

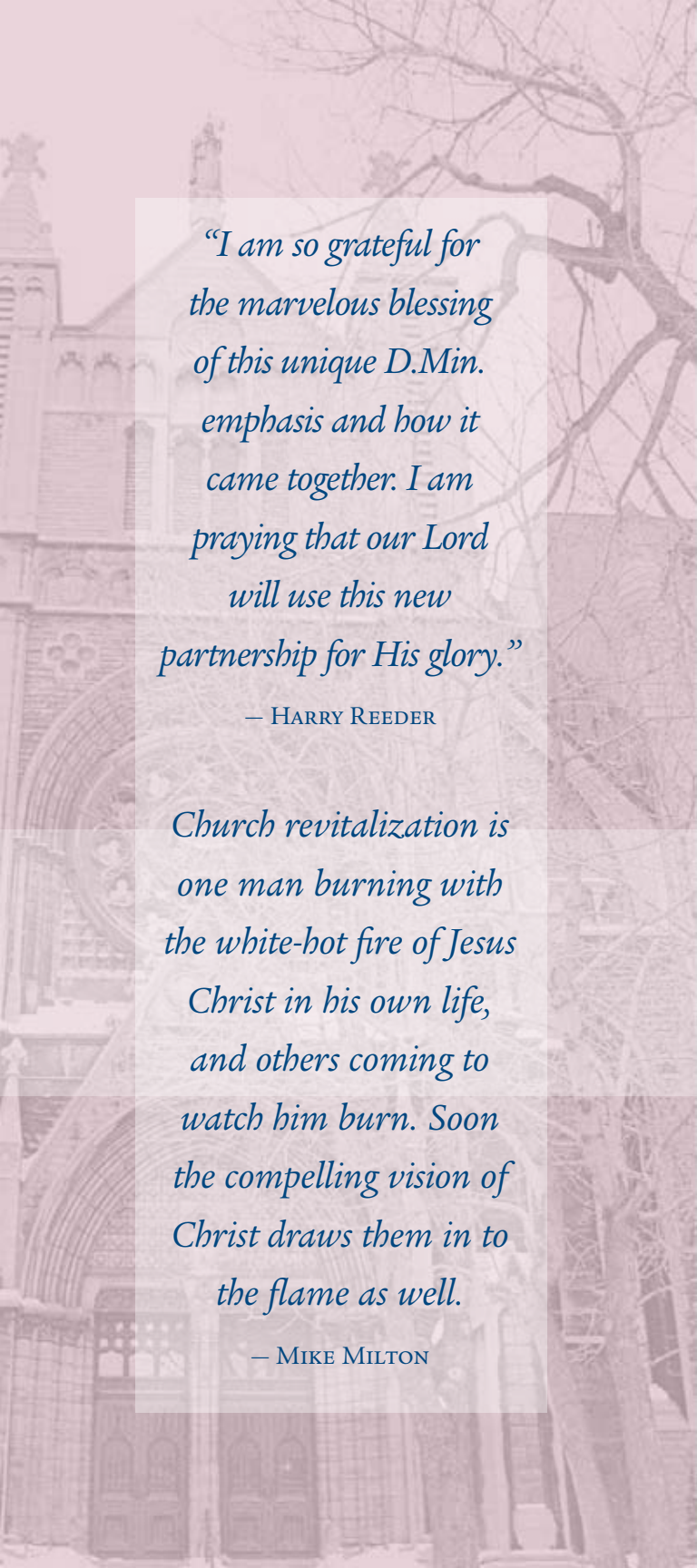
DOCTOR *of*
MINISTRY

*Emphasis in Church
Revitalization*

REFORMED
THEOLOGICAL
SEMINARY



CHARLOTTE



“I am so grateful for the marvelous blessing of this unique D.Min. emphasis and how it came together. I am praying that our Lord will use this new partnership for His glory.”

— HARRY REEDER

Church revitalization is one man burning with the white-hot fire of Jesus Christ in his own life, and others coming to watch him burn. Soon the compelling vision of Christ draws them in to the flame as well.

