



BUILDING CHRISTIAN COMMUNITY IN A TIME OF CRISIS, CHANGE, & SOCIAL DISTANCING:

A Seminar in Leadership, Communication & Mission

Course MIN4350bc (Undergraduate) and MIN6309bc (Graduate)

By Dr. James Nored, Austin Grad Faculty, & Other Contributors

[SEE WEBPAGE FOR ADDITIONAL COURSE UPDATES](#)

Course Objective: To help equip students, Christian leaders, and members to lead, communicate, and be on mission in their churches and ministry context, navigating both the current worldwide crisis, as well as the crisis in the church caused by ongoing societal changes.

NOTE: To enroll or for answers to enrollment questions, contact Jim Fly at Austin Grad: JFLY@AustinGrad.edu or 512-476-2772. Instructor Email: jamesnored@gmail.com.

REQUIREMENTS & GRADING FOR CREDIT STUDENTS

- Completion of 40 hours of seminar sessions – 40 percent
 - 16 hours of synchronous seminar sessions (see below). These sessions will be conducted through Zoom Meeting. Note: If schedules do not allow this, sessions will be recorded and can be viewed at different times.
 - 24 hours of asynchronous seminar sessions
- Participation in Seminar Discussions and/or Online Forums – 10 percent
- In Class Assignments – 10 percent
- Required Reading / Viewing and Reflection Papers – 20 percent (see below)
- Final Paper / Project – 20 percent (see below)

CORE (SYNCHRONOUS) SEMINAR SESSIONS

Note: [CHECK THIS LINK](#) for Updates! Times are Tue/Thu, 2-4 pm CT, May 5-28

SPECIAL BONUS SESSION - SPIRITUAL LEADERSHIP & SHEPHERDING IN CRISIS & CHANGE

Dr. Lynn Anderson

How Can We Lead a Socially Distanced & Anxious Flock? – Spiritual Leadership in Crisis & Change

SESSION #1 - MISSION, SUFFERING, & GOD'S REDEMPTIVE PLAN IN CRISIS & CHANGE

Dr. John Mark Hicks, Dr. Lynn Anderson

*What is the Role of Suffering, Crisis & Change in God's Redemptive Plan, and Where is God Leading Us?
A Biblical-Theological Discussion w/Practical Implications*

SESSION #2 - MISSION, THE EARLY CHURCH, & EPIDEMICS/CRISES

Dr. John Mark Hicks, Dr. Keith Stanglin

What Should the Church Be Doing Now? – Lessons from the Early Church in Crisis & Change

SESSION #3 - COMMUNICATION & PREACHING DURING CRISIS & CHANGE

Dr. Jim Martin

What and How Should I Be Preaching Now? Messages & Communication Skills for Crisis & Change

SESSION #4 - MISSION, EVANGELISM & USE OF MEDIA DURING CRISIS & CHANGE

Dr. John Drane & Dr. Peter Phillips

How Do We Reach Out, Communicate, and Share the Gospel During This Crisis & Change?

SESSION #5 - CALM LEADERSHIP & SELF-GOVERNANCE DURING CRISIS & CHANGE

Jon Mullican, Dr. Jim Martin

How Can I Lead through Worry, Fear, Anxiety, Uncertainty, & Financial Pressure?

SESSION #6 - BIBLICAL LEADERSHIP DURING CRISIS & CHANGE

Dr. Jeff Peterson, Dr. Mark Shipp

How Do I/We Lead During this Time? – Lessons from OT & NT Leaders in Crisis & Change

SESSION #7 - MISSION - APOLOGETICS DURING CRISIS & CHANGE

Dr. Jim Baird

How do we better articulate our faith in a skeptical, post-Christian world?

SESSION #8 - MISSION - SPIRITUAL FORMATION & USE OF MEDIA DURING CRISIS & CHANGE

Dr. Keith Stanglin, Dr. Todd Hall

How do we form people spiritually in an online, crisis & change environment?

We will also interview and hear from ministers, elders, worship leaders, missionaries, church planters, media experts, grief specialists, and marriage and relationships experts about the challenges & opportunities that they are seeing and facing, with practical tools & resources for church leaders. The Core Sessions above equal 16 hours, and the additional asynchronous sessions will bring the total to 40 hours.

READING / VIEWING FOR UNDERGRADUATE AND GRADUATE CREDIT STUDENTS.

