course Grade

Percent of Grade:

1. Book Reports	25%
2. Project or Dissertation Evaluation	15%
3. Class Participation	10%
4. Case Study of a Healthy, Growing Church	25%
5. Church Health Evaluation Study	25%

Class Schedule

Tuesday, May 26, 2009

Afternoon, 1:00 - 5:00 PM

Introduction

What Is Church Growth?

Overcoming Church Growth Barriers

Effective Evangelistic Churches

What Is Church Health?

The State of Church Health in the Southern Baptist Convention

Dinner, 5:00 - 7:00 PM

Evening, 7:00 - 9:00 PM

Discussion - Becoming a Healthy Church

Discussion - Thriving Churches

Discussion - Breakout Churches

Wednesday, May 27, 2009

Morning, 8:00 AM - 12 noon

The Relationship of a Church's Community and Healthy , Church Growth

Case Study - A Rural Church

Case Study - A Small Town Church

Lunch, 12 noon - 1:00 PM

Afternoon, 1:00 PM - 4:00 PM

Case Study - A Church in a Medium-Sized City

Case Study - A Suburban Church

Case Study - A Church in an Urban Area

Thursday, May 28, 2009

Morning, 8:00 AM - 12 noon

Case Study - A Mega-Church

The Use of Surveys to Assess the Health of a Church

Student Evaluations of previously assigned D.Min. projects and Ph.D. dissertations dealing with church health

Lunch, 12 noon - 1:00 PM

Afternoon, 1:00 PM - 4:00 PM

Student Evaluations of previously assigned D.Min. projects and Ph.D. dissertations dealing with church health

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