Course Description

“When congregations are healthy, they grow the way God intends. Healthy churches don’t need gimmicks to grow--they grow naturally,” writes Rick Warren (*The Purpose Driven Church*, Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan Publishing House, 1995, p.17). A local church is the nearest thing to the body of Christ that some people will ever see, therefore it is vitally important that local churches demonstrate growth that bears witness to being healthy. This is true even in difficult environments (see, e.g., 1 Thessalonians 1:5-8). Reality is, however, that in many places around the world churches are not manifesting this healthy growth. Many churches, including formerly strong bodies are, in fact, declining while others are growing in ways that are not healthy. This course focuses on how churches can demonstrate both spiritual and numerical growth.

We will examine the biblical and theological principles for church revitalization from a Reformed perspective. Simultaneously, the course will examine biblical paradigms, strategies, church leadership, and practical applications for healthy church growth both in terms of local congregations and leadership. This course will be studied from the following four perspectives that fit the RTS Doctor of Ministries/ICS requirements:

First, this course is a historical study. - Students will be exposed to several principles and issues related to healthy church growth and revitalization through both Western Church history and Korean Church history.

Second, the course is a theological study. - Students will be exposed to several principles and issues for church revitalization and growth from a Reformed theological perspective.

Third, the course is a missiological study. - Students will be exposed to several principles and issues for healthy church revitalization and growth from a missiological perspective.

Fourth, the course is a practical study. Students will be exposed to several principles and issues for healthy church revitalization and growth by way of studying several selected healthy revitalizing and growing church examples.

Course Objectives

There are five objectives for this course. They are:

1. To assist students in attaining a general comprehension of biblical principles of healthy church revitalization and growth based on a Reformed theological perspective.
2. To assist students to adhere strictly to a proper understanding and direction for healthy church revitalization and growth through both Western Church and Korean Church history.
3. To assist students in providing biblical strategies and practical church cases for healthy church revitalization and growth in order to develop healthy pastoral ministries.
4. To assist students to overcome barriers and critical issues for healthy church revitalization and growth adhering to the biblical concept of healthy churches and healthy leadership.
5. To assist students in providing a missiological perspective for healthy church revitalization and growth.

**Course Requirements**

**Required texts** 필독서:
*에드먼드 클라우니. 교회* (IVP) 383 pgs

*폴 히버트. 선교와 문화인류학* (조이선교회출판사) 448 pgs

*랜디 포프. 랜디 포프의 목회 계획* (국제제자훈련원) 351 pgs

*해리 리더. 다시 불길로 타오르게 하라* (국제제자훈련원) 230 pgs

*존 스토크. 예수님의 이끄시는 교회* (도서출판 두란노) 197 pgs

*릭 워렌. 목적이 이끄는 교회* (디모데) 444 pgs

*J. 오스왈드 샌더스. 그리스도인의 영적 리더십* (예찬사) 250 pgs 또는
*J. 오스왈드 샌더스. 영적 지도력* (요단출판사) 267 pgs

*한스 플제. 리더가 저지르시 쉬운 10 가지 실수* (도서출판 프리셉트) 224 pgs
Evaluation:

Reading: Students must read the required books

Class participation: Students must participate in class discussions and presentations

Research paper: Each student must prepare a 20 page paper on a topic related to healthy church revitalization and growth. This paper should reflect the following qualities:
1. A thoughtful evaluation of the student’s own local church experience with special reference to Stott’s book as to the student’s assessment of which church best represents his church now
2. Evaluation of past strengths and weaknesses
3. A five-year plan for the healthy revitalization and growth of the student’s current church setting with a clear focus on a Reformed theological and missiological perspective

Course subjects:

Introductions and Course Orientation
Why God Established the Church
...in His World
...in Korea in Particular
What Christ Looks for in His Church
The Place of Prayer
The Leader’s Personal and Public Life
Developing God’s Vision for “Your Church”
Why Excellence is the Only Way
Engaging God in Our Worship: Four Delicate Tensions
...Worship and Preaching that Brings Forth Healthy Revitalization and Growth
The Fellowship of the Believers: What Use Is It?
Engaging and Empowering the Laity: Recognizing and releasing Spiritual Gifts
Servant Evangelism: Developing the Passion, Plan, Personnel, and Power
Becoming a Globally Engaged Church
Writing Your Course Research Paper
**DMin* Student Learning Outcomes**

*In order to measure the success of the DMin curriculum, RTS has defined the following as the intended outcomes of the student learning process. Each course contributes to these overall outcomes. This rubric shows the contribution of this course to the DMin outcomes.*

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<th><strong>Course Objectives Related to DMin</strong></th>
<th><strong>Rubric</strong></th>
<th><strong>Mini-Justification</strong></th>
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<td><strong>Course:</strong> 04DM804 Church Growth</td>
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<td><strong>Professor:</strong> Dr. Robert Leslie Holmes</td>
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| **Articulation** (oral & written)  | Broadly understands and articulates knowledge, both oral and written, of essential biblical, theological, historical, and cultural/global information, including details, concepts, and frameworks. | Strong | The paper required for the final grade demands that students integrate the concepts taught in class with their local place of service. |
| **Scripture**                     | Significant knowledge of the original meaning of Scripture. Also, the concepts for and skill to research further into the original meaning of Scripture and to apply Scripture to a variety of modern circumstances. (Includes appropriate use of original languages and hermeneutics, and integrates theological, historical, and cultural/global perspectives) | Strong | Scripture is used as the primary source for class lectures. |
| **Reformed Theology**             | Significant understanding of Reformed theology and practice, with emphasis on the Westminster Standards. | Moderate | A significant number of the required readings are written by Reformed authors. |
| **Sanctification**                | Demonstrates a love for the Triune God that aids in the student’s sanctification. | Moderate | Students interact with books that promote personal holiness as a key part of spiritual leadership. |
| **Desire for Worldview**          | Burning desire to conform all of life to the Word of God | Minimal | Materials covered in this course support and encourage the development a Reformed worldview. |
| **Winsomely Reformed**            | Embraces a winsomely Reformed ethos. (Includes an appropriate ecumenical spirit with other Christians, especially Evangelicals; a concern to present the Gospel in a God-honoring manner to non-Christians; and a truth-in-love attitude in disagreements.) | Strong | Students interact with issues, materials, non-Christian authors. |
| **Preach**                        | Ability to preach and teach the meaning of Scripture to both heart and mind with clarity and enthusiasm. | Strong | Required readings often focus on the primacy of preaching in church growth. |
| **Worship**                       | Knowledgeable of historic and modern Christian worship forms and ability to construct and skill to lead a worship service. | Moderate | This course calls for an understanding of the importance of Reformed worship as a key part of church growth. |
| **Shepherd**                      | Ability to shepherd the local congregation; aiding in spiritual maturity, promoting use of gifts and callings and encouraging a concern for non-Christians both in America and worldwide. | Strong | Special focus will be put on the importance of good shepherding skills in growing and leading healthy churches. |
| **Church/World**                  | Ability to interact within a denominational context, within the broader worldwide church with significant public issues | Minimal | Church and world issues are pat of the material covered in this course. |