THEO 594 - Pastoral Theology in the 21st Century

Teacher	Dr. C. Simpson		
Semester	Fall	Duration	8 Weeks
Frequency	Every three years		
Credits	5 ECTS	Workload	150 Hours
Module format	Intensive		
Applicability	In Europe and North America a different set of challenges are facing pastors and denominations. In many lands, church attendance is declining and Sunday has become a day for leisure activities. This course seeks to explore various responses to these challenges e.g. new forms of church, postmodern ethics and morality and biblical illiteracy.		
Course structure	See module and courses		
Contact time	40 Hours	Self-Study	110 Hours
Participation requirement	See access to the program		

Evaluation

Evaluation	Hours	Weight
Phase 1	50	25%
Reading - Two Texts and Question & Answer Log	50	25%
Phase 2	40	25%
Participation and interaction with invited guests	40	25%
Phase 3	60	50%
Research Paper	60	50%
Total	**150**	**100%**

Content of the Module

This course will consider the specific challenges facing the Church in the 21st Century, particularly in Western Europe and the USA. In particular the serious decline in attendance and membership of many denominations. The cultural and sociological changes which may have produced this and how the churches have been responding, sometimes in some unusual ways e.g. the emerging churches or ‘Fresh Expressions’. Further challenges have arisen in the areas of ethics and morality, biblical illiteracy and departures from orthodox beliefs. In each case pastors are on the front line and are having to respond to new situations without the necessary support of an appropriate pastoral theology.

Learning Objectives	A. General This course seeks to: • assess the overall impact of a reduction in church attendance • describe the theological trends that are emerging from an increasingly unchurched populace • investigate the social and cultural reasons for a decline in church going • demonstrate the variety of responses to the current situation • suggest future implications for ethics and morality in Pastoral Theology • compare and contrast various proposed methods of reversing the decline in church attendance • analyze the cause of biblical illiteracy and consequent unorthodox doctrines B. Specific As a result of the study and activities of this course, the student should be able to: • explain how the decline in church attendance and the causes of this affect Pastoral Theology, its thinking and practice • identify the sociological and cultural changes which have impacted traditional church patterns • compare and contrast various models of emerging churches and "Fresh Expressions" • analyze potential challenges for future change in the Pentecostal and Charismatic churches • appraise the influence of IT on current church going • provide a theological reflection on the role of the Pastor in an changing world • write an article suitable for publication in a Pentecostal or Charismatic magazine, which highlights the challenges of church going in the 21st century and what other denominations are doing about this
Outline	• The Challenge of Postmodernism on Pastoral Theology • The decline of church attendance in Western Europe and the USA • A Post-Christian reality? • Emerging churches • Fresh expressions • Missional church • New monasticism • Biblical illiteracy • Orthodox, unorthodox doctrines and heresy • Pastoral ethics and morality • Communication - use of IT and computer technology • Commitment - a 21st Century problem • Future trends
Examination	See Evaluation

Reading List:

Anglican- Methodist Working Party. *Fresh Expression in the Mission of the Church*,
London, UK: Church House Publishing, 2012.

Bowen, John. *What is a fresh expression of Church? A Beginner's Guide to a Movement that is Changing the Church*. Toronto, CN: Wycliffe College, 2015.

Church of England Working Party, *Mission Shaped Church – Church planting and Fresh*
Expressions of Church in a Changing Context,. London, UK: Church House Publishing, 2004.

Cross, Terry. *A People for God's Presence – An Introduction to Ecclesiology*. Grand
Rapids, MI: Baker Academic, 2019.

Francis, L.J., J. Clymo and M. Robbins. 'Fresh Expressions: Reaching Those Psychological types Conventional Forms of Church Find it Hard to Reach'.
Practical Theology. Vol.7, No. 4,.pp. 252-267, 2014.

Goodhew, David, Andrew Roberts, Michael Volland. *Fresh – An Introduction to Fresh*
Expressions of Church and Pioneer Ministry. London, UK: SCM, 2012.

Lewis, Brad and Carl Simmons eds. *Pastoral Ministry in the 21st Century – the*
Encyclopedia of Practical Ideas. Loveland, CO: Group, 2006.

Malphurs, Aubrey. *A New Kind of Church - Understanding Models of Ministry for the 21st*
Century. Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Books, 2007.

Mobsby, Ian J. *Emerging and Fresh Expressions of Church – How are they Authentically Church and Anglican?* London, UK: Moot Community Publishing,
2007

Moynagh, Michael. *Being Church, Doing Life*. Oxford, UK and Grand Rapids, MI:
Monarch 2014.

_____. *Church for Every Context – An Introduction to Theology and Practice*. London, UK: SCM, 2012.

_____. *Fresh Expressions of Church*. Gießen, DE: Brunnen Verlag, 2016

Müller, Sabrina. *Fresh Expressions of Church*. Zurich, CH: Theologischer Verlag, 2016.

Nell, Ian A. and Rudolf Grobler. 'An Exploration of Fresh Expressions as Missional
Church: Some Practical theological Perspectives.' *Stellenbosch Theological Journal*.,Volume 55, Numbers 3-4, 1 September 2014, pp. 747-762(22).

Nelstrop, Louise and Martyn Percy eds. Evaluating Fresh Expressions: Explorations in
Emerging Church. Norwich, UK: Canterbury Press, 2008.

Percy, Martyn. '"Fresh Expressions – A Journey into Implicit Theology"'*. Implicit*
Religion. Vol. 12, Issue 3, pp. 313-332, November 2009.

Village, Andrew. 'Who Goes There? Attendance at Fresh Expressions of Church in
Relation to Psychological Type Preferences among Readers of the Church Times'. *Practical Theology, 2015.*

Walker, John. *Testing Fresh Expressions - Identity and Transformation*. Abingdon, UK:
Routledge, 2016.

X EXTENDED SUBJECT SPECIFIC BIBLIOGRAPHY

Other information