



## **PATH8305: Contemporary Models for Church Revitalization**

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A Professional Doctoral Seminar  
New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary  
May 25-27, 2022

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*New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary and Leavell College prepare servants to walk with Christ, proclaim His truth, and fulfill His mission.*

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### **Course Description**

The purpose of this seminar is to explore contemporary models for church revitalization. Seminar participants will identify distinct characteristics of various contemporary church revitalization models giving special attention to strengths and limitations of each selected model. Seminar components will include research, dialogue, evaluation, and applications. Implications will be drawn for strategic planning for church leaders seeking to employ contemporary models of church revitalization.

### **Student Learning Outcomes**

By the completion of the course, each student will be able to:

1. Formulate essential biblical principles for church revitalization.
2. Identify various contemporary models for church revitalization.
3. Develop an understanding of strengths and limitation of existing contemporary models of church revitalization.
4. Value strategy development in church revitalization.
5. Increase and implement strategic planning skills for various church revitalization models.

## **Required Textbook**

Cheyney, Tom. *Thirty-Eight Church Revitalization Models for the Twenty-First Century*. Orlando: Renovate Publishing Group, 2014.

## **Seminar Requirements and Assignments**

### ***Before the Seminar:***

1. Each student will read *Thirty-Eight Church Revitalization Models for the Twenty-First Century* by Tom Cheyney and prepare an **Executive Summary** of the book. The Executive Summary should be comprised of a concise description of each revitalization model and a brief discussion of strengths and limitations for each model. The Executive Summary is to be 8-10 pages, single-spaced, a space between each single-spaced paragraph, and paragraph indentions. No first person allowed. Each student will employ formal style according to Turabian regarding cover page, margins etc. Instead of footnotes, quotations may be referenced with parenthetical notes (ex. Cheney 2014, 8). The assignment will be due on May 24, 2022, and is to be posted on Blackboard.
2. The professors identified the following eight major church revitalization models: internal revitalization, church mergers, restart, multi-site, incubator, mentoring networks, relocation, and multi-model. A brief description of each model will be provided to the students on Blackboard. Each student will read one of the textbooks listed below that addresses one of the aforementioned church revitalization models and compose an **Annotated Analysis**. The students should include the following components in the Annotated Analysis: (1) a three-page summary of the contents of the book, (2) a two-page assessment of strengths and limitations of the provided church revitalization model, (3) a two-page discussion of key insights and issues as they relate to the given church revitalization model.

The Annotated Analysis is to employ formal style according to Turabian regarding cover page, margins etc. Instead of footnotes, quotations may be referenced with parenthetical notes. The assignment is to be single-spaced, a space between each single-spaced paragraphs (page number only for the book being analyzed), and paragraph indentions. No first person allowed. The Annotated Analysis will be due on May 24, 2022, and is to be posted on Blackboard. Students are to email both professors their first choice, second choice, and third choice. The professors will make the assignments in the order of emails received. See the bibliography for choices.

3. The students will complete a **Research Project** involving a state convention's strategy for church revitalization. Each student will select a state convention to research from the following list: the Louisiana Baptist Convention, the Mississippi Baptist Convention, the Alabama Baptist Convention, the Tennessee Baptist Convention, the Arkansas Baptist State Convention, the Baptist General Convention of Oklahoma, the Florida Baptist Convention, the Baptist General Convention of Texas, the Southern Baptists of Texas Convention, the Baptist State Convention of North Carolina, and the Georgia Baptist

Convention. Each student will email the professors with their first and second choice. The professors will make assignments based in the order of emails received. If a student desires to research a state convention that is not on the approved list, the student is to email the professors with a request to approve his or her choice.

