CMWL-8301
REVITALIZING CORPORATE WORSHIP
Professional Doctoral Seminar

Wed., Aug 27, 2014 1:00PM-9:00 PM (CST)
Thur., Aug 28, 8:00 AM- 4:00 PM (CST)
Fri., Aug 29, 8:00 AM- 4:00 PM (CST)

Offered via CIV New Orleans, Atlanta, MidSouth
Division of Church Music Ministries
Dr. Michael Sharp, Professor of Worship Studies
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NOBTS Mission Statement
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.

Division of Church Music Mission Statement: Developing excellence in Kingdom-minded music and worship leaders.

NOBTS Core Purpose, Core Values, and Curriculum Competencies Addressed
The purpose of this course is to carry out the mission of NOBTS as is reflected through the following core values and core competencies. This year’s particular emphasis is on the core value of spiritual vitality.

Core Values
1. Spiritual Vitality and Mission Focus. The course will emphasize Spirit-led revitalization through the ministry of corporate worship. This will naturally address how the ministry of corporate worship complements the heart of God for “every nation, tribe, and tongue.”
2. Mission Focus. There is a vital connection between worship and the Great Commission as given to the Church by our Lord Jesus Christ (Matthew 18:18-20). The connection between disciple-making and corporate worship will be discussed throughout the seminar.
3. Doctrinal Integrity. The course content will emanate from Biblical teachings regarding worship and the church.
4. Characteristic Excellence. The course will promote the truth that God is worthy of our best efforts in worship.
5. Servant Leadership. The course will encourage worship planners to see their role as servant leaders of the church in promoting the discipleship of worship ministry among God’s people.

Core Competencies
1. Christian Theological Heritage. Students will be exposed to the process of revitalization in corporate worship at different points throughout the history of Christianity.
2. Disciple Making. Students will consider the importance of helping members of the congregation to grow spiritually in the process of engaging in private and corporate worship.

3. Servant Leadership. Students will reflect on their role as servant leaders, particularly as potential change agents and as corporate worship leaders.

4. Spiritual and Character Formation. Students will be challenged to examine their own understanding of worship and their personal commitment to Christ, the centerpiece of Christian worship.

5. Worship Leadership. Most obviously, students will be challenged in learning to assess and facilitate worship leadership within their local congregation in ways congruent with the particular congregation’s cultural identity.

Seminar Description
This seminar is designed to investigate the opportunities and challenges of encouraging Spirit-led worship revitalization in the context of the local church. Specific attention will be given to the processes by which leadership can encourage a deepening understanding and practice of vibrant corporate worship within a congregation. Seminar sessions will examine the role of worship in the life of a congregation and leadership principles in facilitating change. Students will also study the value of a congregation’s worship heritage and how that relates to the dual tasks of planning and leading worship experiences. Attention will be given to possible resources for engaging the congregation as a body of intentional worship participants.

Seminar Objectives
At the conclusion of this seminar, students will be able to:

1. Identify biblically-affirmed characteristics of corporate worship practice in evangelical churches as well as possible barriers to authentic worship in the local church setting.

2. Assess the dynamics of their specific congregational contexts with a goal of identifying the practical needs related to corporate worship, as well as identifying strategies for meeting those needs in their ministry contexts.

3. Reflect theologically on developing biblical responses to leadership issues that affect worship renewal in the church and appreciate the values related to authentic worship characterized as “in spirit and in truth.” (John 4:24)

4. Discuss practical strategies for the promotion of discipleship through the discipline of authentic, Christ-centered worship within the church body.

Teaching Methodology
Through assigned reading, case study and group discussion, and seminar presentations on selected topics, students will be encouraged to think critically about the seminar topic. Students will be required to engage in descriptive research (using interviews, video-recordings of services and printed documents, etc) and will report their findings to the group in individual presentations. Seminar lectures, discussion of assigned reading and integrated subject papers will provide platforms for learning and practical application of course materials to the student’s ministry context.
Required Textbooks

Optional Additional Text

Pre-Seminar Assignments
1. Please enroll in Blackboard for the course. You may do a search for the course by course number (CMWL8301) and then go through the enrollment process. You will need a password which will be emailed to you.

