

Gordon-Conwell Theological Seminary – Charlotte

Course Syllabus

Church Planting and Growth (WM/EV665)

Dr. Steven Klipowicz, Professor

Spring 2010:

February 19-20	Friday: 6:30 – 9:30 p.m., Saturday: 8:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.
March 19-20	Friday: 6:30 – 9:30 p.m., Saturday: 8:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.
April 23-24	Friday: 6:30 – 9:30 p.m., Saturday: 8:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.

This course provides an introduction and systematic overview of the process of church planting and consequent congregational development and nurture. Included are biblical and theological rationales for church planting as an evangelistic strategy from a missiological and contextually sensitive perspective as well as an introduction to specific tools, methods, and resources needed for the effective development of new congregations.

Professor of Record

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Course Learning Outcomes

At the conclusion of this course, students should be able to demonstrate the following outcomes:

Students should be able to present a biblical and missiological rationale for church planting as a viable methodology for evangelism and mission in the North American context.

Students should complete individual assessments in terms of their personality, spiritual gifts, talents, motivation, leadership style and other personal factors in light of church planting requirements and evaluate their readiness and capacity to engage in church planting work.

Students should be able to clearly identify the major challenges and incentives for church planting and the impact these have upon the church planter.

Students should be able to develop a comprehensive church planting strategy that would address the needs of a new congregation through its various phases of inception and growth that should:

1. Develop a contextual analysis of a possible church planting site and identify what key church planting models and strategies could be optimally utilized.
2. Prepare a feasibility study of the proposed church plant identifying key factors and challenges including staffing, budget, and eliciting the initial core group.
3. Formulate a vision and mission statement for the new congregation including core values and style elements.
4. Create an intentional systematic process of congregational growth and development toward maturity.
5. Conceive an initial strategic plan for a congregational launch and subsequent church building activities for the first six months.

Course Readings

The following are the required readings for the course. Students will be responsible for reading them and being familiar with their contents. A final statement of completion should be submitted at the end of the course to verify amount of reading completed.

Barna, George. *The Power of Vision*. Regal Books, 2003.

Driscoll, Marc. *Confession of a Reformission Rev*. The Leadership Network, 2008.

Garrison, David. *Church Planting Movements: How God is Redeeming a Lost World*. Wigtake Resources, 2003.

Logan, Bob E., and Steven L. Onge. *The Church Planter's Toolkit*. CRM Church Mart, 1992.

Malphurs, Aubrey. *Planting Growing Churches for the 21st Century*. Baker Books, 2004.

Newbigin, Lesslie. *The Open Secret*. Eerdmans, 1995.

Stetzer, Edward and Putman, David. *Breaking the Missional Code*. Broadman and Holman, 2006.

Extra Credit Reading

Students can receive extra credit by completing additional reading from the Bibliography listed below. Students can earn up to 10 extra points. For every 100 pages of extra reading, students can earn 2 points with a limit of 10 points for 500 pages. Students must submit their extra credit reading with their required reading report by identifying the books or articles read as well as the number of pages as well as a **one page summary for each extra work read.**

Course Schedule

Weekend One (February 19-20)

- Church Planting: Reasons and Rationales
- Missiological DNA of the Church Plant
- Models of Church Planting
- The Anatomy of a Church Planter

Weekend Two (March 19-20)

- Vision and Substance: The Planning Process
- Doing Contextual Analysis
- Deciding Where to Birth a Church!
- Building the Ministry Team
- Gestation: Steps to the Launch

Weekend Three (April 23-24)

- Launching a Church
- Challenges for the Newborn Congregation
- Healthy Growth

Attendance:

Students are required to attend all sessions of the course. Absenteeism will result in a loss of grade points. If for reason of illness or family death or emergency, please contact Dr. Klipowicz regarding these events to determine appropriate make-up activities. For additional information concerning attendance, consult the *Student Handbook* requirements and guidelines.

Course Assignments

The following are required assignments that should be submitted before May 1, 2010. See detailed explanation of assignments below in the syllabus.

1. Personal Assessment Exercise (50 points)

2. Church Planter Interview Teams (75 points)
3. Church Planting Strategic Plan or Analysis (150 points)
4. Statement of completed required readings (25 points) and Extra Credit (up to 10 points)

Grading Scale

270 – 300 points	A- to A+
240 – 269 points	B- to B+
210 – 239 points	C- to C+
180 – 209 points	D- to D+

Course Assignments

All class work and your reading report must be submitted by May 1, 2010.

