

6PT512 Leadership (2 credits)

I. Purpose of the Course

The purpose of this course is

- to clarify the Biblical calling and job description of a pastor in the light of contemporary cultural, church, and Kingdom developments
- to glean principles of spiritual leadership from Nehemiah
- to help you in leading your home, gaining and imparting vision to your church, establishing workable structures for fulfilling the Great Commission in your church and community, training and working with your elders as a team, setting priorities and managing your time.

Great effort will be made in class discussion to apply these principles in very practical ways to your particular situation.

II. Course Format

Read the books before the first class.

The class will meet from 9am to 5pm (with an hour and a half break for lunch) on three successive days.

See course schedule below.

III. Pre-Course Assignment

Welcome to the Leadership course for this year! Three days of living in one room where we will get to know one another and wrestle with how to function as leaders in the ministries God has called us to. Since I am a pastor of a local church, I wrestle with the same problems as most of you. So though I surely do not have all the answers (that's **not** why they keep asking me to teach this!), hopefully you will find this course very practical. In order to get the most out of the course, I ask you to do lots of reading, all before we start. Then we can concentrate on interacting on the ideas: mornings, afternoons, and dinners (if you want). Hey, I want you to get your money's worth!

So I ask you to read 4 books (you'll love them) and write 6 papers (they're not hard):

- I. **J. Oswald Sanders, Spiritual Leadership** (Moody, 1967, 1980, 1994).
(Though this is an old book, I assign it as the main text because each class seems to get more out of it than the other more contemporary and idea filled books, including *Purpose Driven Church*. See what you think of this proven classic.)
 1. What most challenged you in this book?
 2. Evaluate his description of a spiritual leader. Balanced? Any improvements?
 3. What 2-3 differences do you plan to make in your life & ministry as a result of reading this?Total # pages: 2-3.

II. **Richard Lovelace, Dynamics of Spiritual Life: an Evangelical Theology of Renewal** (IVP, 1979).

(I wish Lovelace would update this book for the new millennium, but it is still the best thing I've seen on the subject of renewal in the Church of Christ. Every class raves about it. Tim Keller [Redeemer PCA, Manhattan] once said it was the best thing he had read outside the Bible.)

Write out: 1. Evaluate his view of church renewal.

2. What difference will this book make on your ministry?

3. What are 3 or 4 ideas from it that you could implement as a leader to bring about renewal in your church and area?

Total # pages: 2.

III. Choice of **one** of these two books (if you want to read both, choose B for this book and A under the elective book you choose):

A. **Mark Dever and Paul Alexander, The Deliberate Church** (Crossway, 2005)

This is an excellent basic handbook of practical ecclesiology from a wise and seasoned Reformed pastor. It is written to counteract the latest church growth books which will impart the secret for your church to grow. It is intended to be basic Scriptural principles for how to lead a local church.

2-3 page paper on:

1) What are its most helpful insights for you personally?

2) What do you think was lacking or could be improved on?

3) What difference will its insights make in your ministry?

4) Your next step:

B. **Colin Marshall and Tony Payne, The Trellis and the Vine** (Matthias Media, 2009)

This book articulates the philosophy of ministry every pastor should have, *in practice*, but so rarely do. Examine your ministry in its light.

2-3 page paper on:

1) What is the right relationship between the trellis and the vine?

2) What is the relationship in your church?

3) What could you do to improve it?

4) Your next step:

IV. **Elective book:** Choose **one** (hate to disappoint you overachievers!) of the following books and:

a) Write a 2 page report on

1. the main strengths and weaknesses of this book (i.e. how well does it reflect and apply Biblical principles to our generation?).

2. how you will apply its insights to your particular ministry (be specific; commit yourself).

b) Be ready to report this orally to the class.

(Note: when I began teaching this course in 1990, there were less than a dozen significant Christian books on leadership. Now dozens are published *each year*. There are *many* others that could be on this list, but I have narrowed it to the current 25 most significant that I know of, that I think are worth your time. Some are noteworthy in today's discussion of Biblical

leadership. The ones that are of more general and priority help are in bold, to help you choose, if you have not read much in this area.)

Books to choose from:

1. Banks, Robert & Ledbetter, Bernice, Reviewing Leadership: A Christian Evaluation of Current Approaches (Baker Academic, 2004)
2. Barna, George, The Power of Team Leadership (Waterbrook Press, 2001)
3. Belcher, Jim, Deep Church (InterVarsity Press, 2009)
4. **Browning, Dave, Deliberate Simplicity (Zondervan, 2009)**
5. Dawn, Marva & Peterson, Eugene, The Unnecessary Pastor (Eerdmans, 2000)
6. **Dever, Mark & Alexander, Paul, The Deliberate Church (Crossway, 2005)**
7. Driscoll, Mark, Confessions of a Reformissional Rev (Zondervan, 2006)
8. Fryling, Bob, The Leadership Ellipse (InterVarsity Press, 2009)
9. Hybels, Bill, Courageous Leadership (Zondervan, 2002)
10. Keller, Tim, Fellowship Group Handbook: A Manual for Leaders and Coordinators, (Redeemer Presbyterian Church, NYC: only available online thru the Redeemer PC Store: training materials for small group leaders; \$10 for a download PDF, 1997.)
11. Laniak, Timothy, Shepherds after My Own Heart: Pastoral Traditions and Leadership in the Bible (Inter-Varsity Press, 2006)
12. Lewis, Robert (w Wilkins, Rob), The Church of Irresistible Influence: Bridge-Building Stories to Help Reach Your Community (Zondervan, 2001)
13. Malphurs, Aubrey, Being Leaders: The Nature of Authentic Christian Leadership (Baker, 2003)
14. Miller, C. John, The Heart of a Servant Leader (Pres & Reformed, 2004)
15. Ogdon, Greg & Meyer, Daniel, Leadership Essentials: Shaping Vision, Multiplying Influence, and Defining Character (Inter-Varsity Press, 2007)
16. Packer, J.I., A Passion for Faithfulness: Wisdom from the Book of Nehemiah (Crossway Books, 1995)
17. Peterson, Eugene, Working the Angles: the Shape of Pastoral Integrity (Eerdmans, 1987)
18. **Piper, John, Brothers, We Are Not Professionals: A Plea to Pastors for Radical Ministry (Broadman & Holman, 2002)**
19. **Rainer, Thom, and Geiger, Eric, Simple Church: Returning to God's Process for Making Disciples (B&H Publishing Group, Nashville, 2006)**
20. Prime, Derek & Begg, Alistair, On Being a Pastor (Moody, 2004)
21. **Reeder III, Harry L., The Leadership Dynamic (Crossway, 2008)**
22. Stott, John, Basic Christian Leadership: Biblical Models of Church, Gospel, and Ministry (Inter-Varsity Press, 2002)
23. Thomas, Curtis C., Practical Wisdom for Pastors: Words of Encouragement and Counsel for a Lifetime of Ministry (Crossway, 2001)
24. Warren, Rick, The Purpose Driven Church (Growth without Compromising Your Message and Mission) (Zondervan, 1995)
25. Witmer, Timothy Z., The Shepherd Leader (P&R Publishing, 2010)