Note: Because students may not have access to libraries and print resources, and due to the nature of the course, book readings can be substituted for self-directed study of online video presentations on the below topics (i.e. an online, readily available video presentation by Peter Scazzero on being an “Emotionally Healthy Leader” rather than the book on this topic). The books below are listed with Amazon hyperlinks and are available in Kindle versions.

Leadership

- *Undergraduate & Graduate Students* - Choose 300 pages from Leadership Books Listed Below or 3 hours of self-directed online videos on Leadership
 - Recommended / Main Reading - Self-Leadership - Scazzero, Peter. [The Emotionally Healthy Leader: How Transforming Your Inner Life Will Deeply Transform Your Church, Team, and the World](#) – 326 pg
- *Additional Reading for Graduate Students* - Choose 200 pages from Leadership books or 2 hours of self-directed online videos on Leadership
 - Recommended / Main Reading - Crisis Leadership - Winston, Bruce E. [Leadership Growth Through Crisis: An Investigation of Leader Development During Tumultuous Circumstances \(Christian Faith Perspectives in Leadership and Business\)](#) – 217 pg
- Reflection Paper – Write a 2 page (undergraduate) or 3 page (graduate) reflection paper on leadership using the chosen readings/video viewings and applying this to the current and ongoing crisis that you are facing in your ministry context.

Communication

- *Undergraduate and Graduate Students* - Choose 200 pages from Communication Books Listed Below or 2 hours of self-directed online videos on Communication
 - Recommended / Main Reading - Digital/Social Media - Campbell, Heidi A and Garner, Stephen. [Networked Theology \(Engaging Culture\): Negotiating Faith in Digital Culture](#) – 188 pg
- *Additional Reading for Graduate Students* - Choose 200 pages from Leadership books or 2 hours of self-directed online videos on Communication
 - Preaching - Stanley, Andy. [Communicating for a Change: Seven Keys to Irresistible Communication](#) – 208 pg

Mission

- *Undergraduate and Graduate Students* - Choose 200 pages from Mission Books Listed Below or 2 hours of self-directed online videos on Mission
 - Recommended / Main Reading - Evangelism - Richardson, Rick. [You Found Me: New Research on How Unchurched Nones, Millennials, and Irreligious Are Surprisingly Open to Christian Faith](#) – 288 pg
- *Additional Reading for Graduate Students* - Choose 200 pages from Mission books or 2 hours of self-directed online videos on Mission
 - Recommended / Main Reading - Missional Church - Goheen, Michael W. [A Light to the Nations: The Missional Church and the Biblical Story](#) – 257 pg

SELECTED WORKS / TOPICS IN LEADERSHIP, COMMUNICATION, AND MISSION
(Links Below are to Kindle Versions of these Books on Amazon)

Leadership

- Self-Leadership During Crisis & Change
 - Arbing Institute. [Leadership and Self-Deception: Getting Out of the Box](#)
 - Bradberry, Travis. [Emotional Intelligence 2.0](#)
 - Friedman, Edwin. [A Failure of Nerve: Leadership in the Age of the Quick Fix, Revised Edition](#)
 - Hicks, John Mark. [Anchors for the Soul: Trusting God in the Storms of Life](#)
 - Lencioni, Patrick. [Four Obsessions of An Extraordinary Executive](#)
 - Scazzero, Peter. [The Emotionally Healthy Leader: How Transforming Your Inner Life Will Deeply Transform Your Church, Team, and the World](#)

- Biblical Leadership During Crisis & Change
 - Bolsinger, Tod E. [Canoeing the Mountains: Christian Leadership in Uncharted Territory](#)
 - Johnson, Tim. [Crisis Leadership: How to lead in times of crisis, threat and uncertainty.](#)
 - Klann, Gene. [Crisis Leadership: Using Military Lessons, Organizational Experiences, and the Power of Influence to Lessen the Impact of Chaos on the People You Lead](#)
 - Maxwell, John C. [The 21 Irrefutable Laws of Leadership: Follow Them and People Will Follow You](#)
 - Tibbo, Bill. [Leadership in the Eye of the Storm: Putting Your People First in a Crisis](#)
 - Winston, Bruce E. [Leadership Growth Through Crisis: An Investigation of Leader Development During Tumultuous Circumstances \(Christian Faith Perspectives in Leadership and Business\)](#)

- Missional Leadership During Crisis & Change
 - Roxburgh, Alan. [Missional Map-Making: Skills for Leading in Times of Transition](#)
 - Roxburgh, Alan, and Fred Romanuk. [The Missional Leader: Equipping Your Church to Reach a Changing World](#)
 - Stetzer, Ed, and Daniel Im. [Planting Missional Churches: Your Guide to Starting Churches that Multiply 2nd Edition](#)

