



Grace Communion Seminary
Church Planting and Church Development
Short Syllabus

Instructor: Randy Bloom

Course description

This course explores the practical application of starting new churches that are centered on Jesus Christ, culturally relevant, share the gospel, make disciples, and continue to multiply new churches. Principles and practices discussed in this course can be applied by pastors and ministry leaders to help established congregations participate more effectively in Jesus' mission and prepare to "re-plant", i.e. relocate a congregation to more effectively participate in Jesus' mission to a focus group or community.

Required textbooks

Archbishop's Council on Mission and Public Affairs. *Mission-shaped Church: Church Planting and Fresh Expressions of Church in a Changing Context*. 2nd ed. London: Church House Publishing, 2010. 192 pages. About \$20.

Crider, Caleb; Larry McCrary; Rodney Calfee and Wade Stephens.
Tradecraft for the Church on Mission. Portland, OR: Urban Loft Publishers, 2013. 202 pages. About \$12.

Hastings, Ross. *Missional God, Missional Church: Hope for Re-evangelizing the West*. Downers Grove, IL: IVP Academic, 2012. 321 pages. About \$20.

Malphurs, Aubrey. *Planting Growing Churches for the 21st Century: A Comprehensive Guide for New Churches and Those Desiring Renewal*. 3rd ed. Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Books, 2004. 431 pages. About \$20.

Stetzer, Ed. *Planting Missional Churches*. Nashville, TN: Broadman & Holman Academic, 2006. 384 pages. About \$11.

Please obtain these books before the class begins. To find the lowest prices on these books, use bookfinder.com.

Recommended textbooks

Bailey, John M., Steve Canter and Randy Ferguson. Eds. *Ready? Preparing for the Pressures of Church Planting*. Alpharetta, GA: North American Mission Board, 2009.

Conn, Harvie M. ed. *Planting and Growing Urban Churches: From Dream to Reality*. Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Books, 1997.

Jones, Tom. ed. *Church Planting from the Ground Up*. Joplin, MO: College Press Publishing Co., 2004.

Logan, Robert E. *Be Fruitful and Multiply: Embracing God's Heart for Church Multiplication*. St. Charles, IL: Church Smart Resources, 2006.

Murray, Stuart. *Church Planting: Laying Foundations*. Scottsdale, PA: Herald Press, 2001.

Nebel, Tom. *Big Dreams in Small Places: Church Planting in Smaller Communities*. St. Charles, IL: ChurchSmart Resources, 2002.

Searcy, Nelson & Kerrick Thomas. *Launch: Starting a New Church from Scratch*. Ventura, CA: Regal Books, 2006.

Student learning outcomes

Students will be able to:

1. Articulate the role of church planting within the framework of Trinitarian theology and the church's participation in Jesus' mission to the world. This outcome will be addressed in Lesson 1 and Chapters 1-3 of Stetzer's book and Chapters 9-10 of Hasting's book. This outcome will be verified in the student's "Church Planting and Jesus' Mission" paper.
2. Evaluate their personal characteristics and competencies related to planting a church. This outcome will be addressed in Lesson 2 and Chapter 5 of Stetzer's book. This outcome will be verified in the student's "Church Planter Characteristics" paper.
3. Describe various types of models for church planting and explain which model best suits their personal characteristics and context. This outcome will be addressed in

Lesson 2 and Chapter 4 of Stetzer's book. This outcome will be verified in the student's "Church Planting Models" paper.

4. Develop a New Church Proposal – a strategic plan for starting a new church – that includes:
 1. A Mission Statement for a new church.
 2. A description of a focus group or community
 3. A description of a launch team including specific ministries necessary for launch.
 4. A general plan and timeline leading up to a church plant launch.
 5. A Discipleship Pathway including key ministries needed to start a new church.
 6. An estimated budget for a starting a new church.

This outcome will be addressed in Lessons 3-5 and 10; Chapters 11, 24 and 18 of Stetzer's book. This outcome will be verified in the student's "Church Planting Models" paper and final project.

Requirements and assignments

The following assignments are to be completed using lecture materials and required reading. Papers should be written with the following format:

- 1 inch margins on all sides
- New Times Roman, font size 12
- Double spacing

1. Church Planting and Jesus' Mission – 10 points

Write a reflection paper answering the following questions and defend your position using Scripture, lesson material and required reading: Does church planting have a place in the church's participation in Jesus' ministry and mission to the world? Explain your position. 1,500 word minimum.

