

LIBERTY THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY
COURSE SYLLABUS
EVAN 660 / 950
Healthy Church Leadership
January 2010

Dr. David Earley
Phone #434-592-4161
E-Mail address: dbearley@liberty.edu
Office: CN 2500AI

Ryan Jones
Phone #434-592-4209
rpjones3@liberty.edu

1. COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course is designed to show the student the skills needed for providing leadership in a healthy, growing, multiplying 21st century church. In addition to foundational pastoral leadership skills, emphasis will be placed on church health/growth, church planting, church multiplication, and postmodern ministry factors.

2. RATIONALE

Christ loved the church and gave Himself for her. Nothing is as beautiful or effective as a local church that is full of life, health, and vitality. God's plan for creating healthy churches involves God-called pastoral leaders who equip the saints to do the ministry. This course will provide the student with the understanding of the nature of healthy, growing, multiplying churches. It will also provide them with the needed mindset and skills to help a church realize health, growth, and multiplication.

3. LEARNING OUTCOMES

Upon completion of the course the student will:

COURSE OBJECTIVES

Upon completion of the course the student will:

- A. Assess his or herself as a spiritual leader (through using the concepts and Scriptures given by Earley, *Small Group Leaders Toolkit*).
- B. Assess the health of a church (through using the questions for further reflection and renewal given by Maachia in *Becoming a Healthy Church*).

- C. Assess a church's readiness to rebound from decline or mediocrity to greatness (by using Ed Stetzer and Mike Dodson, *Comeback Churches*).
- D. Be able to lead a church to engage postmodern America culture more effectively by using Earley lectures.
- E. Develop a practical plan to that best fits personal needs in areas of either personal development, church health, church growth, church change, church multiplication, or ministry to a specific generation.

4. UNITS OF STUDY

Tentative plan...

LEADERSHIP day one and two

1. Introduction
2. Prayer
3. Personal Integrity
4. Passion
5. Purpose
6. Priorities
7. Planning
8. Personal Growth
9. People Skills
10. Persuasion
11. People Development
12. Partnership

HEALTHY CHURCH day three

1. Biblical Practical Doctrine of a Healthy Church
2. Biblical Portraits of a Healthy Church
3. Healthy Church Sample Lists
4. Biblical DNA of a Healthy Church Acts 2, Acts 11
5. The Purpose Driven Church
6. God's Blueprint for Church Health and Growth
7. Design Your Model
8. Vital Signs of Church Health and Growth

CHURCH GROWTH day four

1. Church Growth Barriers
2. Costs of Church Growth

CHURCH CHANGE day four

1. Reasons Why Change is Resisted, Creating a Climate of Change, Six Tests of a Change
2. Change Your Church For Good
3. Before You Change

CHURCH MULTIPLICATION day five

1. The Need for Church Multiplication
2. Practical Steps of Church Multiplication
3. Considerations for Church Multiplying

MISSIONAL MINISTRY ACROSS THE GENERATIONS day five

1. Ministry Across the Generations
2. Ministry to Millennials

5. TEXTBOOKS

These three:

- Dave Earley, *Small Group Leaders Toolkit*, Houston, TX: Touch Publications, 2008. ISBN 978-09788779-7-2
- Stephen Macchia, *Becoming a Healthy Church*, Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Books, 1999. ISBN: 0-8010-1177-9
- Ed Stetzer and Mike Dodson, *Comeback Churches*, B&H Books, 2007. ISBN 978-0-8054-4536-7

AND Any One of the Recommended Texts:

