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MS 635 Renewing the Church for Mission

Jeffrey Stiggins

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Syllabus

Course: MS635 O1 (SP 2009)
Title: Renewing the Church for Mission
Hours: 3.00
Published: Yes, on 10/28/2008
Prerequisites:

IS501

Department: Christian Mission
Faculty: Dr. Jeffrey Stiggins
Photo

Email: jeffrey.stiggins@asburyseminary.edu
Office: FC
SPO:

Meetings:

During 02/09/2009 to 05/22/2009 on Thursday from 6: 15p to 9:00p in EXLEXL.

Maximum Registration: 20

Catalog Description: This course focuses on the recurring phenomenon of renewal in the church as a key aspect of a biblical and contemporary ecclesiology. It seeks an understanding of the work of the Holy Spirit in renewing the church, drawing from biblical foundations, historical models, and contemporary examples of congregational renewal and renewal movements. Application is made especially to the life of the local congregation. Fulfills the United Methodist ordination requirement in evangelism. Meets with ME770 on the Kentucky Campus.

Objectives:

MS 635 Renewing the Church for Mission

Spring, 2009

Thursdays 6: 15 PM - 9:00 PM

Dr. Jeff Stiggins

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Course description: This course focuses on the need for renewal in congregations as a key aspect of a biblical and contemporary ecclesiology. It seeks an understanding of the work of the Holy Spirit in renewing the Church, drawing from biblical foundations, historical models, and contemporary examples of congregational renewal. Practical application is made to the life of the local congregation.

Course objectives: Students will:

Identify and share a Biblical, holistic and deliberate discipling process which will inform their work in congregational renewal.

Develop a general understanding of why so many mainline congregations need transformation today.

Be able to assess a congregation's current reality and need for transformation.

Be able to assess a congregation's readiness for transformation and to suggest appropriate strategies for strengthening readiness.

Identify how they might work with congregational leadership to select and impliment an appropriate transformational process which is owned by the majority of the congregation and which might help them become missionally more faithful and fruitful.

Minimally Required Texts:

Becoming a Blessed Church: Forming a Church of Spiritual Purpose, Presence and Power. N. Graham Standish. (Herndon, Virginia: The Alban Institute, 2005).

Managing Transitions: Making the Most of Change, 2nd edition. William Bridges. (Cambridge: Perseus Books Group, 2003).

Simple Church: Returning to God's Process for Making Disciples. Thom S. Rainer & Eric Geiger (B & H Publishing Group: 2006).

Taking the Next Step: Leading Lasting Change in the Church. Lovett H. Weems. (Nashville: Abingdon Press, 2004).

Highly Recommended:

Direct Hit: Aiming Real Leaders at the Mission Field. Paul D. Borden. (Nashville: Abingdon Press, 2006).

Leading Change in the Congregation: Spiritual and Organizational Tools for Leaders. Gilbert R. Rendle. (Herndon, Virginia: The Alban Institute, 1998).

Course Requirements:**Class attendance and participation (15%)**

Students are expected to come prepared for class and to engage the topics under consideration and fellow learners through thoughtful dialogue.

Schedule of Readings:

Simple Church in preparation for February 19 class.

Managing Transitions (and if choose Leading Change in the Congregation)
in preparation for April 2 class

Becoming a Blessed Church (and if choose Direct Hit)
in preparation for April 16 class

Taking the Next Step in preparation for April 30 class

Intentional Discipling Process Paper (20%) Due by class March 5

In no more than 5 pages (12 pt., double spaced) share your Biblical and holistic model for someone becoming a mature apprentice of Jesus Christ. Imagine that you are sharing this with your congregation's core leadership for their study, consideration - and perhaps adoption as their congregation's working model.

Congregation's Current Reality Booklet (20%) Due by April 9

Students will develop a booklet designed to be shared widely within your congregation. The booklet will present the current realities of their congregation and community. It may include creatively presented statistics, graphs, charts, pictures, quotes, and other material that speak both to the heads and hearts of members. The hope is to establish "common ground" for discussions in your congregation about the needs for transformation.