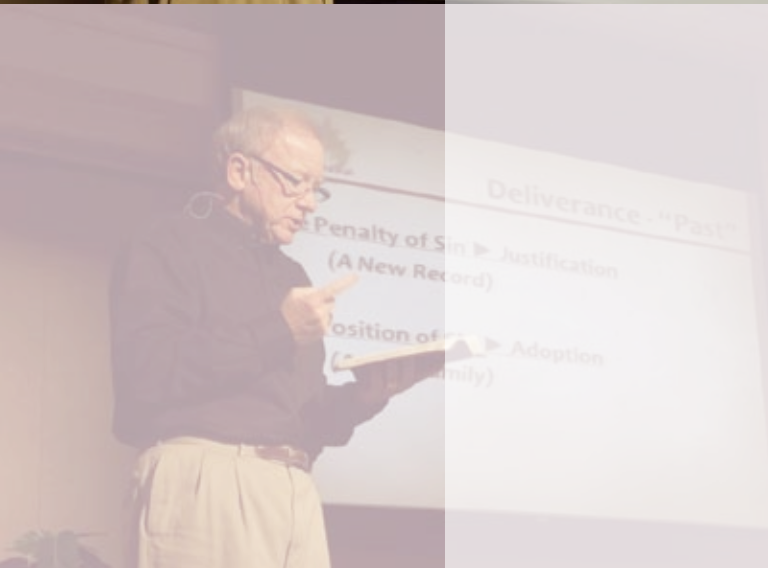
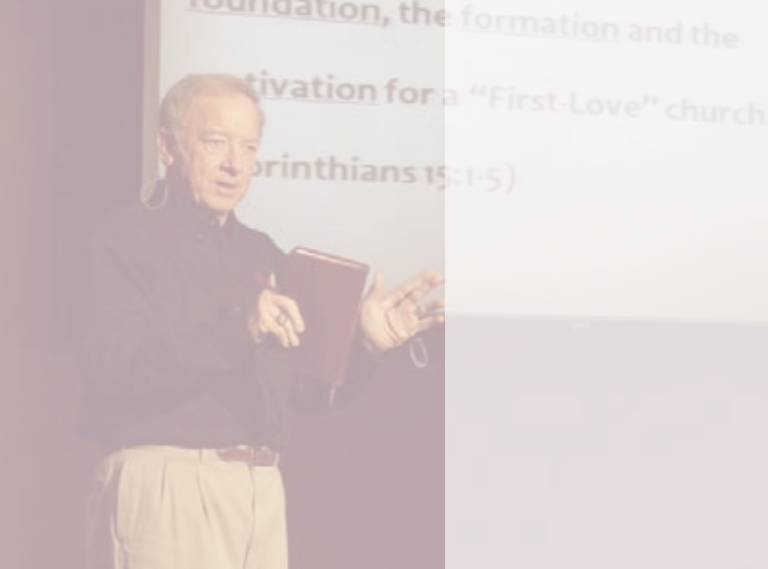
— MIKE MILTON

REFORMED THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY



D • MIN
Church Revitalization
COURSE PROGRAM GUIDE

dmin.rts.edu



the RTS DOCTOR *of* MINISTRY
Emphasis in Church Revitalization

If your church has plateaued or declined in recent years or if you are dissatisfied with the effectiveness of your congregation's prayer life and ministry in their community, then you may be a candidate for the RTS Doctor of Ministry with Emphasis in Church Revitalization program.

Every year more churches are closing than are being planted. The majority of these churches close their doors in a community where their witness is still greatly needed. Only 15% of churches today are growing, while only 45% of the U.S. population attend church regularly.

That is why RTS is introducing a Doctor of Ministry with Emphasis in Church Revitalization. Its purpose is to assist pastors in renewing their church's ministry and corporate prayer life, building anew a healthy vision for the work needed in their community, and bringing a lively commitment to the essential of evangelization, the importance of character development and the implementation of godly leadership principles.

In partnership with the Briarwood ministry *Leadership for Revitalization*, this new emphasis is designed to promote vocational renewal for pastors who will become God's agents for renewal in their local churches. It is a rigorous course of practical study and application that involves both core curriculum courses at RTS/Charlotte as well as classes through *Leadership for Revitalization*, in Birmingham, AL.

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FACULTY



Milton



Reeder



Fortson



Sanford

Dr. Mike Milton, *President and Professor of Practical Theology, at RTS/Charlotte*

Dr. Harry Reeder, *Senior Pastor Briarwood Presbyterian Church, Birmingham AL and Adjunct Professor, RTS Charlotte*

Dr. Shelton Sanford, *Senior Pastor Westminster Presbyterian Church, Rock Hill, SC*

Dr. Don Fortson, *Professor of Church History and Director of the D.Min Program, RTS Charlotte*

**LEADERSHIP FOR REVITALIZATION
CONFERENCE SPEAKERS**

Dr. Ligon Duncan, *Senior Pastor First Presbyterian Church, Jackson, MS*

Rev. Lynn Downing, *Pastor of Church Revitalization Briarwood Presbyterian Church, Birmingham, AL*

Dr. Wilson Benton, *Senior Pastor Christ Presbyterian Church, Nashville, TN*

Dr. Mike Ross, *Senior Pastor Christ Covenant Church, Charlotte, NC*

Mr. Joe Weatherly, *President of Weatherly Consulting Senior Fanning the Flame Coach*

