Dr. Michael Sharp, PhD
Professor of Worship Studies (retired)
Phone: ((678) 756-5667
Email: michaelsharpmusic@gmail.com

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
This seminar is designed to investigate the opportunities and challenges of planning for intergenerational corporate worship in the local church. Specific attention will be given to an understanding of the characteristics of five adult generational cohorts: Seniors, Boomers, Gen-Xers, Millennials, and Gen-Z. 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 intergenerational worship.

Student Learning Outcomes
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), Gen-Xers (born 1965-1983), Millennials (born 1984-2002), and Gen-Z (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 few 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 venues 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 together in a unified manner? 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? How might worship "bridges" be constructed across the various generational divides? And lastly, how does the philosophy of intergenerational worship ministry relate to the broader ministry philosophy of a local church? These are issues which will be explored throughout the student's work in this seminar. The student learning outcomes for the course are as follows:

1. Students will develop an understanding of generational cohorts and how the characteristics of each generational group contribute to the complexity of worship ministry in an intergenerational context.
2. Students will be challenged to appreciate the broad range of generational diversity and worship expressions present in the Body of Christ gathered to worship.
3. Students will discover to a greater degree how church leaders can begin to address the worship needs of every age group in order to provide meaningful worship experiences in the corporate environment while staying true to the biblical ideals of 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 facilitate bridge-building between the generations through intentional worship planning.

Embedded Assignment
This course has no embedded assignments.

Textbooks
  Required:
      Vanderwell, Howard (ed.). *The Church of All Ages: Generations Worshiping Together.*
          Herndon, VA: The Alban Institute, 2008.
      MacDonald, Gordon. *Who Stole My Church?* Nashville: Thomas Nelson, 2007.
      Whittaker, Will. *Cultivating Intergenerational Worship: Developing Corporate Worship for
          All Ages*. Dallas, TX: gc2 Press, 2022.

   Supplementary (Optional):
      Allen, Holly Catterton (ed.). *InterGenerate: Transformng Churches through
          Intergenerational Ministry.* Abilene: Abilene Christian University Press, 2018.

      Allen, Holly Catterton and Christine Lawton Ross. *Intergenerational Christian Formation:
           Bringing the Whole Church Together in Ministry, Community and Worship.*
          Downers Grove, IL: IVP Academic, 2012.
      Deprez, Matthew Donald. *Join Generations: Becoming Unashamedly Intergenerational*.
          AtlantiCreative, 2013.
      Menconi, Peter. *The Intergenerational Church* Littleton, CO: Mt. Sage Publishing, 2008.
      Parsley, Ross. *Messy Church: A Multigenerational Mission for God's Family.* Colorado
          Springs, CO: David C. Cook, 2012.

Course 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 research and will report their findings to the seminar. Through additional tools of case study, lectures, and group discussion some of the course content will be addressed. **This seminar will be held in New Orleans, Tue, Sep 5 (1PM to 9PM), Wed, Sep 6 (8AM -8PM), and Thu, Sep 7 (8AM to noon) Central Time Zone.**

Course Requirements

Pre-Seminar (Due date: Beginning of first seminar meeting, Sep 5, 2023.)

1) **Required textbook reading and discussion questions.** Each student will read all of the required textbooks. Additionally, the student should write five discussion- questions for each of the required reading assignments: *The Church of All Ages, Who Stole My Church; and Cultivating Intergenerational Worship*. The discussion questions should be submitted in ONE SINGLE DOCUMENT and submitted to the Canvas assignment folder prior to the workshop (due: Sep 5). **Focused-discussion leaders.** Discussion of the textbooks will be based on the discussion questions provided by each seminar participant.

2) **Generational interviews**. Each student will interview three individuals from <u>each</u> of five generational cohorts (Seniors, Boomers, Gen-Xers, Millennials, Gen-Zers) concerning corporate worship perspectives and expectations. Each student will prepare a written paper and present the insights discovered from the interviews during the seminar (Due Sep 5, 2023 in assignment folder in Canvas). See below for possible interview questions which may help you discover what is appreciated and what is problematic for the various generations related to certain aspects of the corporate worship experience. Feel free to develop your own set of questions. In addition to the formal paper, your presentation to the seminar may be done in either of the following two ways:

   (1) <u>Best</u>: Video the interviews and then use video clips in the presentation to the seminar.

   OR,

   (2) <u>Good</u>: Collate the responses from the interview questions <u>by topic</u> and prepare a summary report by topic (sub-organized by generational cohort) in which the various responses to the same question are condensed.

