

Building Bridges for Multigenerational Worship
CMWL-8302

PROFESSIONAL DOCTORAL SEMINAR
Jan 4-6, 2009

Offered via CIV to various extension centers
Division of Church Music Ministries
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NOBTS 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.

NOBTS Core Purpose, Core Values, and Curriculum Competencies Addressed

The purpose of this course is to carry out the mission of NOBTS as is reflected through the following core values and core competencies:

Core Values

1. Doctrinal Integrity-The course content will emanate from Biblical teachings regarding worship and the church.
2. Spiritual Vitality-The course will focus on the discipleship of believers of all ages as they seek to magnify Christ through intergenerational worship experiences in the local church.
3. Servant Leadership-The course will encourage church leaders to see their role as servant leaders to all generational cohorts which form a part of Christ's Church in all her local expressions.

Core Competencies

1. Worship Leadership- Students will be challenged in understanding how to help believers of all ages to collectively express authentic worship in a multigenerational corporate worship context.
2. Disciple Making- Students will consider the importance of helping members of the congregation to grow spiritually, both in terms of a deepening awareness of the kind of worship that pleases God as well as the ability to "look not only to [his/her] own interests, but also to the interests of others" (Phil. 2:4) in corporate worship expression.
3. Servant Leadership-Students will reflect on their role as servant leaders who seek to facilitate corporate worship for the broad generational spectrum of believers in the local congregation.

4. Spiritual and Character Formation-Students will be motivated to examine their own worship preferences and to think beyond them in the pursuit of building cultural bridges which could enable a broad range of worshippers with differing generational expectations and characteristics to worship together.

Rationale for the Course

We live at a time in U.S. history in which no less than five generational cohorts make up society, including the typical local church body. Seniors (born prior to 1946), Boomers (born 1946-1964), Busters (born 1965-1983), Bridgers (born 1984-2002), and young children (born 2002 or after) collectively make up our culture. Each of these generations shares characteristics which differ from the other cohorts. These differences may be found at every level of daily life, including corporate worship, and often give rise to conflicting preferences in worship practice and expectations. For church leaders, and worship leaders in particular, finding a viable strategy for ministry to all generations can be challenging. In the decades of the 1970s and 1980s, “worship wars” became an all too common reality in many churches—a result of the cultural shift then taking place.

For the past couple of decades, church leaders have approached this reality in various ways. Some have avoided the “transitional” headache by starting new churches from scratch. Others, perhaps intuitively believing that older established churches cannot easily and holistically adapt to a changing culture, have created additional service formats for corporate worship, segregating generational cultures in an attempt to quell the dissent over worship. This approach gave rise to the practice of providing alternative formats within a church body, such as traditional/blended and contemporary services. At the same time, many other established churches have continued to worship, admittedly with some degree of friction, in one single format for all generations.

This seminar investigates possible answers to the following questions: Can five generations in the midst of a major culture shift realistically worship meaningfully together? If so, how can leadership find a way to facilitate such worship experiences while staying true to “the kind of worship that pleases God the Father?” From a cultural perspective, what are some concepts which might guide the work of worship leaders and planners in these contexts? What works regarding worship planning for the various generational cohorts, and what does not? And how might worship “bridges” be constructed across the various generational divides?

Seminar Description

This seminar is designed to investigate the opportunities and challenges of planning for multigenerational corporate worship in the local church. Specific attention will be given to an understanding of the characteristics of five generational cohorts: Seniors, Boomers, Busters, Bridgers, and Children. Specific seminar sessions will examine generational attributes and influences, space for worship (facilities), styles for worship, service structures, songs for

worship, and sermon delivery. Attention will also be given to possible resources for expanding the ability of church leaders to develop and implement strategies for multigenerational worship.

Seminar Objectives

1. Students will develop an understanding of generational cohorts and how their characteristics contribute to the complexity of worship ministry in a multigenerational context.
2. Students will discover to a greater degree how church leaders can address the worship needs of every age group in order to provide meaningful worship experiences in the corporate environment.
3. Students will be challenged to appreciate the broad range of generational diversity and worship expressions present in the Body of Christ gathered to worship.
4. Through personal interaction with individuals in every generational group, students will learn to shift perspectives by viewing worship experiences through the lens of generations different from their own.
5. Students will be challenged to find ways to build bridges between the generations through intentional worship planning.

