Developing a Disciple Making Strategy for a Healthy Growing Church

Professional Doctoral Seminar – PMEV8305
New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary
New Orleans and Orlando
Spring Trimester, April 21-23, 2020

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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 Values and Core Value Focus

Doctrinal Integrity – Knowing that the Bible is the Word of God, we believe it, teach it, proclaim it, and submit to it. The doctrinal statements used in our evaluations are our Articles of Religious Belief and the Baptist Faith and Message Statement.

Spiritual Vitality – We are a worshiping community, with both personal spirituality and gathering together as a Seminary for the praise and adoration of God and instruction in His Word.

Mission Focus – We are not here merely to get an education or to give one. We are here to change the world by fulfilling the Great Commission and the Great Commandments through the local church and its ministries.

Characteristic Excellence – What we do, we do to the utmost of our abilities and resources as a testimony to the glory of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

Servant Leadership – We follow the model of Jesus and exert leadership and influence through the nurture and encouragement of those around us.

Annually, the President will designate a core value that will become the focus of pedagogy for the year. For 2019-2020 academic year the Core Value is Spiritual Vitality.

Course Description

This seminar is designed to address the issue of discipleship development in the contemporary church. Emphasis will be placed on identifying biblical descriptions of a disciple and strategies for making disciples. Students will discover, analyze, and develop
tools to evaluate the various stages of disciple development in their churches and produce a strategy for moving people to the next step. Students will engage in research, development testing, administering, and interpreting an assessment instrument; book reviews; strategy planning; and creative presentation.

**Student Learning Outcomes**

At the conclusion of the seminar students should be able to:
1. Identify and support a biblical definition of a disciple.
2. Catalog biblical processes for making disciples.
3. Discover and evaluate contemporary assessment instruments designed to measure congregational discipleship stages.
4. Assess the spiritual development of the congregation she/he serves.
5. Chart the course for disciple-making in his/her congregation.

**Textbooks**

NOTE: Review the list of assignments before purchasing textbooks. Not all textbooks will be required by each participant in the class. Each participant will be assigned an additional book for review and presentation during the seminar.

The following book will be used as a strategic framework during the class. Become familiar with the specific elements of the strategy process.


Each student is to read the following textbooks and to be prepared to integrate their content into seminar discussions and presentations:


And **one** of the following (Assignments for Specific Books will be made by March 13, 2020)


**Seminar Requirements**

**Before the Seminar**

1. **Definition and Strategy.** Students will read the Malphurs text and respond to selected questions from each chapter. The list of questions for each chapter will be available in Blackboard by March 13, 2020. Particular attention should be given to answering two important questions: (1) “What” is a disciple? (2) How do you make one? The report does not have to be in Turabian format but should include a header with Name, Course,
Date and Assignment. (see sample in BB) 1.5 spacing is acceptable. Answers should be complete. **Due Date:** Submit through the Assignment area in Blackboard by April 21, 2020.

2. **Talking Points.** Each Student will read and identify at least seven talking points (key ideas, observations, insights, criticisms, etc.) from each of the four core textbooks. Include a complete bibliographic entry and talking points for each book. Accompany each talking point with 3-4 explanatory sentences. Use parenthetical citations as appropriate. A cover page is not necessary; however, you must identify your work with a header including your name, assignment, date, course name. Be prepared to discuss textbooks in class. All textbooks will be discussed during the seminar. Submit through the Assignment area of Blackboard. **Due: April 21, 2020.**

3. **Book Summary:** Each student will complete a summary and critical review with application of an assigned book. Students are expected to create a four-page summary using the template supplied by the professor and available in Blackboard. Each summary should include a brief summary of the book, key ideas and principles, strengths and weaknesses of the author’s position, points of agreement and disagreement. The application portion of the summary (pages 5-6 of the template) should be related to the student’s personal ministry context and should identify at least five potential application points. Headlines and bullet points should be cited on the reverse side with adequate space for notes by class members. Each student will be expected to present his book reviews to the class. **Due Date:** Summaries are to be submitted in the assignment area and posted in the designated Discussion Board thread in Blackboard by April 21, 2020.

4. **Curriculum Review.** Each student will conduct a search of current discipleship curricula and select one for a review. The final curriculum choice should be approved by the seminar instructor(s). Please email Dr. Sherrer for approval before beginning your work (jsherrer@nobts.edu). First come, first served with curriculum selections. Review the curriculum using the following criteria: biblical integrity, objectives, content, delivery method, appeal, reproducibility (not copying but process), and leader training. The review will be submitted through Blackboard and made available to all students through the Discussion Board. Pictures can be added for emphasis and communication. Brief summaries, lists and bullet points are encouraged. Dedicate one segment to a general criticism. Each student will be expected to make a brief presentation to the class. Preparations should be made prior to the seminar as no time will be allocated. **Due Date:** In addition to submitting the curriculum review in the Assignment portion of Blackboard for evaluation, reviews are to be posted in the Discussion Board in Blackboard for access by other students by April 21, 2020. Generate a thread, introduce the review with a paragraph and attach the document.

