

*Associated Canadian Theological Schools**DMN 914 Spiritual Leadership in New Testament Perspective*

Larry Perkins, Ph.D.

Lyle Schrag, D.Min.

Fall 2010

3 Credit hours

[perkins@twu.ca](mailto:perkins@twu.ca)[lyle.schrag@twu.ca](mailto:lyle.schrag@twu.ca)

On Campus October 25-28

8:30am-4:30pm

**Course Description:** Understanding and defining spiritual leadership and its role in local church life and development has become more difficult in recent years. New paradigms are proposed, some of which claim to be more biblically appropriate and others that claim to be more culturally relevant. Ministry leaders can be overwhelmed by the variety of trends, which, if not embraced, leave a person feeling irrelevant and not "on the cutting edge."

Leadership is one of those concepts that straddles the tense boundary of Christianity and Culture. Pastoral dimensions of such leadership seem to get lost in demands for effectiveness and efficiency. Yet, providing pastoral leadership, which is not developing a healthy church, itself becomes suspect.

In this course we will seek to discern those elements of ministry leaders that transcend the immediate context. We will engage Jesus' theology and praxis of spiritual leadership as a Kingdom requirement. Then we will consider how Paul and Peter build upon the perspective of Jesus and begin to define spiritual leadership in the practical realities of early Christianity house-churches. After consolidating what we have learned, we will explore how the nature of kingdom community and the practical realities of life together in diverse cultures require some specific leadership character, attitude and competence. We will consider this especially in the nexus of pastor-board and pastor-staff relations and development.

**Course Objectives:** as a result of this course we expect that students:

- i. will have a clearer understanding of NT principles of spiritual leadership and the aspects of character, attitude and competence that are critical for its effective expression;
- ii. will discern appropriate contextualization of these principles in order to develop and sustain healthy churches;
- iii. will develop biblically appropriate spiritual leadership practices so that healthy pastor-board and pastor-staff relationships develop and these two significant ministry teams in a local church benefit from effective spiritual leadership.
- iv. will build a "New Testament biblical theology" of leadership that will enable the critical evaluation of new leadership proposals as they are presented.

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Part I: Leadership and Kingdom -- grasping Jesus' paradigm for spiritual leadership in his Kingdom. We examine specific contexts in the Gospels, with particular attention given to Luke 22:14-38.

Part II: Spiritual Leadership Transformations in Paul and Peter's teaching and writings.

We will focus on Paul's message in Miletus found in Acts 20 and 1 Thessalonians, and Peter's expressions in 1 Peter 5. Some reflection will also be applied to passages in the Pastoral Epistles.

Workshop 1: Leadership and Emerging Church -- critical engagement

[A workshop is a one hour focused presentation and discussion]

Part III: Section A: Summarizing the contours of ministry leadership as discerned in the NT  
 Section B: Contextualization at the end of the first century  
 Section C: A Contextualized Spiritual Leadership Paradigm for the 21st century in Canada for the Evangelical Church.

Workshop 2: Leadership in the midst of Cultural Diversity

Part IV: Pastor - Board Relations -- a key setting for the praxis of spiritual leadership in a local evangelical church

Workshop 3: Effective Practices, and the Relationship between pastor and board chair.

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Workshop 4: The Whole Church Living the Whole Gospel

**Course Assignments:**

1. Project One: Develop a paradigm/contour that defines effective spiritual leadership in a local church, based upon the materials studied. This can include character, aptitudes, competencies, etc. 8 - 10 pages, double-spaced, 12 point font.  
Due: November 15. Worth 25% of final grade.
2. Project Two: Evaluate your current pastor-board relationship and develop a plan to elevate that relationship intentionally to achieve significant gain in church health. The last two pages should incorporate three or four specific steps you will take to implement your findings. 10-12 pages, double-spaced, 12 point font.  
Due: December 15. Worth 30% of final grade.
3. Project Three: Evaluate your current pastor-staff (vocational and volunteer) relationships and develop a plan to elevate those relationships intentionally to achieve significant gain in church health. The last two pages will incorporate three or four specific steps you will take to implement your findings. 10-12 pages, double-spaced, 12 point font.  
Due: January 15. Worth 30% of final grade.

In the case of projects two and three there will be several components:

- a. define how current church practices in terms of board or staff express a blend of biblical principle and cultural contextualization. Explain why this is appropriate and consistent with New Testament praxis.
- b. describe and evaluate the effectiveness of your current board team and staff team. This will require you to define their current role and measurements that demonstrate the degree of effectiveness in fulfilling that role. Indicate how the lead pastor, as key spiritual leader, interfaces with these two significant ministry teams and evaluate the effectiveness of that interaction with respect to developing church health.
- c. in the light of (a) and (b) develop a plan (one to two years in duration) that will enable you as a key spiritual leadership to improve the effectiveness of the board ministry team and the staff ministry team such that church health is markedly improved.

You will need to define in some sense what church health looks like in your situation.

**Grading:**

Pre-class assignment	15%	October 20, 2010
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30% January 15, 2011

Grading Scale:	A+	98-100	B+	85-89	C+	
70-74						
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### *Supplement: Important Academic Notes from ACTS*

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