Teaching Methodology

Through individual presentations on assigned topics, students will be encouraged to think critically about the course material. Students will be required to engage in interviews and other research methods and will report their findings to the group in formal presentations. Through additional tools of case study, lectures, and group discussion some of the course content will be addressed.

Required Textbooks

McIntosh, Gary L. *One Church Four Generations*. (Grand Rapids: Baker Books, 2002).

Hammett, Edward H. *Reaching People under 40 while Keeping People over 60: Being Church for All Generations*. (St. Louis, MO: Chalice Press, 2007).

Carroll, Jackson W. and Wade Clark Roof. *Bridging Divided Worlds: Generational Cultures in Congregations*. (San Francisco: Jossey-Bass, 2002).

Leadership Journal, Summer 2009 issue

Course Assignments: Pre-Seminar (Due at the beginning of the first seminar meeting)

- 1) **Required textbook reading.** Each student will read the required textbooks and write a reflection paper for each text. Each paper should respond to ideas presented in the book and how the ideas might be useful in the student's ministry context. Papers should be written in a formal style according to Turabian format. The length should be approximately 1500 words (for each assigned reading). Assignments should be posted in the Digital Drop Box of Blackboard (Course website).
- 2) **Generational interviews.** Each student will interview three individuals from each generational cohort (Seniors, Boomers, Busters, and Bridgers). Interview questions should seek to discover what is appreciated and what is problematic for the individual related to the following aspects of the corporate worship experience:
 - (1) Space (worship environment)
 - (2) Style (communication, musical, "feel of the service", dress, etc.)
 - (3) Service Structure (format and organization, elements)
 - (4) Songs for Worship (purpose, type of musical materials, content of musical materials)
 - (5) Sermon Delivery (communication, style, content)

Additional questions might include:

- What part of the worship service do you find meaningful and why?
- Can you tell me about a particular worship service which moved you spiritually?
- Name a song sung in worship that is the most meaningful spiritually to you. Why is it meaningful?
- What are the meaningful things that help people of your age group to worship that may be lacking in your experience of corporate worship?

A report of the interviews should include a two or three-page summary for each generational cohort (double-spaced, Times New Roman, 12 point font). Post the document in the Digital Drop Box of Blackboard.

- 3) **Church assessments for intergenerational worship.** After reading the required texts and the articles from *Leadership Journal*, each student will select three churches with which s/he is somewhat familiar. Combining several available methodologies (such as direct or video observation of a worship gathering, interviews with leaders and/or members, and other means), the student should prepare an analysis for each selected church featuring (1) Strengths of intergenerational worship (2) Weaknesses of intergenerational worship (3) Practices which might inhibit the potential for intergenerational worship which were observed, and (4) Potential opportunities for fostering intergenerational worship. This portion of the report may be bulleted-style. Following that, in narrative format, the student should conclude the paper by discussing several specific ways by which a more intentional intergenerational context might be

achieved. (How might a more effective intergenerational worship experience look in each church?) The content of this assignment should all be included in one single paper, rather than three individual papers. There is no length requirement, but the report should be long enough to address the content of the project. Post the document in the Digital Drop Box of Blackboard.

- 4) **Devotional.** Each student should prepare a 5-7 minute devotional on the topic of challenges for churches seeking to minister in an intergenerational setting. The devotional will be evaluated on scriptural and theological footing. It should provide encouragement and spiritual food for thought for leaders. Students will have the opportunity of sharing their devotional thoughts during the seminar.
- 5) **Seminary Community Bible Reading Plan.** Attached to the end of the syllabus is a daily bible reading plan which the seminary community is reading together this academic year. During the duration of this trimester, you are encouraged to join the seminary family in the daily reading of the scriptures listed in the plan from January through March of 2010.