Assignment One: *Personal Assessment as Church Planter*

Self-awareness is a critical part of leadership, especially being a leader of a church plant. Church planting requires a number of special competencies and qualities. This assignment provides you with the opportunity to take an honest and hard look at yourself in light of a number of categories needed for church planting. Hopefully this self-appraisal will provide you with needed insight into your ability to be a part of a church plant in some capacity.

The Personal Assessment Exercise will require the following steps:

1. Complete the Church Planter Profile exercise for yourself in the Church Planter's Toolkit (Section 2, pages 9-15).
2. Ask two honest and trustworthy people who know you well to complete the same profile with you in mind. Make an appointment to meet with them (separately or together) to discuss your answers as compared with their appraisals. Where do they agree? Where do they differ? Why?
3. Reflect on these two steps and write up a report (5-6 pages) to submit that summarizes your personal findings regarding your assessment and how you potentially are suited for church planting work.

This assignment is worth 50 points. An excellent project will provide in depth and complete reflection in a candid manner on your qualifications to participate in a church plant based upon your own self-appraisal and your conversations with two other key people providing you feedback.

Assignment Two: *Church Planting Interview Teams*

The experience of church planting is a unique story of faith, frustration and varying degrees of fruition that indelibly mark the life of the pioneer minister. Wisdom gained from success and failures can provide a rich harvest of insight regarding the church planting quest.

This assignment requires that **you work collaboratively with 2 or 3 other students as a research team**. Each team member will be responsible for interviewing two church planters to glean perspectives from their ministries into the challenges, frustrations, and convictions of pioneering a new congregation. The interviews can be in person or over the telephone but should be done person to person. Interview data should be recorded and collected for further analysis and reflection. Your subjects should have planted at least one church. If they are currently planting a church, they should have been in the process for at least 1 year.

Team members will work together to develop an appropriate interviewing instrument to be used by each team member and a way to collect, analyze, and discuss the team data.

Steps to Take:

1. Identify two or three fellow students to work with as a team.
2. Develop a questionnaire to use in the interview process. The questionnaire should investigate the following:
 - Background information regarding the church planter that will be helpful in your analysis
 - Why did this person plant a church? Why did this person feel called or qualified to do it?
 - What were the greatest challenges the church planter faced? How did he or she respond? Where were the outcomes? How did they get encouragement?
 - What special ways did they see God's providence at work in the planting process? How did the church planting process influence the planter spiritually?
 - What did the planter learn of him or herself as a result of this venture?
 - What would the planter do differently if things could be done over again?
 - Other issues?
3. Team members should contact two church planters and arrange for the interviews. Let the subjects know the data will be confidential.
4. Data of interviews should be recorded and transcribed in a text format to share with your team members.
5. The team should analyze the data **together** by looking for themes and patterns in the responses that emerge from the interviews. Compare and contrast the experiences of the church planters.

6. Each team should complete an 8-10 page paper that describes the research process, the interview questionnaire, and presents a final discussion of your findings around the theme, *The Inner World of the Church Planter*.

Each team will submit only one report and all members will receive the same class grade. Each team should be ready to present a short summary of findings by the final class weekend.

The grade for the project will reflect the quality of the research questionnaire developed, the strength of the data gathered and the insight and observations resulting from group analysis of the data. A total of 75 points can be earned per student.

Assignment Three: *Strategic Plan for or an Analysis of Church Planting*

Church planters need to develop clear plans as a critical part of the church planting process. This assignment will provide an opportunity for students planning to launch a church or who are in the initial stages of a church launch to develop a comprehensive overview of the strategic plan that will address the needs of a new congregation through its various phases of inception and growth. For students who do not intend to plant a church, they can use this exercise to do an intentional and sequential analysis of a current church plant. This assignment is worth up to 150 points.

Strategic Plan

At the conclusion of the course, students should submit a completed strategic plan for a proposed church plant (12-15 pages) that identifies the following core elements of the plan. The plan should provide support from the courses required and extra credit readings to justify elements of the plan.