Dr. Tom Cheely, *Missions Pastor Briarwood Presbyterian Church, Birmingham, AL*

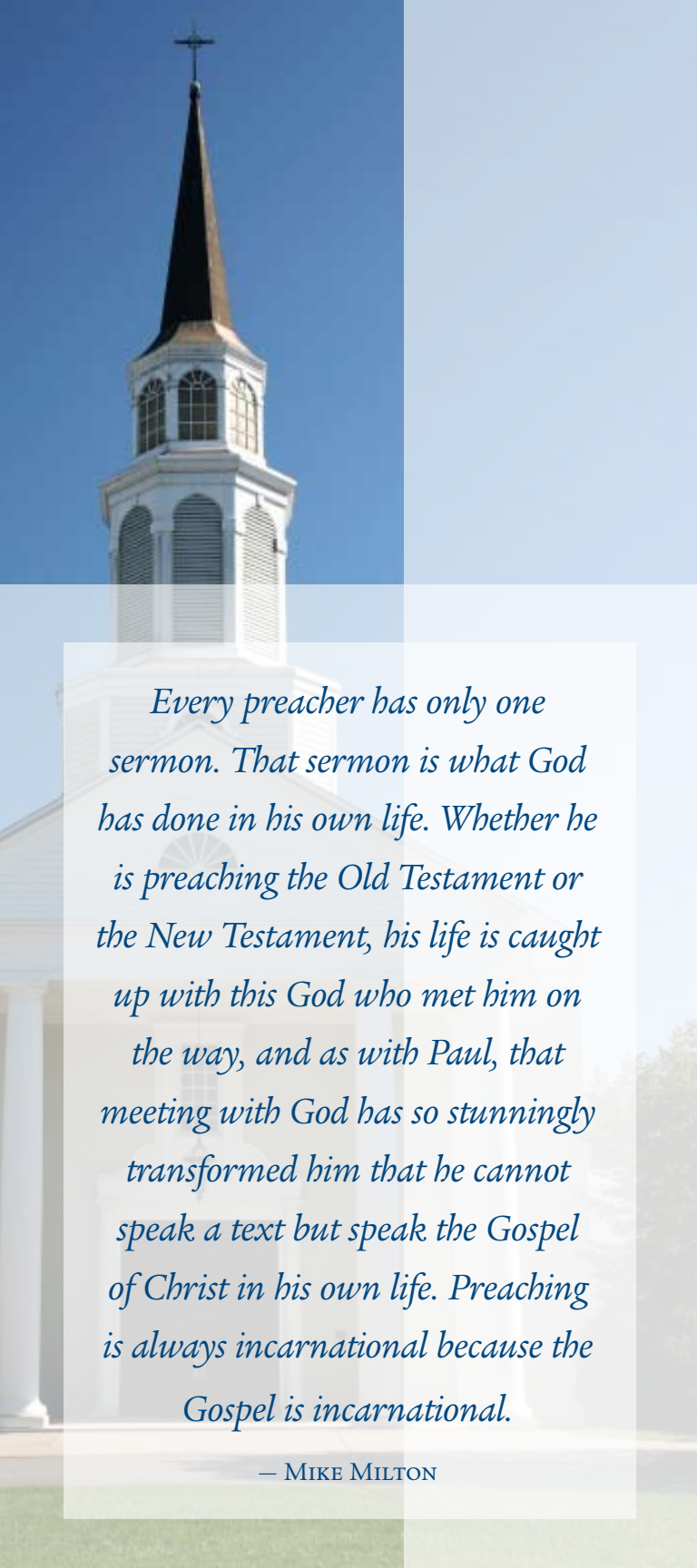
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WHEN WILL THE COURSE STUDY BEGIN?

The first cohort of pastors will begin studies in January 2010 at the *Leadership for Revitalization* Conference in Birmingham, AL. New cohorts for church revitalization emphasis will start every other year. A student wishing to begin D.Min. work in an intermediate year (between cohorts) may start with core D.Min. courses in Charlotte and then move into the next January cohort that begins with the *Leadership for Revitalization* Conference.

**CANDIDATE QUALIFICATIONS
FOR THIS EMPHASIS PROGRAM**

- Currently pastoring a congregation with at least three years in ministry experience.
- Have a master of divinity degree from an accredited institution with a GPA of 3.0 +.
- Have a burden for seeing renewal in their own church and in the Church of Jesus Christ.
- Seeking theological reflection on past ministry experiences as it relates to laboring to build up the body of Christ in the local church.
- Interested in a D.Min. program that combines theological reflection and practical application in the specific area of revitalization of your ministry and of your local church.
- Is supported by the officers and congregation of their church.