Course Assignments: During Seminar

- 1) **Attendance and engaged participation during all seminar meetings**
- 2) **Seminar presentations.** Each student will have the opportunity to lead the seminar with the following presentations:
 - (1) Discussion of textbook chapters and/or articles from journal (assigned as team or individual (depending upon enrollment))
 - (2) Generational interviews report
 - (3) Church assessment report
 - (4) Devotional

Course Assignments: Post-Seminar

- 1) **Reflection Paper.** Details for this assignment will be provided at the time of the seminar. It is not designed to be done in advance of our seminar meetings.

Course Evaluation

Assigned reading and response papers and assigned presentation	30%
Generational interviews assignment and seminar presentation	25%
Church assessments of multigenerational worship and seminar presentation	25%

Devotional preparation and presentation	10%
Final reflection paper	10%

Directed Study

The course is available for directed study with permission of the professor. Additional assignments will be made by the professor for those students desiring to take the course under this option.

JANUARY

- 19 1 Samuel 13:23-14:52, John 5:1-23, Psalm 64:1-6, Proverbs 14:5-7
- 20 1 Samuel 15:1-16:23, John 5:24-47, Psalm 64:7-10, Proverbs 14:8-9
- 21 1 Samuel 17:1-58, John 6:1-21, Psalm 65:1-8, Proverbs 14:10-12
- 22 1 Samuel 18:1-19:24, John 6:22-40, Psalm 65:9-13, Proverbs 14:13-14
- 23 1 Samuel 20:1-21:15, John 6:41-59, Psalm 66:1-7, Proverbs 14:15-16
- 24 1 Samuel 22:1-23:29, John 6:60-7:9, Psalm 66:8-15, Proverbs 14:17-19
- 25 1 Samuel 24:1-25:44, John 7:10-30, Psalm 66:16-20, Proverbs 14:20-22
- 26 1 Samuel 26:1-28:25, John 7:31-53, Psalm 67:1-7, Proverbs 14:23-25
- 27 1 Samuel 29:1-31:13, John 8:1-20, Psalm 68:1-6, Proverbs 14:26-28
- 28 2 Samuel 1:1-2:32, John 8:21-41, Psalm 68:7-14, Proverbs 14:29-30
- 29 2 Samuel 3:1-4:12, John 8:42-9:7, Psalm 68:15-19, Proverbs 14:31-32
- 30 2 Samuel 5:1-6:23, John 9:8-27, Psalm 68:20-27, Proverbs 14:33-35
- 31 2 Samuel 7:1-9:13, John 9:28-10:6, Psalm 68:28-31, Proverbs 15:1-3

FEBRUARY

- 1 2 Samuel 10:1-11:27, John 10:7-30, Psalm 68:32-35, Proverbs 15:4-5
- 2 2 Samuel 12:1-13:39, John 10:31-11:6, Psalm 69:1-4, Proverbs 15:6-7
- 3 2 Samuel 14:1-15:37, John 11:7-20, Psalm 69:5-12, Proverbs 15:8-9
- 4 2 Samuel 16:1-17:29, John 11:21-44, Psalm 69:13-18, Proverbs 15:10-11
- 5 2 Samuel 18:1-19:23, John 11:45-12:11, Psalm 69:19-28, Proverbs 15:12-13
- 6 2 Samuel 19:24-21:22, John 12:12-33, Psalm 69:29-36, Proverbs 15:14-15
- 7 2 Samuel 22:1-23:7, John 12:34-13:11, Psalm 70:1-5, Proverbs 15:16-17
- 8 2 Samuel 23:8-24:25, John 13:12-38, Psalm 71:1-8, Proverbs 15:18-19
- 9 1 Kings 1:1-53, John 14:1-21, Psalm 71:9-16, Proverbs 15:20-21
- 10 1 Kings 2:1-46, John 14:22-15:10, Psalm 71:17-24, Proverbs 15:22-23
- 11 1 Kings 3:1-4:34, John 15:11-16:4, Psalm 72:1-7, Proverbs 15:24-25
- 12 1 Kings 5:1-6:38, John 16:5-33, Psalm 72:8-14, Proverbs 15:26-27
- 13 1 Kings 7:1-51, John 17:1-26, Psalm 72:15-20, Proverbs 15:28-29
- 14 1 Kings 8:1-66, John 18:1-23, Psalm 73:1-6, Proverbs 15:30-31
- 15 1 Kings 9:1-10:29, John 18:24-19:3, Psalm 73:7-12, Proverbs 15:32-33
- 16 1 Kings 11:1-12:11, John 19:4-24, Psalm 73:13-20, Proverbs 16:1-2
- 17 1 Kings 12:12-13:34, John 19:25-42, Psalm 73:21-28, Proverbs 16:3-4
- 18 1 Kings 14:1-15:34, John 20:1-20, Psalm 74:1-6, Proverbs 16:5-7
- 19 1 Kings 16:1-17:24, John 20:21-21:9, Psalm 74:7-11, Proverbs 16:8-10
- 20 1 Kings 18:1-46, John 21:10-25, Psalm 74:12-17, Proverbs 16:11-12
- 21 1 Kings 19:1-20:43, Acts 1:1-26, Psalm 74:18-23, Proverbs 16:13-15
- 22 1 Kings 21:1-22:23, Acts 2:1-21, Psalm 75:1-10, Proverbs 16:16-17
- 23 1 Kings 22:24- 2 Kings 1:18, Acts 2:22-47, Psalm 76:1-6, Proverbs 16:18-19
- 24 2 Kings 2:1-3:27, Acts 3:1-26, Psalm 76:7-12, Proverbs 16:20
- 25 2 Kings 4:1-5:14, Acts 4:1-22, Psalm 77:1-6, Proverbs 16:21-22
- 26 2 Kings 5:15-7:9, Acts 4:23-5:11, Psalm 77:7-12, Proverbs 16:23-24
- 27 2 Kings 7:10-9:13, Acts 5:12-32, Psalm 77:13-20, Proverbs 16:25-26
- 28 2 Kings 9:14-10:36, Acts 5:33-6:15, Psalm 78:1-8, Proverbs 16:27-28

