All precourse assignments should be emailed to the Course of Study Office by June 20, 2013.

Course Description
This course is designed to develop critical and creative understandings and practices of Christian discipleship and ministry in the current and emerging digital cultures of the Internet and other computer/device applications.

Required Readings

Precourse Work
1. Read pages 7-163 in Jason Caston, *iChurch Method*. Read pages 1-181 in Elizabeth Drescher, *Tweet If You ♥ Jesus*. Read pages 9-87 in Tim Challies, *The Next Story* (we will read the remainder of the Challies book during the course). Note that, while you are not required to create or configure any of the digital platforms and tools described in the “Let’s Talk Tech” sections of *iChurch Method*, (although you are welcome to try to do this), you are required to read these more technical sections of the book. The learning goal of these readings is to develop your critical awareness of the most important ideas and best practices in the relationship of digital technologies to Christian identity, community, and leadership.

2. A central claim of Elizabeth Drescher’s *Tweet If You ♥ Jesus* is that new digital media are especially conducive to effective use by “mainline Protestant” churches, e.g., “…the very characteristics that have made mainline Protestants so generally ineffective with broadcast media are actually assets with regard to digital social media…” (pp. 9-10). You might or might not agree and identify with this statement, but this pre-course assignment asks you to use the entire Drescher book to reflect and write on your and your church’s cultural relationship and engagement with the “Digital Reformation.” The learning goal of this assignment is your comprehension of the primary cultural causes and characteristics of past and present communication media and methods, and their importance to understanding and development of your leadership and your church community.
   First, in 4-5 typed, standard-formatted pages, identify at five (5) cultural attitudes or communication practices in your church (specifically referring to “habitus” in Drescher’s first chapter) that are either pre-modern, modern, or late/digital modern (specifically referring to these time periods, and their communication practices, as described in Chapters 2-4). Your identification should include specific and detailed descriptions of these attitudes or practices, and should explain why they correspond to one of the time periods.

   Second, in an additional 3-5 typed, standard-formatted pages, identify and describe at least three (3) specific ways that you might reform or revitalize your church community practices (cf.

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chapters 5-6), or your personal leadership practices (cf. chapters 7-8). As part of your description of each one of these practices make specific reference to communication practices mentioned in *Tweet If You ♥ Jesus* (citing the pages), and provide specific steps for the implementation of these practices within your individual life and/or community’s life.

3. In 3-4 typed pages, answer the four questions in “Talk to Your Tech,” pages 61-64 of Tim Challies, *The Next Story*. You will choose the specific technology to address, but specifically mention and accurately employ at least five (5) of the following concepts from the first half of the Challies book: “the mandate of technology;” “the morality of technology;” “mythic technology;” “idolatry;” “Luddite;” “The medium is the message;” “Technology is Ecological;” “Technology is Biological;” “Digital Immigrants;” “Digital Native.”

   a. Read through the list of technological features that are listed in each exercise. Identifying at least three of the features listed in each exercise (e.g., “Request donations through an online payment system,” “Podcasts to download,” “Videos of guest speakers,” etc.) that you either would want for your iChurch, or not want for your “iChurch.” You will therefore have five sets of at least three features for each set (total of 15 features).
   b. For each feature, provide a theological rationale for the inclusion or exclusion of this technological feature from your iChurch. This rationale should include a reflection on the meaning or significance of the technology to your and/or your church’s faith and faithful practices. This reflection and rationale should make very specific reference to either 1) a biblical text about God, 2) an aspect of your church’s tradition about Jesus Christ and/or life in Christ, or 3) an recent event from your and/or your church’s experience of the Holy Spirit. Your reflection may include more than one of these elements (Biblical theology, Christological tradition, Spiritual experience), but must make reference to at least one of them.
   c. Your identification and reflection on each set of 3 or more features should be written in approximately two standard-format, type-written pages, for a total of no more than ten pages for all five exercises (i.e., approximately two pages for each of the Parts 1-5).
DIRECTIONS FOR EMAILING PRECOURSE WORK

Please read all the directions below before emailing your assignments to the COS Office, any emails received that do not follow the directions below will not be accepted. You will receive an email confirmation of receipt and if your email is not submitted correctly an email indicating you will need to resend your assignments.

1. Email only michelle.levan@emory.edu, do not email the instructor your assignment.

2. Emails must be received no later than 11:59pm on the June 20, 2013 deadline.
   a. Please note that the cut off time is EASTERN STANDARD TIME zone, so email your assignments accordingly.
   b. You will be dropped from any course for which precourse work has not been received after June 20, 2013. No precourse work will be accepted after the June 20th deadline.

3. The course number and the phrase “precourse work” should be the subject of your email:
   Example - Precourse ACOS Hebrew Bible
   a. You will need to send a separate email for each course you are registered to attend.

4. Precourse work must be sent as an attached document and not in the body of the email.
   a. Any version of Microsoft Word or WordPerfect documents will be accepted; PDF and Mac-Pages documents will be accepted.
   b. All of your assignments for each course must be in one document, multiple documents are not acceptable. You should send only one attachment with course all assignments.

5. Your FULL name, phone number and email, should all be clearly included at the beginning of your email:
   Example: Michelle Levan
   404.727.4587
   michelle.levan@emory.edu

6. Plagiarism Policy and Plagiarism Defined paragraphs must be included in the body of your email (both are below), not within your precourse work. The inclusion of the policy and definition in the body of the email, verifies that you agree to it and your email will represent your signature. If the email does not include the plagiarism policy and definition it will not be accepted. Your email, with the plagiarism policy and definition will be printed and used as cover sheet for your precourse work, because it has the verification of date and time received, and your agreement to the plagiarism policy and definition, and your contact information.

   Plagiarism Policy
   I have read the plagiarism definition below and verify that this assignment represents my own work, except where credit is given. I have also made copies of this assignment and I will bring them with me to class in the event that any of my work is misplaced.

   Plagiarism Defined
   “You plagiarize when, intentionally or not, you use someone’s words or ideas but fail to credit that person. You plagiarize even when you do credit the author but use his exact words without so indicating with quotation marks or block indentation. You also plagiarize when you use words so close to those in your source, that if your work were placed next to the source, it would be obvious that you could not have written what you did without the source at your elbow. When accused of plagiarism, some writers claim I must have somehow memorized the passage. When I wrote it, I certainly thought it was my own. That excuse convinces very few.” From page 167 of The Craft of Research by Wayne C. Booth, Gregory G. Colomb, and Joseph M. Williams, published in 1995 by The University of Chicago Press in Chicago.

7. If you do not follow the procedure your precourse work WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED!!!!!!