Pick one different from what you would normally read.
What book would not simply reinforce where you are, but stretch you into new areas? (Note: I am **not** endorsing everything in these books!).

Definition of a leader: "Someone who you will follow to places you wouldn't go on your own."

- V. Log two weeks of your time in 15 minute increments.
Try to pick two fairly typical (you notice I did not say "normal"; what pastor has a normal week?!) weeks between now and the course.
Fourteen charts are enclosed for your convenience.
Use arrows instead of writing in the same activity again and again. Make sure you make your entries each time you switch to a new activity; do not rely on your memory! One of the main purposes of this activity is to show how we deceive ourselves about how we really spend our time. Do not just write "office"; note how much time spent going thru mail, on phone, and other details that take up your day. Have the charts ready to hand in when you arrive for the first class.
- VI. Write out your Philosophy of Ministry.
Divide your paper into the following four headings:
I. The New Testament calling for all pastors (or your distinctive position) in one sentence.
II. My strategy for fulfilling my calling as a pastor, incorporating Matt 28:18-20 and Eph 4:11-16.
III. My unique job description, as agreed upon with my elders. List what I am to do in rough priority order, or with approximate amount of time per month. Include personal and family responsibilities in this, so it reflects ALL of my waking time.
IV. After completing assignment V above, write what is my actual job description and my actual priorities that I am living.

Note: the purpose of this paper is to help you to think through your ministry. I am not looking for something to publish! Don't worry about style; just wrestle with the issues.

We will be working with this through the week, so it is important that you have committed it to paper for me to read at the beginning of our time together.

Total # pages: 4-5.

In summary, then, you will have six papers to hand in. Have them ready at the first class, although I will collect some later in the week:

1. On Sanders book,
2. On Lovelace book,
3. On Marshall and Payne book,
4. On the book of your choice, to hand in after you report to the class on that book,
5. 14 "time logs" of how you actually spent your time, in 15 minute increments,
6. Your job description and philosophy of ministry paper.

IV. Course Schedule

Wednesday

9-12:30 Introductions

Changes in our worlds, and in pastoral ministry

Our calling and job description: Ephesians 4:11-13

2-5pm Devotional Life of a Leader: **Principles from Nehemiah 1**

Video: “The Role of Prayer in Spiritual Awakening” J.E. Orr

Dinner I am available to go out to eat together. That has been a very valuable time in previous classes

Thursday

9-12:30 Discuss R Lovelace, *Dynamics of Spiritual Life*

Discuss J. Oswald Sanders, *Spiritual Leadership*

Leading **Our Homes**: Expanding our view of “ministry”: Qs to ask of your ministry at home

Gaining & imparting **vision**. Expanding your view of your calling

2-5pm Developing a **philosophy of ministry**

Discuss Dever and Alexander, *The Deliberate Church*, and Marshall and Payne, *The Trellis and the Vine*

Discuss our *Philosophy of Ministry* papers

What is the Spirit teaching us thru the **Cell Church/House Church** movement?
Critique

What is the Spirit teaching us through the “**Emerging Church**” movement?
Critique

Dinner together again for anyone who can join us.

Friday

9-12:30 Reports & Discussion on elective books we have read

2-5pm Leading a session: training and working with **elders & deacons**.

Managing your **time**: how to survive the long haul with satisfaction. *Time logs*.

Wrap up & final applications from **Joshua** . Prayer.

V. Post-Course Assignment

1. Write out a brief plan for Steps toward Renewal and Hope for Revival in your community. A visionary strategy for the Holy Spirit to change the face of your community.
Specify what leadership you will take in this.
2-3 pages.
2. Write a brief plan for applying whatever insights you gained from our discussion on the Cell Church/House Church. How are you going to build communities in your church that will pastor and disciple the believers, and evangelize the unchurched in your community?
Specify your own leadership in this.
2-3 pages.
3. Submit a 2-4 page Purpose-Vision-Goal statement that you will present to your people this fall. Make it specific to your situation.
4. Revise your Philosophy of Ministry paper to reflect changes in your thinking as a result of this course.
You can write over your pre-course paper, or rewrite sections, or all of it.
Make sure you resubmit your pre-course paper in any case (so I can compare the two).
5. Do another TWO week 15 minute increment Time Chart.
Write separately any **differences** that you have noticed in how you actually spend your time.