- George Barna, *Turn Around Churches*, Regal, 1997. ISBN: 9780830716579
- Henry and Richard Blackaby, *Spiritual Leadership*, B&H Books, 2001. ISBN: 0-8054-1845-8
- *Eight Habits of Effective Small Group Leaders*, Dave Earley, Cell Group Resources, 2001. ISBN: 1880828340
- *The Pocket Guide to Leading Small Groups: 52 ways to help you're your small group grow*, Dave Earley and Rod Dempsey, Touch Publications, 2007. ISBN: 0-9788779-2-6
- *Prayer: The Timeless Secret of High Impact Leaders*, Dave Earley, AMG, 2008. ISBN: 10: 0899570321
- *Turning Members into Leaders*, Dave Earley, Cell Group Resources, 2001. ISBN: 1880828499
- John C. Maxwell, *The 21 Irrefutable Laws of Leadership*, Nelson, 1998. ISBN: 0785274316
- *An Unstoppable Force: Daring to Become the Church God Had in Mind*, Erwin Raphael McManus, Group Publishing, 2001. ISBN: 0764423061
- Brad Powell, *Change your Church for Good*, Nelson, 2007, ISBN -10:0-8499-1875-8
- Thom Rainer, *Breakout Churches*, Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan, 2005. ISBN 10:0-310-25745-X
- Thom Rainer, and Eric Geiger, *Simple Church*, Nashville, TN: B&H Publishing Group, 2006. ISBN: 978-0-8054-4390-
- Bob Roberts, *The Multiplying Church*, Grand Rapids, Zondervan 2008, ISBN-10: 0310277167 or ISBN-13: 978-0310277163
- Peter Scarazzero, *The Emotionally Healthy Church*, Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan, 2003. ISBN ISBN-10: 0310246547 & ISBN-13: 978-0310246541

- Andy Stanley, *The Next Generation Leader*, Multnomah, 2006. ISBN: 1590525396
- Andy Stanley, *Seven Practices of the Effective Ministry*, Multnomah, 2004. ISBN: 1590523733
- Christian Swartz, *Natural Church Development*, Inter Ctr for Leadership Dev& Evangelism, 1996. ISBN: 0968409709
- Rick Warren *The Purpose Driven Church*, Zondervan, 1995. ISBN: 0310201063

6. METHODS OF ASSESSMENT

Reading Reflection Reports (4+ pages masters / 6+ pages doctors)

Four Reading Reflection Reports x 15%= **60%**

The student will read four books and submit a well-written paper on each book. In the first third of each paper, please summarize the book. In the second third of the paper, please critique and evaluate the book. In the final section apply the book to yourself and/or situation.

Reading Report #1 (Dave Earley, *Small Group Leaders Toolkit*) **is due the first day of class (January 11, 2010)**

Reading Report #2 (Stephen Macchia, *Becoming a Healthy Church*) **is due January 24, 2010.**

All Other Reading Reflection Reports are due on February 23, 2010. Late work will be penalized one letter grade for each week late. Work that is more than three weeks late will not be accepted and will receive a failing grade, unless permission is received ahead of time.

Class Project (10+ pages minimum for masters / 20+ pages doctors) **40%**

The student will submit a 15-25 page project that applies this course to their present or future ministry situation. The project will include an appropriate rationale for the project, specific and realistic goals to be accomplished, person responsible to accomplishing each goal, materials and resources needed for the accomplishment of each goal, and a timeline for when each goal is to be accomplished. The final aspect of the project will include how you will determine when/if the project was successfully completed.

Select a project that best fits your life situation or goals. Possible samples:

How I Intend to Improve as a Church Leader

A Ministry Plan for Turning around Bible Baptist Church

A Ministry Plan for Leading Faith Chapel into Greater Church Health

A Ministry Plan for Leading Northridge Church to Become a 21 Century Church Multiplication Center

A Ministry Plan for the Successful Launch of Journey Church

Reaching Postmoderns More Effectively through the Student Ministry of First Baptist church

The project for the Doctoral level is to be not less than twenty pages in length.

The project for the Masters level student should be not less than ten pages in length.

The class project is due two months after the class sessions (March 15, 2010). Late work will be penalized one letter grade for each week late. Work that is more than 3 weeks late will not be accepted and will receive a failing grade.