MARCH

- 1 2 Kings 11:1-13:9, Acts 7:1-22, Psalm 78:9-16, Proverbs 16:29-30
- 2 2 Kings 13:10-15:15, Acts 7:23-43, Psalm 78:17-22, Proverbs 16:31-33

3 2 Kings 15:16-16:20, Acts 7:44-8:13, Psalm 78:23-31, Proverbs 17:1-2
4 2 Kings 17:1-41, Acts 8:14-40, Psalm 78:32-39, Proverbs 17:3-4
5 2 Kings Ki 18:1-19:19, Acts 9:1-22, Psalm 78:40-47, Proverbs 17:5-6
6 2 Kings 19:20-21:26, Acts 9:23-43, Psalm 78:48-55, Proverbs 17:7-8
7 2 Kings 22:1-23:37, Acts 10:1-23, Psalm 78:56-64, Proverbs 17:9-10
8 2 Kings 24:25:30, Acts 10:24-48, Psalm 78:65-72, Proverbs 17:11-12
9 1 Chronicles 1:1-2:2, Acts 11:1-30, Psalm 79:1-8, Proverbs 17:13-14
10 1 Chronicles 2:3-55, Acts 12:1-25, Psalm 79:9-13, Proverbs 17:15-16
11 1 Chronicles 3:1-4:43, Acts 13:1-22, Psalm 80:1-7, Proverbs 17:17
12 1 Chronicles 5:1-6:32, Acts 13:23-41, Psalm 80:8-13, Proverbs 17:18-19
13 1 Chronicles 6:33-81, Acts 13:42-14:7, Psalm 80:14-19, Proverbs 17:20-21
14 1 Chronicles 7:1-8:28, Acts 14:8-28, Psalm 81:1-7, Proverbs 17:22-23
15 1 Chronicles 8:29-9:44, Acts 15:1-21, Psalm 81:8-16, Proverbs 17:24-25
16 1 Chronicles 10:1-11:47, Acts 15:22-41, Psalm 82:1-8, Proverbs 17:26
17 1 Chronicles 12:1-13:14, Acts 16:1-24, Psalm 83:1-8, Proverbs 17:27-28
18 1 Chronicles 14:1-16:6, Acts 16:25-17:9, Psalm 83:9-18, Proverbs 18:1-3
19 1 Chronicles 16:7-17:15, Acts 17:10-34, Psalm 84:1-12, Proverbs 18:4-5
20 1 Chronicles 17:16-20:8, Acts 18:1-23, Psalm 85:1-7, Proverbs 18:6-8
21 1 Chronicles 21:1-23:13, Acts 18:24-19:20, Psalm 85:8-13, Proverbs 18:9-11
22 1 Chronicles 23:14-24:31, Acts 19:21-41, Psalm 86:1-10, Proverbs 18:12-13
23 1 Chronicles 25:1-26:32, Acts 20:1-21, Psalm 86:11-17, Proverbs 18:14-15
24 1 Chronicles 27:1-28:21, Acts 20:22-21:6, Psalm 87:1-7, Proverbs 18:16-17
25 1 Chronicles 29:1- 2 Chronicles 1:17, Acts 21:7-29, Psalm 88:1-9, Proverbs 18:18-
19
26 2 Chronicles 2:1-4:22, Acts 21:30-22:10, Psalm 88:10-18, Proverbs 18:20-21
27 2 Chronicles 5:1-6:42, Acts 22:11-30, Psalm 89:1-10, Proverbs 18:22
28 2 Chronicles 7:1-8:18, Acts 23:1-22, Psalm 89:11-18, Proverbs 18:23-24
29 2 Chronicles 9:1-10:19, Acts 23:23-24:9, Psalm 89:19-29, Proverbs 19:1-3
30 2 Chronicles 11:1-13:22, Acts 24:10-27, Psalm 89:30-37, Proverbs 19:4-5
31 2 Chronicles 14:1-16:14, Acts 25:1-22, Psalm 89:38-45, Proverbs 19:6-7