Every preacher has only one sermon. That sermon is what God has done in his own life. Whether he is preaching the Old Testament or the New Testament, his life is caught up with this God who met him on the way, and as with Paul, that meeting with God has so stunningly transformed him that he cannot speak a text but speak the Gospel of Christ in his own life. Preaching is always incarnational because the Gospel is incarnational.

— MIKE MILTON

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STRATEGIES OF REVITALIZATION

Connecting to the Past
A Call to Repentance
Gospel Driven and Christ
Centered Ministry
Spiritual Formation:
The Discipline of Grace
The Ministry of Prayer
The Ministry of the Word
Mission and Vision
The Leadership Dynamic
Small Group Discipleship-Making
The Great Commitment

PROGRAM SCHEDULE

YEAR ONE

January - **Church Revitalization** (*Leadership for Revitalization*) with Dr. Harry Reeder at Briarwood Presbyterian Church in Birmingham, AL. *Lay Church Leadership Participation Required.* • There is a pressing need for church revitalization in North America. The purpose of this course is to examine the factors which lead to church stagnation and decline and then explore the biblical models and theological principles applicable to church revitalization. Revitalization plans, specific to the student's ministry, will be developed and prioritized for practical application. The learning environment will include lectures, small group interaction and reading the best literature available on church renewal and revitalization.



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July - ***Preaching for Revitalization*** with Dr. Mike Milton and Dr. Mike Ross at RTS/Charlotte. • This course seeks to integrate the spiritual and practical, the personal and the vocational, the preacher and the people, the Sacred Text and the social context, as well as the mission and vision of the local church, in order to reconsider the high and holy task of proclaiming the unsearchable riches of Christ for the work of revitalization of a congregation.

YEAR TWO

January - ***Leadership for Revitalization*** - (*Mentoring, Follow-up of Church Revitalization course*) with Dr. Harry Reeder and other mentors at Briarwood Presbyterian Church in Birmingham, AL. *Lay Church Leadership Participation Required.* • This course is a coaching/mentoring program to assist students in applying the principles learned in the Church Revitalization course. Students will review strategies for authentic biblical church health and explore ways to integrate these strategies into the life of the church. A church health survey will enable students to identify the ministry area that needs attention first and then work through a strategy to address that need. The course will emphasize the essential element of prayer in church revitalization.

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July - **Free Elective Course** – You may select any D.Min. course offered at any RTS campus. To see upcoming elective offerings go to www.rts.edu, select academics, degree programs, D.Min., online brochure.

YEAR THREE

January - ***Theology of Ministry*** – Core course with Dr. Shelton Sanford at RTS/Charlotte • A biblical and practical basis for conducting ministry in the context of the Church of the Lord Jesus Christ, to the glory of God, and in obedience to the Great Commission.

July - ***Applied Theology*** – Core course with Dr. Mark Ross at RTS/Charlotte • This course is an advanced seminar in ethics. Its aim is to equip pastors for dealing with the ethical issues commonly faced in pastoral ministry. Part of the course will focus on issues in the philosophical and theological foundations of ethics. The majority of the course will be spent in applying the Ten Commandments to the issues of our times.

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YEAR FOUR

January - ***D.Min. Project and Research Methodologies***
– with Dr. Don Fortson at RTS/Charlotte • This course will assist the student to understand the required components of the D.Min. Project and the proper presentation of an acceptable proposal. Class sessions will consist of both lecture and dialogue with students on their specific topics. Included in the course will be some mandatory research time in the library for building one's bibliography. As an outcome of the course, students will be able to both craft an acceptable project proposal and begin the research and writing of the project itself.

July - **Free Elective Course** – You may select any D.Min. course offered at any RTS campus. To see upcoming elective offerings go to www.rts.edu, select academics, degree programs, D.Min., online brochure.

YEAR FIVE and SIX

Research and writing of D.Min. project in some area of church revitalization under supervision of Dr. Reeder, Dr. Fortson and other RTS faculty advisors.

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For more information, contact

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Email: dfortson@rts.edu

Each RTS campus offers
doctor of ministry degrees and each has
developed unique emphases. For more
information visit www.rts.edu.

The Doctor of Ministry program at one time might have been a professionalization of the ministry, but at RTS Charlotte this is not so. I believe that the D.Min is an instrument of God used to bring vocational renewal from which pastors are sent out to preach Christ in a fresh, bold way. Our prayer is that the D.Min leads to renewal and reformation of ministers and their churches. Everything we do at this seminary is aimed at being used by Almighty God for a new revival.

— MIKE MILTON

REFORMED
THEOLOGICAL
SEMINARY



ATLANTA

CHARLOTTE

JACKSON

ORLANDO

WASHINGTON

VIRTUAL

A mind for truth. A heart for God.