7. GUIDELINES and approximate percentages of grade

In General:

- Written work will only be received in English in Microsoft Word format.
- Written work may be submitted online using Blackboard.
- Late work will be penalized one letter grade for each class day late. Work that is more than 3 class days late will not be accepted and will receive a failing grade.
- Any paper determined to contain plagiarism will automatically receive a failing grade. Please refer to the LTS / LU policy for plagiarism.

In Specific:

- On a cover sheet include your full name, last name first, student ID, course designation (PATH 520), Date, Title. The cover sheet does not count in your page total 10%
- Papers should be of the proper length as given in the syllabus for each assignment. 10%
- Papers should be 12 point font, New Times Roman, double spaced, with margins of .7 top, 1 inch bottom, 1.25 left and 1.25 right. 10%
- Have a clear introduction, body and conclusion. 10%
- Paragraphs should flow in a logical order. 10%
- Carefully proof read your paper for grammar, spelling, and typographical errors before handing it in. 10%
- Edit and revise your work. Learn to become a clear and effective communicator now. 10%
- I am interested in seeing you use information from the lectures and readings. Quotes should be referenced. 10%
- Accurate response to the prompt(s) given in the syllabus. 15%
- When appropriate, I am pleased when you bring in insights from other books you have read, websites you have visited, etc. 5%

9. GRADING SCALE

NO Final Grade will be bumped up even if the student is 0.01 away from the next letter grade!!

A = 93 – 100

B = 85 – 92

C = 77 – 84

D = 70 – 76

F = Below 70

Extra credit of up to five points is available for an extra reading report. This report must be handed in within three weeks of the posting of the final grade.

11. DRESS CODE

Students must adhere to the dress code specified in The Liberty Way.

12. ACADEMIC HONESTY

Cheating and/or academic dishonesty will be dealt with according to University policy.

13. LAPTOP COMPUTER USAGE

Laptop computer usage during class time is a privilege extended by the professor only after a student has presented a compelling argument to do so. Once given, it may be revoked at any time.

14. INSTRUCTIONS FOR EMAIL

I welcome students to email me with any questions/comments regarding EVAN 660/950. The following process would greatly assist me in returning your email in a timely fashion:

1. On the Subject Line, simply type: EVAN 950 / EVAN 660- (your full name)
2. At the beginning of the email message, in one sentence, state the reason you are writing.
3. Please do not be offended if I respond to your email with a simple, concise response.
4. This email address should not be placed on regularly scheduled email lists.

15. ABOUT YOUR INSTRUCTOR

Dr. Dave Earley is the founding senior pastor of New Life Church outside Columbus Ohio. New Life was started in Dave's basement with twelve people and now has 2,000 active participants. New Life is cutting edge, mission driven, contemporary, nationally recognized leader in church health, worship, and small groups. New Life has intentionally started six other strong churches in Central Ohio since 1999. It is in the process of planting 20 strong churches by 2020.

Dave has written several books, including "Prayer Odyssey," "Living in His Presence," "The 21 Most Effective Prayers of the Bible," "The 21 Most Encouraging Promises in the Bible," "The 21 Most Amazing Truths about Heaven," "The 21 Reasons Bad Things Happen to Good People" and "The 21 Most Dangerous Questions in the Bible." His book "Eight Habits of Effective Small Group Leaders" is used by leaders around the world. He has also written "Turning Members into Leaders" and "The Pocket guide to Leading Small Groups" "Prayer: The Timeless

Secret of High Impact Leadership" was released in the spring of 2008.
www.daveearley.com

Dave and his wife, Cathy, have three sons, Daniel, Andrew, and Luke. All are students at LU. They all enjoy hiking, biking, and art. Dave speaks around the country on the subjects of prayer, spiritual warfare, leadership, small groups, church health and multiplication.

Dave and Cathy are graduates of LU. Dave also received his M.Div. and both doctorates at Liberty Theological Seminary. Dave served as the campus pastor for Liberty in 1983-1985. Dr. Earley rejoined the Liberty Family July 1st, 2006.