   Possible categories of questions may include the following, but feel free to create your own categories and/or questions:

   (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?
-Does technology (specific) help you to worship or not? Why or why not?

3) **Case study of a church that embraces an intergenerational model of congregational worship**. After reading the required texts and the additional articles assigned by the professor, each student will research and prepare a case study of an evangelical church that *intentionally* embraces a philosophy and practice of intergenerational ministry throughout their church life. (Important note: In selecting the church, **make sure the approach to worship ministry is truly intergenerational from the standpoint of generations worshiping together in the same venue at the same time**.)

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 a report that highlights the following aspects:

(1) Intentional strategies that the leaders have adopted to implement both intergenerational ministry in general, and worship ministry specifically.
(2) Challenges that the church has faced (and possibly are facing at the present) in the process of intergenerational ministry.
(3) In what ways do the church leaders see intergenerational ministry (and specifically, worship ministry) as a healthy expression for their church?

(NOTE: If the church's website is used as a resource for assessing intergenerationality, please use additional resources, such as interviews with staff, etc, to gather supporting information about their intergenerational ministry). Each student will prepare a written case study report to be discussed during the seminar (Due on Sep 5 in the assignment folder in Canvas). Copies of the case study should be made available to each seminar participant at the time of the seminar. Each student will lead the seminar in a presentation of the case study. A goal of the seminar will be to identify any "best practices" for intergenerational worship ministry.

During Seminar Assignments

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) Pose questions for discussion based on the textbook reading.
    (2) Generational interviews presentation (30-40 min)
    (3) Case study of a church that intentionally embraces an intergenerational model of worship ministry. (30-40 min)

Post-Seminar Assignments (**Due date: Oct 13, 2023**.)
    Final 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.

Evaluation of Grade
The student's grade will be computed as follows:

Seminar Participation	10%
Assigned reading and leading discussion questions	20%
Generational interviews assignment and seminar presentation	20%
Case study and seminar presentation	25%
Final paper	25%

Technical Assistance
For assistance regarding technology, consult ITC (504-816-8180) or the following websites:
1. Selfserve@nobts.edu - Email for technical questions/support requests with the Selfserve.nobts.edu or My.nobts.edu site (Access to online registration, financial account, online transcript, etc.)
2. Canvas@nobts.edu - Email for technical questions/support requests with the NOBTS Canvas Learning Management System (Faculty/Students/Staff) Canvas.NOBTS.edu.
3. Bluejeanshelpdesk@nobts.edu - Email for technical questions/support requests with the Bluejeans & NOBTS Bluejeans classrooms (On and Off-Campus)
4. TelephoneHelpDesk@nobts.edu - Email for technical questions/support requests with the NOBTS On-Campus Phone system.
5. ITCSupport@nobts.edu - Email for technical questions/support requests in the Flex classrooms and for general technical questions/support requests. If you are not sure who to contact, use this email address!
6. 504.816.8180 - Call for any technical questions/support requests. (Currently available Mon-Thurs 7:00am-9:00pm & Fri 7:00-7:00pm Central Time)
7. www.NOBTS.edu/itc/ - General NOBTS technical help information is provided on this website.

Policies
All assignments should be submitted by the due date. Late work will be penalized one-half letter grade per day. Attendance at all seminar sessions is required.

Help for Writing Papers at "The Write Stuff"
NOBTS maintains a Writing Center designed to improve English writing at the graduate level. Students can receive writing guides, tips, and valuable information to help in becoming a better writer.   A copy of the approved NOBTS Style Guide can be found in the course Canvas shell, or can be located online at the Writing Center's page on the seminary website at: https://www.nobts.edu/_resources/pdf/writing/StyleGuide.pdf

Plagiarism on Written Assignments
NOBTS has a no tolerance policy for plagiarism. Plagiarism in certain cases may result in expulsion from the seminary. See the NOBTS Student Handbook for definition, penalties, and policies associated with plagiarism.

Course Schedule
The seminar will meet on **Tue Sep 5 (1PM-9PM); Wed Sep 6 (8AM to 8PM) and Thu, Sep 7 (8AM-noon)**; NOTE: All times listed are Central Time Zone.

Selected Bibliography
 Books

Allen, Holly Catterton (ed.). *InterGenerate: Transformng Churches through Intergenerational Ministry.* Abilene: Abilene Christian University Press, 2018.

Allen, Holly Catterton and Christine Lawton Ross. *Intergenerational Christian Formation: Bringing the Whole Church Together in Ministry, Community and Worship.* Downers Grove, IL: IVP Academic, 2012.

