

**Note:**

**Course content may be changed, term to term, without notice. The information below is provided as a guide for course selection and is not binding in any form, and should not be used to purchase course materials.**

## ***COURSE SYLLABUS***

---

### **EVCP 810**

### **SPIRITUAL FACTORS OF GROWING CHURCHES**

#### **COURSE DESCRIPTION**

Growth and growing churches are the products of health, and the degree of growth is related to the vitality of that health directly. Unhealthy churches cannot sustain growth; therefore, health is imperative for growth and continued growth in a church. In this course students will examine the connection between being a disciple and making disciples through developing leaders in a healthy environment, and teach the church leader how to preach and plan sermons with an eye toward church growth. Students will also examine how Christian leaders can use innovative and methodical processes to develop shared vision, communicate it to internal and external customers, and translate it through the strategic planning processes into operative and effective action through analysis of the latest theories of vision and strategic planning in organizations.

#### **RATIONALE**

This course will provide students a framework for contextualizing biblical growth and understand their role in facilitating growth as a leader.

#### **I. PREREQUISITE**

For information regarding prerequisites for this course, please refer to the [Academic Course Catalog](#).

#### **II. REQUIRED RESOURCE PURCHASE**

Click on the following link to view the required resource(s) for the term in which you are registered: <http://bookstore.mbsdirect.net/liberty.htm>

#### **III. RECOMMENDED RESOURCE**

Turabian, Kate L. *A Manual for Writers of Research Papers, Theses, and Dissertations*.  
Current ed. Chicago: The University of Chicago Press.

#### **IV. ADDITIONAL MATERIALS FOR LEARNING**

- A. Computer with basic audio/video output equipment
- B. Internet access (broadband recommended)
- C. Microsoft Word

#### **V. MEASURABLE LEARNING OUTCOMES**

Upon successful completion of this course, the student will be able to:

- A. Recognize the biblical structures and philosophies that create a climate for growth in local churches.
- B. Identify specific factors related to growth and their contribution to the overall growth process of a local church ministry.
- C. Create a model for leadership development applicable to a local church ministry.
- D. Assess the strengths and weaknesses of a church ministry with which to develop a plan leading to ministry growth.
- E. Develop strategies for missional focus and involvement leading to growth and effective ministry in the local church.

## VI. COURSE REQUIREMENTS AND ASSIGNMENTS

- A. Textbook readings and lecture presentations/notes
- B. Course Requirements Checklist  
After reading the Course Syllabus and [Student Expectations](#), the student will complete the related checklist found in Module/Week 1.
- C. Journal Entry: The student is required to submit journal entries based on three separate designated prompts. Journal prompts are provided in weeks 1 and 8.
- D. Strategic Documents: The student is required to create and submit two different strategic documents. Each document will focus on an essential aspect of church ministry. While creativity is allowed for the development of each document, each one must contain the specific components provide in the document instructions.
- E. Discussion Board Forum: The student is required to provide a thread in response to the provided prompt. The thread must be 200-600 words in length and demonstrate course-related knowledge. In addition to the thread, the student is required to reply to 2 other classmates' threads. Each reply must be at least 200 words in length.
- F. Annotated Bibliography: The student is required to submit an annotated bibliography in preparation for the "Spiritual Factors Major Paper." This bibliography will begin with an introductory paragraph of at least 75 words explaining the intended focus of the paper. This introductory paragraph should include an anticipated thesis statement. This thesis may change for the final paper, but for now, provide an anticipated thesis statement. Following that paragraph, provide a bibliography of at least 20 related works. This bibliography sketch must contain at least 5 books and 5 articles related directly to the anticipated thesis. It may contain no more than 5 websites. Any website referenced must have a direct, unique, and relevant bearing on the proposed paper. Each source should contain a 1-3 sentence summary explaining the general content of this source. In other words, what is this source about and what potential contribution could it make to the paper?
- G. Church Growth Plan: The student will create a church growth plan. This plan will contain four parts: assessing the role of preaching with at least 100 words,

designing a numeric growth chart that tracks church-wide attendance for one year, creating a spiritual maturity questionnaire of at least 20 questions, and then finally constructing a church growth plan of at least 400 words.