1. Formulate a rationale for your strategic plan that incorporates a biblical, theological, and missiological rationale for church planting
2. Develop a contextual analysis of a possible church planting site and identify what key church planting models and strategies could be optimally utilized.
3. Prepare a feasibility study of the proposed church plant identifying key factors and challenges including staffing, budget, and eliciting the initial core group.
4. Formulate a vision and mission statement for the new congregation including core values and style elements.
5. Create an intentional systematic process of congregational growth and development toward maturity.
6. Conceive an initial strategic plan for a congregational launch and outline subsequent church building activities for the first six months.

Church Plant Analysis

Students who choose to do an **analysis** of a current church plant (12 – 15 pages) should research the above information from sources at the church plant. The analysis should not

only record the salient history and features of the church plant, but provide an **evaluation** commentary of the church plant that incorporates insights from required and additional course readings with suggested ways the plant could have been more effectively led and managed.

Bibliography

Websites

www.churchplanting.net

This is an extensive site provided by the Southern Baptists Board of Home Missions and provides significant resources that can be downloaded for free

Omega Course: Church Planter Training Curriculum (5 volumes, on-line).
<http://www.alliancescp.org/resources/omegacourse.html>.

Books

Addison, Steven. *Movements that Change the World*.

Allen, Roland. *Missionary Methods, St. Paul's or Ours?* Eerdmans, 1962.

The Spontaneous Expansion of the Church. World Dominion Press, 1960.

Arn, Charles. *How to Start a New Service: Your Church CAN Reach New People*. Baker, 1997.

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Bunch, David, Kneisel, Jarvey and Oden, Barbara. *Multihousing Congregations: How to Start and Grow Christian Congregations in Multihousing Communities*. Smith Publishing, 1991.

Chaney, Charles L. *Church Planting at the End of the Twentieth Century*. Tyndale House Publishers, Inc., 1993.

Cho, Paul Yonggi. *Successful Home Cell Groups*. Logos International, 1981.

Cole, Neil. *Organic Church: Growing Faith Where Life Happens*. Jossey-Bass, 2005.

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Conn, Harvie. *Planting and Growing Urban Churches: From Dream to Reality*. Baker, 1996.

Dale, Felicity. *Getting Started: A Practical Guide to House Church Planting*. Karis Publishing, Inc., 2003.

Dayton, Edward R., and David A. Fraser. *Planning Strategies for World Evangelization*. Baker, 1992.

Deymaz, Mark. *Building a Healthy Multi-ethnic Church: Mandate, Commitments and Practices of a Diverse Congregation*. Jossey-Bass, 2006.

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Francis, Hozell C. *Church Planting in the African American Context*. Zondervan Publishing House, 2000.

Hirsch, Alan and Frost, Michael. *The Shaping of Things to Come: Innovation and Mission for the 21 Century Church*. Hendrickson, 2006.

Galloway, Dale and Warren Bird. *Starting a New Church: How to Plant a High-Impact Church*. Beacon Hill Press, 2003.

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Gibbs, Eddie. *In Name Only: Tackling the Problem of Nominal Christianity*. Victor/Bridgepoint, 1994.

Goodwin, David E. *Church Planting Methods: A "How-To" Book for Overseas Church Planting Crusades*. Lifeshare Communications, Box 1067, DeSoto, TX 75115, 1984.

Green, Michael. *Evangelism Through the Local Church*. Thomas Nelson, 1992.

Hesselgrave, David J. *Planting Churches Cross-Culturally: North America and Beyond, 2nd ed.* Baker, 2000.

Hiebert, Paul G. and Eloise Hiebert Meneses. *Incarnational Ministry: Planting Churches in Band, Tribal, Peasant, and Urban Societies*. Baker, 1995.

Hopler, Thom & Marcia. *Reaching the World Next Door: How to Spread the Gospel in the Midst of Many Cultures*. Inter-Varsity, 1993.

Hunter, George. *Church for the Unchurched*. Abingdon, 1996.

Jacks, Bob and Betty. *Your Home a Lighthouse: Hosting an Evangelistic Bible Study*. NavPress, 1986.

Keller, Timothy J. *Ministries of Mercy: The Call of the Jericho Road*. P & R Press, 1997.

Keller, Tim and J. Allen Thompson. *Church Planting Manual*. Redeemer Church Planting Center, New York, 2002.

