

PRINCIPLES AND PRACTICES FOR CHURCH HEALTH AND REVITALIZATION COURSE SYLLABUS

COURSE DESCRIPTION

A study of the challenges confronting plateaued and declining churches and strategic steps toward pursuing church health and revitalization. Focus will be given to the needs of smaller congregations (attendance < 200). Practical concerns such as organizational life cycles, Biblical approaches to local church ministry, cultural shifts and their impact on church ministries and methodologies, assessment, change leadership, and rising ministry models will be addressed.

NOTE: This course requires involvement as a volunteer within a local church under the supervision of a ministry leader.

COURSE OBJECTIVES

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

1. Describe both the societal and organizational factors that have led thousands of local churches toward decline.
2. Articulate a biblical model for local church leadership.
3. Identify the core elements of local church ministry, discuss modern changes in those elements, and define necessary steps toward greater effectiveness in the expressions of those elements.
4. Formulate a strategic plan for elevating church health or pursuing church revitalization.
5. Engage a transformational process for the local church and show proficiency with each of its steps.
6. Define a change journey and demonstrate its stages.
7. Identify and explain current tools for assessing local church effectiveness.
8. Explain various contemporary approaches to congregational revitalization.