5. **Disciple Making Assessment.** Students will conduct a survey of their congregation (entire congregation or representative sample) using the survey questions in Appendix D of Strategic DiscipleMaking. Student will write a brief report (1-2 pages single spaced) of their findings to be presented during the seminar. **Due Date:** Submit through Blackboard by April 21, 2020.
During the seminar

Note: The seminar actually begins with the receipt of the syllabus and continues through the material completed after the three-day component. The seminar does not consist only of the three-day session time component.

6. Seminar Participation: Students are expected to be active participants in all sessions of the seminar. Students are expected to contribute with meaningful dialogue during the seminar. Seminar Presentations: Each student will be expected to make two presentations (assignments 3 & 4) during the seminar.

Following the seminar

7. Application of Disciple-Making Strategies. Each student will evaluate his current church or ministry setting utilizing the ideas and principles discovered and discussed during the seminar. In this post-seminar assignment, the student will present possible strategies and implementation plans for their church or other ministry context. Evaluation will be approximately 6-7 pages, double-spaced, written according to the most current Turabian edition regarding footnotes, headings/subheadings, margins, pagination, cover page, etc. Due Date: June 12, 2020.

Evaluation

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Assignment</th>
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<tr>
<td>Assignment 1: Definition and Strategy</td>
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<td>Assignment 2: Talking Points</td>
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<td>Assignment 3: Book Summary</td>
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<td>Assignment 4: Curriculum Review</td>
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<td>Assignment 5: Disciple-Making Assessment</td>
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<td>Assignment 6: Seminar Presentations/Participation</td>
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<td>Assignment 7: Strategy Report</td>
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DIRECTED STUDY ASSIGNMENTS

In addition to all assignments in this syllabus, Students completing the course as a directed study will complete the following assignments:

1. Read and respond to each of the summaries posted in the Discussion board. (10 total). A one-page response/reaction to each summary for total of 10 pages.

2. Spiritual Development Assessment.
   a. Students will acquire and evaluate 3 instruments designed to measure the spiritual development of a congregation from the attached list, or by proposing other(s).
   b. Students will select and administrate at least two of the assessment instruments designed to measure the spiritual development of a congregation. Students will
collect data on a random sample of church members/attendees. Students may select an assessment instrument from the attached list or propose one of their own. Findings will be reported in a 2-3 page paper on each assessment tool.

c. Students should write a comparison of the two instruments and their efficacy as for use in the local church. The comparison report should be typed, double-spaced, and 2-3 pages for each instrument/process. **Due Date for Extra Directed Study Assignments: June 12, 2020.**

**Selected Bibliography**


Selected Assessment Instruments

(Cost information available at the Barna website, [www.barna.org](http://www.barna.org))

*GrowthFinder Assessment*, Church Teams Ministries
(Information available at [www.churchteams.com/GrowthFinder.asp](http://www.churchteams.com/GrowthFinder.asp) -- the assessment should be done with at least 10 people in your Church to become oriented to this process.)

(A Church Health assessment that focuses on disciple-making as the primary work of the Church)

*Spiritual Formation Inventory* ([http://www.lifeway.com/Product/spiritual-formation-inventory-P005216492#product_description](http://www.lifeway.com/Product/spiritual-formation-inventory-P005216492#product_description))

*The Christian Life Profile Assessment Tool Workbook*
(A personal spiritual health assessment process based on the 30 Core Competencies of Pantego Bible Church – Available at [www.pantego.org](http://www.pantego.org) (resources/the connection online). Students who use this approach should purchase 10 of the books/instruments and use them with 10 people in your Church to become oriented to their process. NOTE: Amazon.com has this for $9:30 per book. The **Guide** and the **Kit** are optional items that you may wish to purchase, but not necessary to administer the assessment.

"What is a Lifelong Laborer?"
Navigator Church Ministries created an assessment to help you not only understand the five key characteristics of such a *Kingdom Laborer* but the extent to which you are a "laborer in the harvest." [http://www.navigatorchurchministries.org/About/Kingdom-Laborers](http://www.navigatorchurchministries.org/About/Kingdom-Laborers)

*Christian Character Index 360.*

*The Transformational Discipleship Assessment (TDA)* provides individuals or groups with the ability to assess their current status in eight different areas of discipleship. Knowing where you are is the first step toward taking proactive steps in your discipleship.

The Transformational Discipleship Assessment (TDA) is an online assessment that can be purchased for an individual, small group, Sunday School class or even an entire church (bulk
pricing available). If purchasing for a group, change the quantity of TDA assessments to match
the number of individuals who will be taking the assessment and the price per assessment will be
calculated automatically. When you complete your purchase, there will be an "activate
membership" link that will appear on the confirmation. Click that link and it will show you your
passcode and where to go to register.

http://www.lifeway.com/Product/the-transformational-discipleship-assessment-tda-P005216492