Selected Bibliography

Books

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- MacDonald, Gordon. *Who Stole My Church: What to Do When the Church You Love Tries to Enter the Twenty-First Century*. Nashville: Thomas Nelson, 2007.
- McIntosh, Gary L. *Make Room for the Boom...or Bust: 6 Church Models for Reaching Three Generations*. Grand Rapids: Fleming Revell, 1997.
- _____. *One Church Four Generations: Understanding and Reaching All Ages in Your Church*. Grand Rapids: Baker Books, 2002.
- Malefyt, Norma de Wall & Howard Vanderwell. *Designing Worship together: Models and Strategies for Worship Planning*. St. Louis, MS: Chalice Press, 2007.

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Webber, Robert (ed.) *Listening to the Beliefs of Emerging Churches: Five Perspectives*. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 2007.

Westphal, Merold (ed.) *Postmodern Philosophy and Christian Thought*. Bloomington, IN: Indiana University Press, 1999.

White, Heath. *Postmodernism 101*. Grand Rapids, MI: Brazos Press, 2006.

York, Terry W. *America's Worship Wars*. Peabody, Massachusetts: Hendrickson Publishers, 2003.

Articles

Davies, William G. "Worship and Learning: A Case for the Liturgical Classroom" in *Religious Education*, 1993 Fall, 88/4, pp. 577-584.

Hansen, Collin. "The X Factor." *Leadership Journal*, Summer 2009, 25-29.

Harkness, Allan G. "Intergenerational Corporate Worship as a Significant Educational Activity." *Christian Education Journal* 7 NS, no. 1 (Spring 2003): 5-21.

Harkness, "Intergenerational Education for an Intergenerational Church?" in *Religious Education*, 1998 Fall, 93/4, pp. 431-447.

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<http://worshipgodconference.com/worshipgod09-main-messages-available/>

Long, Jimmy. "Determine Your Ministry Age." *Leadership Journal*, Summer 2009, 39-42.

McKnight, Scot. "The Gospel for iGens." *Leadership Journal*, Summer 2009, 20-24.

Ortberg, John. "The Gap: The Fractured World of Multi-Generational Church Leadership." *Leadership Journal*, Summer 2009, 49-52.

Shelley, Marshall and Brandon O'Brien. "Is the Era of Age Segregation Over? An Interview with Kara Powell." *Leadership Journal*, Summer 2009, 43-47.

Shelley, Marshall and Skye Jethani. "The Good Fight." *Leadership Journal*, Summer 2009, 31-34.

Ward, Angie. "Let the Little Children Come." *Leadership Journal*, Summer 2009, 53-57.