2. Church Planter Characteristics – 10 points

Write a paper (1,500 word minimum) describing:

- Three of your strongest personal characteristics that would enable you to lead a church plant or serve on a church planting team. Describe past experiences you have had that affirm these characteristics. (Be specific and detailed) Include any personal affirmations you have had from other people (without names.)
- Three characteristics of a church planter that least apply to you. How would you compensate for these characteristics?

3. Church Planting Models – 10 points

Write a paper describing the church planting model that best suits your personal

characteristics as a church planter and your cultural context. Explain why you chose your model. Explain the strengths and weaknesses of your preferred model. 1,200 word minimum.

4. Philosophy of Evangelism – 10 points

Write a paper expressing your “philosophy of evangelism” based upon your interaction with the texts. Include Scripture references to support your views. Include a brief description of an evangelism strategy you would implement if starting a new church. 1,500 word minimum.

5. Personal Application – 10 points

Write a paper describing way you can personally apply the principles and practices examined in this course, either as a church planter, a pastor of an established congregation or a ministry leader in a congregation. 1500 word minimum.

6. Discussion – 15 points

Part of the learning that occurs comes through discussion and interaction with other students. In an online class, this is done through comments posted on a discussion forum. You will also need to answer the questions for each lecture and respond to the answers of other students in the class.

7. Final Project: New Church Proposal – 35 points

Write a New Church Proposal for a church plant based on research related to an actual focus group or community. Your proposal may be developed to apply to the relocation (re-planting) of an existing congregation. Consider your proposal a “living document”, one which remains flexible and adaptable to your changing context and the guidance of the Spirit. *If you are working with an established church that is re-missioning or replanting, write a Missional Plan.* In either case your proposal should include:

- Name and location of the church (include detailed rationale for the choice of location)
- A Mission Statement for the church (based on guidelines provided in class material)
- Detailed description of a focus group or community (include a description of the process you used to identify a focus group or community)
- Detailed plan and timeline leading up to launch (re-launch).

- Key ministries you need to start to reach and serve your focus community or group (with job descriptions and leader competencies for the leaders you will need for each of these ministries.)
- A Discipleship Pathway (based on guidelines provided in class materials)
- Budget estimate for two years (using guidelines provided in class materials)

Note: Weeks 3-10 contain materials that will prepare you to develop your proposal. Feel free to utilize PowerPoint, graphs, charts and other and other graphic material to illustrate your concepts and conclusions. (5,000-word minimum)

Read the lectures. Lectures will be posted each Monday for the first ten weeks. See the *Student Handbook* for study suggestions. You should look up any scripture references in the lectures.

For a guide to formatting academic papers, see Purdue University’s Online Writing Lab <http://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/747/01/>.

Assignments, estimated hours, and grade weighting

Assignment	Hours *	Percentage of grade
Reading the syllabus and lectures	12	0
Watching videos	3.5	0
Online discussion (answering questions and interacting with other students)	20	15
Reading the textbooks	30	0
Writing papers	30	50
Final project	40	35
Total – about 12 hours each week	135.5	100

* This is an estimate for the “average” student. A student who reads quickly may be slow in writing papers, and vice versa. Some students will complete the course requirements in less total time, and some will take more time.

Weekly topics and assignments (tentative)

Week	Topic	Assignments to be completed during the week
Week 1	Introduction and Theological Reflections for Church Planting	<p>Lecture notes</p> <p><i>Planting Missional Churches</i>, Chapters 1-3</p> <p><i>Mission-shaped Church</i>, Chapters 3 and 5</p> <p><i>Missional God, Missional Church</i>, Chapters 9 and 10</p> <p>At</p> <p>https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=s6KemUXHwZo&list=UUHOjeZlh7mxr2ZuJwqJVstA</p> <p>watch, “Paradigm Shifts.”</p> <p>Interact with online discussion.</p>
Week 2	Characteristics of a Church Plant Leader and Church Planting Models	<p>Lecture notes</p> <p><i>Planting Missional Churches</i>, Chapter 5</p> <p>At</p> <p>https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fmL4Kzh2QZc&list=UUHOjeZlh7mxr2ZuJwqJVstA</p> <p>watch, “What is a Church Planter?”</p> <p><i>Planting Growing Churches</i>, Chapter 5</p> <p><i>Planting Missional Churches</i>, Chapters 4 and 14</p> <p><i>Mission-shaped Church</i>, Chapter 4</p> <p>“Church Planter Personality Profile”</p> <p>Complete, “Personal Core Values Audit” and submit to the instructor.</p> <p>Complete, “Are You a Church Planter?” and submit to the instructor.</p> <p>Interact with online discussion.</p> <p>“Church Planting and the Mission of Jesus Mission” paper due.</p>
Week 3	New Church Pathway Mission Statements and Focus Group	<p>Lecture Notes</p> <p><i>Planting Missional Churches</i>, Chapters 11 and 13</p> <p><i>Planting Growing Churches</i>, pp. 124-148</p> <p><i>Tradecraft</i>, Chapters 2, 3 and 4.</p> <p>At</p> <p>https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gg_MK7lR4ik&li</p>