Each student will include the following components in his or her Research Project for the selected state convention: a detailed description of church revitalization strategy/strategies, an explanation of church revitalization models advocated by the state convention, and an evaluation of church revitalization strategy/strategies by highlighting strengths and limitations of church revitalization strategy/strategies. The Research Project is to employ formal style according to Turabian regarding cover page, margins etc. Instead of footnotes, quotations may be referenced with parenthetical notes. The assignment is to be single-spaced (at least three pages), a space between each single-spaced paragraphs, and paragraph indentions. No first person allowed. The assignment is due on May 24, 2022, and is to be posted on Blackboard.

### *During the Seminar*

**Seminar Presentations:** Each seminar participant will be involved in seminar presentations and discussions involving all three Pre-seminar assignments.

**Seminar Participation:** Seminar participants are expected to be active participants in all sessions of the seminar.

### *After the Seminar:*

Each student will prepare a **Church Revitalization Proposal** for his or her ministry context. The Church Revitalization Proposal must draw upon seminar textbooks, class discussions, and research. Specific instructions regarding the format, structure, and components of the Church Revitalization Proposal will be given by the professors prior to the end of the seminar. The assignment will be due June 24, 2022, and is to be posted on Blackboard.

### **Course Evaluation:**

Executive Summary	25%
Annotated Analysis	25%
Research Project	25%
Church Revitalization Proposal	25%

### **Technical Assistance**

For assistance regarding technology, consult ITC (504-816-8180) or the following websites:

1. [Selfserve@nobts.edu](mailto:Selfserve@nobts.edu)-Email for technical questions/support requests with the [Selfserve.nobts.edu](http://Selfserve.nobts.edu) site (Access to online registration, financial account, online transcript, etc.)
2. [BlackboardHelpDesk@nobts.edu](mailto:BlackboardHelpDesk@nobts.edu) - Email for technical questions/support requests with the NOBTS Blackboard Learning Management System [NOBTS.Blackboard.com](http://NOBTS.Blackboard.com).

3. [ITCSupport@nobts.edu](mailto:ITCSupport@nobts.edu) - Email for general technical questions/support requests.
4. [www.NOBTS.edu/itc/](http://www.NOBTS.edu/itc/) - General NOBTS technical help information is provided on this website.

### **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.

### **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.

### **Seminar Bibliography**

- Cheyney, Tom. *Church Revitalization in Rural America: Restoring Churches in America’s Heartland*. Orlando: Renovate Publishing Group, 2018.
- Clifton, Mark. *Reclaiming Glory: Revitalizing Dying Churches*. Nashville: B&H Publishing, 2016.
- Croft, Brian. *Biblical Church Revitalization: Solutions for Dying & Divided Churches*. Scotland: Christian Focus Publications, 2016.
- Davis, Andrew. *Revitalize: Biblical Keys to Helping Your Church Come Alive Again*. Grand Rapids: Baker Books,
- Henard, William. *Can These Bones Live?: A Practical Guide to Church Revitalization*. Nashville: B&H Books, 2015.
- \_\_\_\_\_. *Reclaimed Church: How Churches Grow, Decline, and Experience Revitalization*. Nashville: B&H Books, 2018.
- House, Brad, and Gregg Allison. *MultiChurch: Exploring the Future of Multisite*. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 2017.
- McIntosh, Gary, and Alan McMahan. *Being the Church in a Multi-Ethnic Community: Why it Matters and How it Works*. Indianapolis: Wesleyan Publishing House, 2012.
- McIntosh, Gary. *There’s Hope for Your Church: First Steps to Restoring Health and Growth*. Grand Rapids: Baker Books, 2012.
- Rainer, Sam. *The Church Revitalization Checklist: A Hopeful and Practical Guide for Leading Your Congregation to a Brighter Tomorrow*. Carol Stream, IL: Tyndale Momentum, 2021.

Rainer, Thom. *Anatomy of a Revived Church: Seven Findings of How Congregations Avoided Death*. Spring Hill, TN: Rainer Publishing, 2020.

Tomberlin, Jim, and Warren Bird. *Better Together: Making Church Mergers Work*. San Francisco: Jossey-Bass, 2012.