- Shepherding and Spiritual Leadership During Crisis & Change
 - Anderson, Lynn. [They Smell Like Sheep](#)
 - Bridges, William and Susan Bridges. [Managing Transitions, 25th anniversary edition: Making the Most of Change](#)
 - Kouzes/Posner. [The Leadership Challenge: How to Make Extraordinary Things Happen in Organizations](#)
 - Kuriansky, Judy. [The Psychosocial Aspects of a Deadly Epidemic: What Ebola Has Taught Us about Holistic Healing](#)
 - Laniak, Timothy S. [Shepherds After My Own Heart: Pastoral Traditions and Leadership in the Bible](#)
 - Pemberton, Glenn. [Hurting with God: Learning to Lament with the Psalms](#)

Communication

- Preaching During Crisis & Change
 - Keller, Timothy. [Preaching: Communicating Faith in an Age of Skepticism](#)
 - Lewis, Ralph L. and Gregg Lewis. [Inductive Preaching: Helping People Listen](#)
 - Stanley, Andy. [Communicating for a Change: Seven Keys to Irresistible Communication](#)

- Digital / Social Media During Crisis & Change
 - Anderson, Keith. [The Digital Cathedral: Networked Ministry in a Wireless World](#)
 - Campbell, Heidi A and Stephen Garner. [Networked Theology \(Engaging Culture\): Negotiating Faith in Digital Culture](#)
 - Cannell, Sean. [YouTube For Churches: How to Make Better Videos, Grow Your Church and Reach More People with YouTube](#)
 - Forrester, Mark. [Trending Up: Social Media Strategies for Today's Church.](#)
 - Hutchings, Tim. [Creating Church Online: Ritual, Community and New Media \(Routledge Research in Religion, Media and Culture\).](#)
 - Kim, Jay Y. [Analog Church: Why We Need Real People, Places, and Things in the Digital Age](#)
 - Lazarus, Natchi. [The Connected Church: A Social Media Communication Strategy Guide for Churches, Nonprofits and Individuals in Ministry](#)
 - Richards, Paul. [How to Help Your Church Livestream](#)
 - Phillips, Peter. [The Bible, Social Media and Digital Culture](#)
 - Ford, David G., Joshua L Mann and Peter M. Phillips. [The Bible and Digital Millennials.](#)
 - Putnam, Robert D. and Feldstein, Lewis. [Better Together: Restoring the American Community](#)
 - Turkle, Sherry. [Alone Together: Why We Expect More from Technology and Less from Each Other](#)
 - Wise, Justin. [The Social Church: A Theology of Digital Communication](#)

- Crisis Communication During Crisis & Change
 - Austin (Editor), Lucinda L. and Yan Jin (Editor). [Social Media and Crisis Communication](#)
 - Coombs, Timothy. [Ongoing Crisis Communication: Planning, Managing, and Responding 5th Edition](#)
 - Fink, Steven. [Crisis Communications: The Definitive Guide to Managing the Message](#)
 - Ulmer, Robert R., Timothy L. Sellnow, and Matthew W. Seeger. [Effective Crisis Communication: Moving From Crisis to Opportunity](#)

Mission

1. Missional Church During Crisis & Change
 - a. Glasser, Arthur F. , Charles E. Van Engen, Dean S. Gilliland, and Shawn B. Redford. [Announcing the Kingdom: The Story of God's Mission in the Bible](#)
 - b. Goheen, Michael W. [A Light to the Nations: The Missional Church and the Biblical Story](#)
 - c. Barrett, Lois, and Darrell L., Guder, et al. [Missional Church: A Vision for the Sending of the Church in North America: The People of God Sent on a Mission \(The Gospel and Our Culture Series\)](#)
 - d. Hastings, Ross. [Missional God, Missional Church: Hope for Re-evangelizing the West](#)
 - e. McNeal, Reggie. [Missional Renaissance: Changing the Scorecard for the Church](#)
 - f. Stark, Rodney. [The Rise of Christianity: How the Obscure, Marginal Jesus Movement Became the Dominant Religious Force in the Western World in a Few Centuries](#)

