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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

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
jstiggins@flumc.org cell: 321-223-0557

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 implement 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).


Highly Recommended:


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


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


