

Florida General Baptist Convention, Inc.
Congress of Christian Education
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Rev. Dr. Carl Johnson, Convention President
Rev. Toby T. Philpart, Congress President
Rev. Dr. Brett Snowden, Congress Dean



July 28- August 1, 2024
Lake Buena Vista, Florida

Course Syllabus
**SP9 | Doing Hybrid Church:
Why Streaming Alone Is Not Enough**

Rev. Demetric R. Ford, Instructor

Course Overview:

This course aims to provide a structured approach to understanding and implementing the concepts of hybrid church, preparing students to lead and innovate in a rapidly changing digital landscape. Students will examine how churches can adapt to the digital age, engage with post-Christian cultures, and integrate online and offline ministries effectively. This course will examine key themes, ideas, and practical strategies for implementing a hybrid model of “local” church worship and discipleship.

Course Objectives:

- Understand the challenges faced by the church in a post-Christian digital age.
- Analyze strategies for creating a hybrid church model.
- Develop practical strategies for integrating digital technologies and online platforms into church ministry.
- Ability to create a comprehensive plan for implementing hybrid church strategies in a local church context.
- Explore the concept of Hybrid Church and its potential for revitalizing the church's mission.
- Discuss the theological implications of a Hybrid Church model.
- Reflect on the ethical considerations and potential pitfalls of embracing digital technologies in church settings.
- Explore innovative approaches to community engagement and discipleship in a hybrid church context.

Required Texts and Tools:

- White, James Emery. *Hybrid Church: Rethinking the Church for a Post-Christian Digital Age*. Zondervan, 2023.
- The Holy Bible
- Laptop or Tablet (Course will be digitally interactive)

Course Schedule:

Session 1

- Topics:
 - Introduction to the Post-Christian Digital Age
 - Definition and significance of hybrid church
 - Key concepts and foundational principles of Hybrid Church
 - Understanding post-Christian culture, digital age implications
- Activities:
 - Class introductions
 - Class discussion on the impact of digital culture on the church
 - Class discussion and analysis of churches implementing hybrid models

Session 2

- Topics:
 - Digital Strategies for Engagement
 - Online presence, social media, digital outreach
 - Online Worship and Community Building
 - Virtual worship services, fostering online community
- Activities
 - Class discussion on the theological implications of a Hybrid Church model
 - Class discussion on creating a digital outreach plan
 - Class discussion on designing a virtual worship service

Session 3

- Topics:
 - Blending online and offline church activities
 - Leveraging online platforms for community engagement, discipleship, and outreach

- Common obstacles, solutions for hybrid church implementation
- Addressing the challenges and opportunities of virtual gatherings and online interactions
- Activities
 - Class discussion on biblical perspectives on technology and its role in church ministry
 - Class discussion on creating a digital outreach plan
 - Class discussion on hybrid event planning

Instructor Information:

Pastor Demetric R. Ford

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