- g. Wright, Christopher J.H. [The Mission of God: Unlocking the Bible's Grand Narrative](#)
2. Evangelism During Crisis & Change
 - a. Barna Group. [Reviving Evangelism: Current Realities That Demand a New Vision for Sharing Faith](#)
 - b. Barna Group. [Spiritual Conversations in a Digital Age: How Christians Approach to Sharing Their Faith Has Changed in 25 Years](#)
 - c. Gould, Meredeith. [The Social Media Gospel: Sharing the Good News in New Ways](#)
 - d. Green, Michael. [Evangelism in the Early Church Revised ed. Edition](#)
 - e. Hunter, George G. [The Celtic Way of Evangelism, Tenth Anniversary Edition: How Christianity Can Reach the West . . .Again](#)
 - f. Richardson, Rick. [You Found Me: New Research on How Unchurched Nones, Millennials, and Irreligious Are Surprisingly Open to Christian Faith](#)
 - g. Silvano, Ed. [Prayer Evangelism: How to Change the Spiritual Climate over Your Home, Neighborhood and City](#)
 3. Apologetics During Crisis & Change
 - a. Catraw, Josh and Mark D. Allen. [Apologetics at the Cross: An Introduction for Christian Witness](#)
 - b. Keller, Timothy. [The Reason for God: Belief in an Age of Skepticism](#)
 - c. McDowell, Sean. [Apologetics for a New Generation: A Biblical and Culturally Relevant Approach to Talking About God.](#)
 - d. Penner, Myron Bradley. [The End of Apologetics: Christian Witness in a Postmodern Context.](#)
 - e. Phillips, Timothy R. and Dennis L. Okholm. [Christian Apologetics in the Postmodern World.](#)
 4. Discipleship and Spiritual Formation in Crisis & Change
 - a. Akkerman, Jay Richard and Mark A. Maddy. [Missional Discipleship: Partners in God's Redemptive Mission](#)
 - b. Hardy, Andrew and Dan Yarnell. [Missional Discipleship After Christendom](#)
 - c. Kinnamon, David. [You Lost Me: Why Young Christians Are Leaving Church...and Rethinking Faith](#)
 - d. Kinnaman, David, Mark Matlock, and Aly Hawkins. [Faith for Exiles: 5 Ways for a New Generation to Follow Jesus in Digital Babylon](#)
 - e. Martin, Charles. [They Turned the World Upside Down: A Storyteller's Journey with Those Who Dared to Follow Jesus](#)
 - f. Mullholland, Robert M. [Invitation to a Journey: A Road Map for Spiritual Formation](#)
 - g. Powell, Kara, Jake Muler, and Brad Griffen. [Growing Young: Six Essential Strategies to Help Young People Discover and Love Your Church](#)

FINAL PAPER / PROJECT

Paper Option - Write a 10 page (undergraduate) or 20 page (graduate) paper on the present and ongoing crisis that you are facing in your ministry context, drawing upon the seminars, readings, and viewings from the course.

- Introduction
- Biblical and Theological Reflection on the Church and Crisis
- Presentation of Current Crisis
- Plan or Strategy to Address this Crisis
- Conclusion

Project Option – Write a 2 page (undergraduate) or 3 page (graduate) paper that describes the current crisis that you are facing in your ministry context, and then what “project” you have developed to address this. This project that you develop could include things such as:

- Leadership – How you have addressed self-leadership issues (prayer, reflection, reading, counseling, etc.); a teaching series on biblical leadership; how you are addressing shepherding issues in this space, etc.
- Communication – A series of video messages on a crisis related topic or response; a crisis communication plan; social media strategy; preaching series, etc.
- Mission – Beginning an online, evangelistic Bible study ministry; a curriculum and plan for better instilling faith in teens; creation of online spiritual formation or discipleship pathway, etc.

INSTRUCTOR BIO - DR. JAMES NORED

Adjunct Professor at Austin Graduate School of Theology – www.austingrad.edu

Executive Director of Next Generation for Christ – www.NextGenerationforChrist.com

James Nored (Doctor of Ministry, Fuller Theological Seminary, M.Div. Harding School of Theology, B.A. Oklahoma Christian University) serves as the Executive Director for Next Generation for Christ. James is located in Chantilly, Virginia, a suburb of Washington, D.C. He is an adjunct faculty member at Austin Graduate School of Theology.

James has served as a lead preaching minister and more in Churches of Christ in the Kansas City, Dallas, & Washington D.C. areas for many years. He has given seminars across the country, helping churches grow using Next Generation strategies. The Story of Redemption Film Series (www.StoryofRedemptionFilms.com) which he wrote and produced is being used on five continents, and has been broadcast in Europe.