



# LEAVELL COLLEGE

AT NEW ORLEANS BAPTIST THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY

**Church Revitalization Strategies: LCCM 3356-30      Spring 2021 (213)**  
**Thursday, 6:00 -7:50 pm**

---

**Dr. David Raúl Lema, Jr., B.A., M.Div., Th.M., D.Min., Ph.D.**  
**Professor of Missions, South Florida Coordinator**  
**Office: 305-888-9777**  
**Cell: 305-431-4030**

[dlema@nobts.edu](mailto:dlema@nobts.edu)

---

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

---

## **COURSE DESCRIPTION**

Students will learn key principles and practices related to church revitalization. All churches require revitalization at different stages of the life cycle of a local church. Emphasis is given to the biblical basis, the motivation, the principles, and the equipping of the church body for effective revitalization. *Prerequisite: Introduction to Ministry*

## **COURSE STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES**

At the conclusion of the semester, the student will:

1. Understand the biblical principles and strategies of church revitalization.
2. Identify possible causes of plateau and decline of local churches.
3. Develop a strategy for revitalization within a local church.

## **COURSE TEXTS**

The following textbooks are required:

Henard, Bill. *Can These Bones Live: A Practical Guide to Church Revitalization*. Nashville: Broadman and Holman, 2015.

Cheyney, Tom. *The Seven Pillars of Church Revitalization and Renewal*. Orlando, FL: Renovate Publishing Group, 2016

## **COURSE REQUIREMENTS**

1. Book review (15%). Each student will read the textbook and write a book review. This will be a five page book review with biographical information of the author, a brief synopsis of the book, and a critical evaluation of the book (to include significant insights, implications, strengths and limitations).
2. Introduction to your Church (10%). Each student will write a short report (5-7 pages) on the current state of the student's local church. Do not focus on evaluating, but simply on describing. What is the cultural context of the church (ie—age, style of worship, demographics)? What kind of discipleship is currently going on in your various ministries? Do you have any key disciplemakers? What challenges and opportunities are present? **(If the student's local church is not in need of revitalization, another church must be selected in consultation with the professor).**
3. Case studies (15%). Students will be given case studies of plateaued or declining churches. Each student will evaluate the situation and present possible strategies for improvement.
4. Midterm Exam (20%).
5. Final Project (40%). Each student will develop a revitalization strategy for his/her local church, or another church approved by the professor. More information is provided in the Final Project Instructions (cf. BlackBoard).

## **GRADING SCALE**

- A: 93 - 100
- B: 85 - 92
- C: 77 – 84
- D: 70 – 76
- F: below 70

## **COURSE OUTLINE**

Week 1 Jan. 21	Introduction to Church Revitalization Read Syllabus
Week 2 Jan. 28	State of the Evangelical Church in the US

Week 3 Feb. 4	Evaluating the State of the Local Church
Week 4 Feb. 11	Understanding Community Context
Week 5 Feb. 18	The Church Life Cycle
Week 6 Feb. 25	Developing a Vision
Week 7 Mar. 4	Creating a Sense of Urgency
Week 8 Mar. 11	Leading Change, <b>Midterm Exam</b>
Week 9 Mar. 18	Spring Break: No Classes
Week 10 Mar. 25	Overcoming Growth Barriers
Week 11 April 1	Church Conflict and Revitalization
Week 12 Apr. 8	Revitalization in Rural Churches
Week 13 Apr. 15	Revitalization in Urban Churches
Week 14 Apr. 22	Revitalization via Multisite/Relocation
Week 15 Apr. 29	Revitalization through Replanting
Week 16 May 6	Final Project Presentations

## **ADDITIONAL COURSE INFORMATION**

1. Attendance Policy: Leavell College follows the attendance policy as stated in the Leavell College catalog.
2. Policy for Late Submissions: All late assignments will be penalized five points for the first day and one point per day thereafter, with no assignments being accepted more than one week past the due date.
3. Plagiarism Policy: A high standard of personal integrity is expected of all Leavell College students. Copying another person's work, submitting downloaded material without proper references, submitting material without properly citing the source, submitting the same material for credit in more than one course, and committing other such forms of dishonesty are strictly forbidden. *Although anything cited in three sources is considered public domain, we require that all sources be cited.* Any infraction may result in failing the assignment and the course. Any infraction will be reported to the Dean of Leavell College for further action.
4. Classroom and Online Decorum: Each student is expected to demonstrate appropriate Christian behavior. The student is expected to interact with other students in a fashion that will promote learning and respect for the opinions of the others in the course. A spirit of Christian charity is expected at all times. Electronic devices should be used only for classroom purposes as indicated by the professor.
5. Special Needs: If you need accommodations for a disability, please set up a meeting with the professor for consideration of any modifications you may need.
6. Emergency Plan: In the event the NOBTS schedule is impacted due to a natural event, go to the seminary's website for pertinent information. Class will continue as scheduled through the Blackboard site. Please note announcements and assignments on the course's Blackboard site.
7. Technical Assistance: For general NOBTS technical help, go to [www.NOBTS.edu/itc/](http://www.NOBTS.edu/itc/)

## **SELECTED BIBLIOGRAPHY**

Ahlen, J. Timothy, and J. V. Thomas. *One Church, Many Congregations: The Key Church Strategy*. Nashville: Abingdon Press, 1999.

Anderson, Leith. *A Church for the 21st Century*. Minneapolis: Bethany House Publishers, 1992.

- Arn, Charles. *How to Start a New Service*. Grand Rapids: Baker Books, 1997.
- Bast, Robert L. *Attracting New Members*. Monrovia: Church Growth, Inc., 1988.
- Cordeiro, Wayne. *Doing Church as a Team*. Ventura: Regal Books, 2001.
- Crandall, Ron. *Turn Around Strategies for the Small Church*. Nashville: Abingdon, 1995.
- Getz, Gene A. *Sharpening the Focus of the Church*. Rev. ed. Wheaton: Victor Books, 1984.
- Guder, Darrell L., ed. *Missional Church: A Vision for the Sending of the Church in North America*. Grand Rapids: Wm. B. Eerdmans Publishing Co., 1998.
- Hammett, Edward H., with James R. Pierce. *Reaching People Under 40 While Keeping People Over 60: Being Church for All Generations*. St. Louis: Chalice, 2007.
- Henard, Bill. *Can These Bones Live: A Practical Guide to Church Revitalization*. Nashville, TN: B&H Books, 2015.
- Macchia, Stephen A. *Becoming a Healthy Church: 10 Characteristics*. Grand Rapids: Baker Books, 1999.
- Mims, Gene. *Kingdom Principles for Church Growth*. Nashville: Convention Press, 1994.
- Southerland, Dan. *Transitioning: Leading Your Church through Change*. Grand Rapids: Zondervan Publishing House, 2000.
- Williams, Gene. *In the Shadow of the Steeple: The Vital Role of the Smaller Church in a Megachurch World*. Kansas City: Beacon Hill Press, 2005.