Assessing Readiness for Change Paper (20%) Due by class May 7

Students will assess their congregation's readiness for change (faith, hope and love) and suggest appropriate strategies for strengthening their readiness. The paper should be no more than 8 pages (12 pt., double spaced).

Take-Home Final Exam (25%)

The final exam will be a take-home, open book essay exam. It will be evaluated according to the student's ability to integrate course learnings and to apply them to their congregation with clarity of thought and communication.

Additional Selected Congregational Transformation Resources

A New and Right Spirit: Creating an Authentic Church in a Consumer Culture. Rick Barger. (Herndon, Virginia: The Alban Institute, 2005).

Breaking the Missional Code: Your Church Can Become a Missionary in Your Community. Ed Stetzer & David Putman. (Nashville: Broadman & Holman Publishers: 2006).

Body-Building Guide to Outreach: Stretching Out to Your Community. Candace McMahan and Jan Kersher. (Loveland CO: Group Publishing, 2006).

Churches That Make a Difference. Sider, Olson & Unruh. (Grand Rapids: Baker Books, 2002).

Deep Change: Discovering the Leader Within. Robert E. Quinn. (San Francisco: Jossey-Bass, 1996).

Discerning Your Congregation's Future: A Strategic and Spiritual Approach. Roy M. Oswald and Robert E. Friedrich, Jr. (Herndon, Virginia: The Alban Institute, 1996).

Finding Our Way: Leadership For an Uncertain Time. Margaret J. Wheatley. (San Francisco: Berrett-Koehler Publishers, Inc., 2007).

Five Practices of Fruitful Congregations. Robert Schnase. (Nashville: Abingdon Press, 2007).

How to Change Your Church (Without Killing It). Allan Nelson & Gene Appel. (Nashville: Word Publishing: 2001).

I Refuse To Lead a Dying Church. Paul Nixon. (Cleveland, Ohio: Pilgrim Press, 2007).

Leading Change in the Congregation: Spiritual and Organizational Tools for Leaders. Gilbert R. Rendle. (Herndon, Virginia: The Alban Institute, 1998).

Leading Congregational Change: A Practical Guide for the Transformational Journey. Jim Herrington, Mike Bonem and James H. Furr. (San Francisco: Jossey-Bass, 2000).

Pursuing the Full Kingdom Potential of Your Congregation. George W. Bullard Jr. (St. Louis: Lake Hickory Resources, 2005).

Reclaiming the Great Commission: A Practical Model For Transforming Denominations And Congregations. Bishop Claude E. Payne and Hamilton Beazley. (San Francisco: Jossey-Bass, 2000).

Redeveloping the Congregation: A How to For Lasting Change. Mary K. Sellon, Daniel P. Smith and Gail F. Grossman. (Herndon, Virginia: The Alban Institute, 2002).

Seven Practices of Effective Ministry. Andy Stanley, Reggie Joiner and Lane Jones. (Sister, Oregon: Multnomah Publishers, 2004).

The Celtic Way of Evangelism: How Christianity Can Reach the West. . . Again. George G. Hunter III. (Nashville: Abingdon Press, 2000).

The Church of Irresistible Influence: Bridge-Building Stories to Help Reach Your Community. Robert Lewis with Bob Wilkins. (Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 2001).

The Five Practices of Fruitful Congregations. Robert Schnase (Nashville: Abingdon Press, 2007).

The Forgotten Ways: Reactivating the Missional Church. Alan Hirsch. (Braze Press: 2006).

The Externally Focused Church. Rick Rusaw and Eric Swanson. (Loveland, CO: Group Publishing, 2004).

The Heart of Change Field Guide: Tools and Tactics for Leading Change in Your Organization. Dan S. Cohen. (Boston: Harvard Business School Press, 2005).

The Present Future: Six Tough Questions for the Church. Reggie McNeal. (San Francisco: Jossey-Bass, 2003).

UnChristian: What a New Generation Really Thinks About Christianity . . . And Why it Matters. David Kinnaman and Gabe Lyons. (Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Books, 2007).

UnFreezing Moves: Following Jesus Into the Mission Field. Bill Easum. (Nashville: Abingdon Press, 2001).

Unbinding The Gospel: Real Life Evangelism. Martha Grace Reese. (St. Louis, Missouri: Chalice Press, 2006).