Logan, Robert E. *Beyond Church Growth*. Fleming H. Revell Co., 1989.

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Logan, Bob E., and Steven L. Onge. *The Church Planter's Toolkit*. CRM Church Mart, 1992.

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Priest, Robert and Nieves, Albert, (eds.). *This Side of Heaven: Race, Ethnicity, and Christian Faith*. Oxford University Press, 2007

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Schaller, Lyle. *Assimilating New Members*. Abingdon, 1978.

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Scoggins, Dick. *Handbook for House Churches*. [on-line], accessed 1 December 1999, <http://genesis.acu.edu/cplant/archive/contr036>; Internet.

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Stetzer, Edward J. *Planting New Churches in a Postmodern Age*. Broadman and Holman Publishers, 2003.

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Towns, Elmer. *Getting a Church Started*. Church Growth Institute, Box 4404, Lynchburg, VA 24502, 1985

Wagner, C. Peter. *Church Planting for a Greater Harvest*. Regal, 1990.

Warren, Rick. *The Purpose Driven Church: Growth without Compromising Your Message & Mission*. Zondervan, 1995.

Church Planting Movements examines more than two-dozen movements of multiplying churches on five continents. After presenting these case studies, Garrison identifies ten universal elements present in each movement. He then broadens the circle of examination to identify a further ten common characteristics, factors identified in most, but not all, of the movements. He concludes his examination with a list of "Seven Deadly Sins," i.e. harmful practices that stifle or impede Church Planting Movements. Important for evangelical readers, the author returns to his findings to see how they The Church Planting Guide is part 2 in a series of book entitled Church Growth 101. In this book, the church planter is walk step by step down the road of church planting and given the basic tools and insights needed to plant a vibrant ministry. Church planting will become easier for you as you walk through this guide and use it as a resource for planting churches. Get A Copy. Amazon. There are a number of churches that are now part of the VCI network, including France, Belgium and Netherlands. Also in the network is the Church Planting Training Centre (CPTC) in Europe. Nick and Karen now live in New Zealand and they continue to travel extensively worldwide. Visit VCI Website Visit CptC Website. Nick's Blog. Nick aims to provide encouragement and inspiration through thought-filled writing and stories of faith and miracles. He regularly shares this through his blog, with a mix of material for church planters and leaders. This blog also includes encouragement for people aiming to multiply, church leaders, progress reports for Nick's ministry, upcoming events and prayer requests. View Nick's Blog. 2. Mission-shaped Church: Church Planting and Fresh Expressions of Church in a Changing Context (London: Church House Publishing, 2004), available at: <https://www.freshexpressions.org.uk/international> (accessed 20 August 2016). 3. Harris, Pat (ed.), Breaking New Ground (London: Church House Publishing, 1994), p. v . 4. Davison, Andrew and Milbank, Alison, For the Parish: A Critique of Fresh Expressions (London: SCM, 2010). On the Church Growth Movement, see Gibbs, Eddie, I Believe in Church Growth (Grand Rapids, MI: Eerdmans, 1981). 9. Thorpe, "Chester-le-Street"; Bunting, Ian, Claiming the Urban Village (Nottingham: Grove, 1989).

Converge Church Planting provides a clear pathway for you to plant a new church, campus or to multiply your church. We've created proven strategies, systems and training all designed to improve your success so that more people will have the opportunity to accept Jesus. 752+ total churches planted. plant a church. Resources. The latest church planting resources to help you become a church that multiplies. Church planting. #30 // Maximizing your money. Church Planting. The More Things Change! Part 1. by Bryan Stevenson | Dec 22, 2020 | Church Planting, Small Church / Rural Church, Worship. Over twenty years have passed since I was first involved in a church plant. There is much that has changed in the field of worship and technology, but as the saying goes "the more things change, the more they stay the same. No, I am no longer lugging a Fender Bryan Stevenson. Church Leadership, Church Planting. Small Beginnings. Dec 15, 2020. The Church Planting Guide is part 2 in a series of book entitled Church Growth 101. In this book, the church planter is walk step by step down the road of church planting and given the basic tools and insights needed to plant a vibrant ministry. Church planting will become easier for you as you walk through this guide and use it as a resource for planting churches. Get A Copy. Amazon.