- H. **Spiritual Factors Major Paper:** The student will write a 4500-5400 word research-based paper in current Turabian format that focuses on the spiritual factors of church growth. The paper must include at least 20 references in addition to the course textbooks and the Bible.
- I. **Reading Quiz:** The student will take a quiz based on the reading. These quizzes will require an assessment of the percentage of reading completed as well as a summary of the content and other components pertinent to that week’s reading assignment.

**VII. COURSE GRADING AND POLICIES**

A. Points

Course Requirements Checklist	10
Discussion Board Forum	100
Journals (3 at 25 pts ea)	75
Strategic Documents (2 at 100 pts ea)	200
Annotated Bibliography	75
Church Growth Plan	150
Spiritual Factors Major Paper	200
Reading Quizzes (8 at 25 pts ea)	200
<b>Total</b>	<b>1010</b>

B. Scale

A = 940–1010    A- = 920–939    B+ = 900–919    B = 860–899    B- = 840–859  
 C+ = 820–839    C = 780–819    C- = 760–779    D+ = 740–759    D = 700–739  
 D- = 680–699    F = 0–679

C. Style Guidelines

All assignments for this course are to be formatted in accordance with the [Liberty University School of Divinity Writing Guide](#) and the latest edition of the Turabian style manual (A Manual for Writers of Research Papers, Theses, and Dissertations). Discussion assignments and essay examinations may use the parenthetical citation style. All other written assignments should use the footnote citation style. Supplemental writing aids are available via the Online Writing Center.

D. Extra Credit

No additional “for credit” assignments will be permitted beyond those given in the course requirements stated above.

E. Course Changes

Course requirements are subject to change by the administration of the University at any time with appropriate notice.

F. Disability Assistance

Students with a documented disability may contact Liberty University Online's Office of Disability Academic Support (ODAS) at [LUOODAS@liberty.edu](mailto:LUOODAS@liberty.edu) to make arrangements for academic accommodations. Further information can be found at [www.liberty.edu/disabilitysupport](http://www.liberty.edu/disabilitysupport).

***COURSE SCHEDULE***

**EVCP 810**

Textbooks:

Bradberry, Travis and Jean Greaves. *Emotional Intelligence 2*. 2009.

Keller, Timothy. *Center Church: Doing Balanced, Gospel-Centered Ministry in Your City*. 2012.

Malphurs, Aubrey, and Gordon E. Penfold. *Re:Vision: The Key to Transforming Your Church*. 2014.

Mcintosh, Gary L. *Biblical Church Growth: How You Can Work with God to Build a Faithful Church*. 2003.

Stanley, Andy. *Visioneering: You Guide for Discovering and Maintaining Personal Vision*. 2005.

<b>MODULE/ WEEK</b>	<b>READING &amp; STUDY</b>	<b>ASSIGNMENTS</b>	<b>POINTS</b>
<b>1</b>	Keller (entire book) Malphurs and Penfold (entire book) 1 Video	Course Requirements Checklist Class Introductions Journal 1 Journal 2 Reading Quiz 1 Reading Quiz 2	10 0 25 25 25 25
<b>2</b>	1 Timothy Acts 1-9 2 Videos	Strategic Document 1 Reading Quiz 3	100 25
<b>3</b>	Mcintosh (entire book) 2 Videos	DB 1 Reading Quiz 4	50 25
<b>4</b>	Titus Acts 10-19 1 Video	DB 1 Reply Reading Quiz 5	50 25
<b>5</b>	Stanley (entire book) 1 Video	Annotated Bibliography Reading Quiz 6	75 25
<b>6</b>	Ephesians Acts 20-28 1 Video	Church Growth Plan Reading Quiz 7	150 25
<b>7</b>	1 video	Spiritual Factors Major Paper	200

<b>8</b>	Bradberry and Greaves Chs. 1-2 (scan the rest) 2 Videos	Journal 3	25
		Strategic Document 2	100
		Reading Quiz 8	25
<b>TOTAL</b>			<b>1010</b>

DB = Discussion Board

**NOTE:** Each course module/week begins on Monday morning at 12:00 a.m. (ET) and ends on Sunday night at 11:59 p.m. (ET). The final module/week ends at 11:59 p.m. (ET) on **Friday**.