As a first assignment, from your personal perspective, please write a 1500 word essay entitled “Congregational Worship in Spirit and in Truth,” which is an honest reflection of the following three questions (approximately 500 words per question):
   a. What does healthy, “spirit and truth” worship of a local congregation look like?
   b. What are some barriers to healthy, “spirit and truth” worship within a local congregation (in general)?
   c. As a concluding section of your essay, respond to this: Are there areas in the worship life of your specific congregation which you feel may possibly be in need of some sort of revitalization? Describe. *(Due by the start of the seminar—submit under “My Assignments” in the folder labeled Reflection on Spirit and Truth Worship in Blackboard).*

2. Each student will read *Worship Matters* by Bob Kauflin and prepare a substantial question for discussion in the seminar for each chapter in part three (chapters 18 through 27). These questions are due at the time of the first seminar meeting and must be submitted to the appropriate assignment folder in Blackboard as the seminar begins. *(Due at the time of the seminar)*

3. Each student will read the following texts and identify various principles which the student believes could be usefully applied in his/her ministry context. These ideas should be reported in a 1000-word ministry application reflection (for each book). The student should organize the content of the paper around selected ideas and concepts presented in the texts which have potential impact for ministry in the student’s particular church context. Use Turabian guidelines for all papers. *(Due at the time of the seminar)*

4. Heritage. Each student will research and prepare a 1200-word (minimum) written overview of his/her church’s heritage as regards worship practice (describing both practice and significant influences) in the life of the congregation over time. Research may include personal interviews with long-time (or past) members of the congregation, written documents, and/or other relevant sources (please cite these sources in footnotes or endnotes). The breadth of this assignment may vary, depending upon the age of the church. The student will present this historical overview to the seminar. *(Due at the time of the seminar)*

5. Model Churches. After research and study, each student should select two evangelical churches (one with an active membership less than 250 and one with an active membership greater than 500) which, in the student’s opinion, exhibit prominent traits related to healthy *spirit and truth* worship within its fellowship. Using investigative resources (may include articles, videos, documents, personal interviews, etc.) the student is to prepare a report of 1500 words which describes the strategy/practice of these churches in discipling Christ-followers in worship. This paper will be presented to the seminar (20 min). *(Due at the time of the seminar)*

**During Seminar Assignments**

1. Each student will attend all seminar sessions.
2. Each student will be prepared to participate in all seminar discussion.
3. Each student will make the following presentations to the seminar:
   a. Insights from your essay “Congregational Worship in Spirit and in Truth” (10 min)
   b. book reflections (as time permits each student will be given the opportunity to share insights from these written assignments)
   a. Church heritage assignment report (see Pre-seminar Assignment 4) (20 min)
   b. Church models assignment (see Pre-seminar Assignment 5) (20 min)

**Post-Seminar Assignments**

1. The student will write a 1500 to 2000-word individualized action plan in regard to worship and leadership issues, as discussed in the seminar, which potentially affect “spirit and truth” worship. *This assignment should be targeted toward the student’s home church context.* The plan format will include goals, a rationale for each goal, specific objectives for each goal, and a time frame to implement each specific objective. **Due date: Sep 30, 2014.**

**Course Evaluation**

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Evaluation</th>
<th>%</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Pre-seminar paper/presentation on “Spirit and Truth”</td>
<td>10</td>
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<tr>
<td>Worship</td>
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<tr>
<td>Seminar Questions from <em>Worship Matters</em> (part 3)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Four (4) textbook ministry reflection papers</td>
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<tr>
<td>Church Heritage Paper/Presentation</td>
<td>15</td>
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<tr>
<td>Model churches: Paper/presentation</td>
<td>15</td>
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<tr>
<td>Post-seminar action plan paper</td>
<td>15</td>
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</tbody>
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Bibliography (Selected)

Theology of Worship

General and Historical Works

**Worship Renewal**


**Contemporary Worship/Culture**


**Music in Worship**


**Worship Leadership/Discipleship**


_____.* Worship on Earth as It Is in Heaven.* Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 2011.


**Intergenerational Worship**


**Visual Arts/Media**


**Change Leadership**