Brinson, R. Tyler. "Discovering Vocal Music Ministry Expectations among Millennials within the Corporate Worship of Tennessee Southern Baptist Churchs." DMA diss., New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary, 2017.

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

Carson, D.A. *Becoming Conversant with the Emerging Church: Understanding a Movement and Its Implications.* Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 2005.

Cooperman, Alice, Gregory Smith, and Katherine Ritchey. "America's Changing Religious Landscape: Christians Decline Sharply as Share of Population; Unaffiliated and Other Faiths Grow." Pew Research Center, May 12, 2015.

Deprez, Matthew Donald. *Join Generations: Becoming Unashamedly Intergenerational*. AtlantiCreative, 2013.

Gambone, James V. *All Are Welcome*. Minneapolis: Elder Eye Press, 1998.

Greer, Robert C. *Mapping Postmodernism: A Survey of Christian Options.* Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press, 2003.

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

Harkness, Allan G. "Intergenerationality: Biblical and Theological Foundations." *Christian Education Journal* 9, no. 1 (2012):129-32.

Henderson, David W. *Culture Shift: Communicating God's Truth to Our Changing World.* Grand Rapids: Baker Books, 1998.

Lakeland, Paul. *Postmodernity: Christian Identity in a Fragmented Age.* Minneapolis, MN: Fortress Press, 1997.

Lancaster, Lynne C. and David Stillman. *When Generations Collide.* New York: Collins Business, 2005.

Long, Jimmy. *The Leadership Jump: Building Partnerships between Existing and Emerging Christian Leaders*. Downers Grove: IVP.

Long, Thomas G. (ed.) *Beyond the Worship Wars: Building Vital and Faithful Worship.* Herndon, VA: Alban Institute, 2001.

Mabry, John R. *Faithful Generations: Effective Ministry Across Generational Lines.* New York: Morehouse Publishing, 2013.

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.

Menconi, Peter. *The Intergenerational Church* Littleton, CO: Mt. Sage Publishing, 2008.

Malefyt, Norma de Wall & Howard Vanderwell. *Designing Worship together: Models and Strategies for Worship Planning.* St. Louis, MS: Chalice Press, 2007.

Nieman, James R. and Thomas G. Rogers. *Preaching to Every Pew: Cross-Cultural Strategies.* Minneapolis, MN: Fortress Press, 2001.

Powell, Kara., Jake Mulder, and Brad Griffin. *Growing Young: Six Essential Strategies to help Young People Discover and Love Your Church.* Grand Rapids: Baker Books, 2016.

Rainer, Thom S. and Jess W. Rainer. *The Millennials.* Nashville: Broadman & Holman, 2011.

Rendle, Gil. *The Multigenerational Congregation: Meeting the Leadership Challenge.* Alban Institute, 2002.

Roberto, John. "Our Future is Intergenerational." *Christian Education Journal* 9, no, 1 (2012):105-20.

Ross, Christine. "Four Congregations that Practice Intergenerationality." *Christian Education Journal* 9, no, 1 (2012):135-47.

Sweet, Leonard (ed.), *The Church in Emerging Culture: Five Perspectives* (Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan, 2003).

Vanderwell, Howard, (ed.) *The Church of all Ages: Generations Worshipping Together*. Herndon, VA: Alban Institute, 2007.

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.

Whittaker, Will. "Exploring Characteristics of Choral Ministry within Georgia Southern Baptist Churches Committed to Intergenerational Ministry." DMA diss., New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary, 2015.

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

Wuthnow, Robert. *After the Baby Boomers: How Twenty- and Thirty-Somethings Are Shaping the Future of American Religion*. Princeton, NJ*:* Princeton University Press, 2007.

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

Articles

Boström, Ann-Kristin and Bernhard Schmidt-Hertha. "Intergenerational Relationships and Lifelong Learning." *Journal of Intergenerational Relationships* 15, no. 1 (2017): 1-3, DOI: 10.1080/15350770.2017.1260408

Chechowich, Faye. "Intergenerational Ministry: A Review of Selected Publications since 2001." *Christian Education Journal* (series 3) 9, no. 1 (Spring 2012):182-93.

Davies, William G. "Worship and Learning: A Case for the Liturgical Classroom." *Religious Education* 88, no.4 (Fall 1993):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?" *Religious Education* 93 no.4 (Fall 1998):431-447.

Kauflin, Bob. "The Future of Worship: Passing the Baton." Keynote address at Worship09 Conference, Aug 5, 2009. Downloadable audio file. 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.