

OSTS Lecture, Fall, 2025, 1st Term
September 22nd to October 27th

Course A ***Reimagining Church***

Lecturer Professor John Bowen

Descriptor

Are you frustrated by the decline of so many churches? This course breathes new life into terms like “Gospel,” “mission,” “church,” and “discipleship” and connects them in a fresh, exciting, and practical way. It will not always be comfortable— changes in old habits are challenging— but it will be rewarding.

Outline

Week 1: Changing world, changing church
How has the world changed in the past 40 years, and how has that affected church?

Week 2: Everything is connected
A new way of thinking about Gospel, Mission, Church, and Christian

Week 3: Introducing fresh expressions of church
What we can learn from new ways of doing church

Week 4: Coconut churches and peach churches
What these are like (and why), and how coconuts can become peaches.

Week 5: Baby steps in new directions
What can we do with these new ideas?

Bio

John Bowen worked in university ministry for twenty years, and then was Professor of Evangelism at Wycliffe College in Toronto for a further twenty years. He is the author or editor of seven books, most recently *The Unfolding Gospel: How the Good News Makes Sense of Discipleship, Church, Mission, and Everything Else* (Fortress 2021). He lives in Hamilton, Ontario.