		st=UUHOjeZlh7mxr2ZuJwqJVstA watch, “Values, Vision and Mission.” Read “Sample Mission Statements” Review “Demographic Resources”
Week 4	Disciplemaking Pathway	Lecture notes <i>Planting Missional Churches</i> , Chapter 24 <i>Planting Growing Churches</i> , pp. 148-154 At https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dM3v7OCRgDE&list=UUHOjeZlh7mxr2ZuJwqJVstA Watch, “Discipleship Pathway.” Interact with online discussion. “Church Planter Characteristics” paper due.
Week 5	The Launch Team	Lecture notes <i>Planting Missional Churches</i> , Chapters 8 and 16 <i>Planting Growing Churches</i> , Chapter 6 At https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IFoAFPU2puM&list=UUHOjeZlh7mxr2ZuJwqJVstA watch, “Launch Team.” Review: “Corporate Core Values” Interact with online discussion.
Week 6	Evangelism	Lecture notes <i>Planting Missional Churches</i> , Chapter 15 <i>Planting Growing Churches</i> , Appendix D <i>Tradecraft</i> , Chapters 5-7 At https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4KAJr7bAcFA&list=UUHOjeZlh7mxr2ZuJwqJVstA watch, “Evangelism.” Interact with online discussion. “Church Planting Models” paper due.
Week 7	Core Group and Small Groups	Lecture notes <i>Planting Missional Churches</i> , Chapter 17 <i>Planting Growing Churches</i> , Appendix B, Appendix E

		<p>and pp. 165-176 <i>Tradecraft</i>, Chapters 8 and 9 At http://faithtalkgroups.blogspot.com/ watch “Training Introduction” and Training Lessons 1, 2 and 6. Interact with online discussion.</p>
Week 8	<p>Launching Public Worship Services</p>	<p>Lecture notes <i>Planting Missional Churches</i>, Chapter 22 <i>Planting Growing Churches</i>, Appendix C and Chapter 10 At https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RVjvkp_S06E&list=UUHOjeZih7mxr2ZuJwqJVstA watch, “Preview & Launch Services.” At https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=psgjC5VM5A4&list=UUHOjeZih7mxr2ZuJwqJVstA watch, “Promotion.” Read: “Components of Big Days” Review: “First Impressions Checklist” Read: “Making Guests Feel Welcome” Interact with online discussion. “Philosophy of Evangelism” paper due.</p>
Week 9	<p>Leadership Issues, Fundraising and Financial Management</p>	<p>Lecture notes <i>Planting Missional Churches</i>, Chapters 7 and 18 <i>Planting Growing Churches</i>, Chapters 3 and 6 At https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=T0Sj-nybhw8&list=UUHOjeZih7mxr2ZuJwqJVstA watch, “Fundraising.” At https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=g8nlCjuZcak&list=UUHOjeZih7mxr2ZuJwqJVstA watch, “Fundraising for Ministry.” Review: “Budget Items”</p>

		Interact with online discussion.
Week 10	Assessment, Coaching, New Church Proposal and Multiplying New Churches	<p>Lecture notes</p> <p><i>Planting Missional Churches</i>, pp. 82-86</p> <p><i>Planting Growing Churches</i>, Chapter 5</p> <p><i>Planting Missional Churches</i>, Chapters 28 and 29</p> <p><i>Planting Growing Churches</i>, Chapter 13</p> <p><i>Tradecraft</i>, Chapter 10</p> <p>At https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9eTyzvTE-M&list=UUHOjeZih7mxr2ZuJwqJVstA</p> <p>Watch, “Assessment, Coaching and New Church Proposals.”</p> <p>At https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ywb88-mF6Z0&list=UUHOjeZih7mxr2ZuJwqJVstA</p> <p>watch “The value of the church planter assessment process.”</p> <p>At https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=d_0nDajlvTE&list=UUHOjeZih7mxr2ZuJwqJVstA</p> <p>watch, “The value of coaching for church planters.”</p> <p>Read: “New Church Proposal Components”</p> <p>Interact with online discussion.</p> <p>“Personal Application” paper due.</p>
Week 11	Discussion Questions	Interact with online discussion.
Week 12	Final project must be completed and submitted to the instructor by 08/08/2016	