CHURCH PLANTING & RENEWAL: GCA CONFERENCE
Doctor of Ministry Elective 2DM853 or Growth Core 2DM804
Steve Childers & Other Veteran Trainers
January 22-25, 2013 (Tuesday 1pm to Friday 12:30pm)
Orlando Marriot in Lake Mary, Florida
Dual Registration required with RTS & GCA

Course Description

This course is designed to equip church planters, pastors, coaches, and supervisors with the principles and strategies needed for starting and developing healthy, growing, reproducing churches. In this intensive and comprehensive learning experience, leaders will learn, in hands-on ways, how to develop a biblical vision for ministry, philosophy of ministry, and church development. Lectures, discussion, and workshop activities will allow participants to formulate vision, values, mission, and ministry strategies that can find immediate application in the field. Students must choose from one of two primary training tracks: Foundations (Church Planting & Development) or Essentials (Church Growth and Renewal).

Foundations Track: Church Planting & Development
- Vision: Why does the church exist? (Vision Statement)
- Focus: How well do I know my ministry focus group? (Mission Statement)
- Prayer: Who will pray with and for me? (Prayer Plan)
- Philosophy: How can I contextualize without compromise? (Philosophy Statement)
- Purpose: What are the church’s priorities in ministry? (Purpose Statement)
- Values: What are the church’s core motivations for ministry? (Values Statement)
- Styles: How does the church do ministry well in this culture? (Styles Statement)
- Models: How will the church’s ministries work together? (Ministry Model)
- Finances: How will I raise and manage the finances? (Financial Plan)
- Launching: How do I publicly launch the new church ministries? (Ministry Plan)
- Main Thing: How do I survive and thrive personally in all this? (Personal Plan)

Essentials Track: Church Growth & Renewal
- Vision: Why does the church exist? (Vision Statement)
- Prayer: How do I develop prayer ministries? (Prayer Plan)
- Worship: How do I develop worship ministries? (Worship Plan)
- Preaching: How do I develop preaching ministries? (Preaching Plan)
- Discipleship: How do I develop discipleship ministries? (Discipleship Plan)
- Groups: How do I develop healthy, reproducing groups? (Groups Plan)
- Evangelism: How do I bring my community the good news? (Outreach Plan)
- Mercy: How do I develop mercy and justice ministries? (Mercy Plan)
- Leadership: How do I develop church leaders? (Leadership Plan)
- Planning: How do I lead and manage the church? (Ministry Plan)
- Main Thing: How do I survive and thrive personally in all this? (Personal Plan)
Course Instructors

This training event is lead by Dr. Steve Childers and several other veteran church planters and pastors from various denominational, generational and cultural perspectives—representing over one hundred years of church planting and development experience. Steve is the President of Global Church Advancement (GCA). He planted and pastored two churches (urban and suburban) in North America. Since then Steve has written church planting, renewal and multiplication training curriculum (including the Foundations & Essentials courses) and has helped train thousands of church leaders from more than 200 denominations representing over 50 countries in 5 languages on 5 continents.

He is also a professor of Practical Theology and the Director of the Doctoral program at Reformed Theological Seminary, in Orlando, Florida, where he teaches church planting, evangelism, missions and spiritual formation. He has earned masters degrees from Covenant Theological Seminary in St. Louis and Trinity Evangelical Divinity School in Chicago and a doctorate from Reformed Theological Seminary in Orlando. Steve has also done doctoral studies in global mission at Fuller Seminary’s School of World Mission. Steve and his wife Becky live in Orlando, Florida, and have 3 adult daughters.

Course Requirements

Grades are based on reading reports, training participation, and the integration paper.

Pre-Conference Reading Assignments & Reports: Due First Day of Training
Students are required to read 2000 pages of new reading and will submit a “Reading Report” (RR) by the first day of training. This Word document begins with a “Summary Sheet” and is followed by a one-page standard report for each book (see Course Reading Report Forms below). Please separate the summary and each one-page book report with a “page-break”. This document must be received electronically by the first day of training. Please submit to dmin.orlando@rts.edu and identify your reading report document as Yourlastname.ChurchPlanting.W13.RR

If “Required Reading” texts have already been read or cannot be found, the student may substitute books from the ‘Recommended Reading” list below. All readings for the course must be taken directly from these two lists unless otherwise approved by the professor. Students will receive a grade reduction for late reading reports. Reading Reports not submitted by the first day of training are to be submitted with the course integration paper on April 30, 2013.

Conference Debriefing with the Professor
All D.Min. credit students are required to meet with the professor for interaction regarding the application of the training to their lives and ministries and for clarification regarding course assignments. The times and locations of these meetings will be announced at the conference.
Post-Conference Integration Paper: Due April 30, 2013

Students are required to write a 20-25 page (double-spaced, 12-point font, including appendices, models, etc.) course integration paper. This paper must reflect new work done by the student as a result of this course. This paper must demonstrate how the course readings, lectures, and discussions can be integrated/applied to the student’s life and ministry. This paper should reflect good scholarship, including accurately quoted credible sources (8 minimum references/footnotes) and a References Cited section at the end of the paper. This is good preparation for writing a dissertation.

The integration paper will be a real or hypothetical: 1) Church Planting & Development Proposal (Foundations) or 2) Church Growth & Renewal Proposal (Essentials). This paper must include the “statements” and “plans” that correspond with the training sessions in the Foundations Track (Vision Statement, Mission Statement, Prayer Plan, etc.) or Essentials Track (Vision Statement, Prayer Plan, Worship Plan, etc.). See page one for the list of all the required “statements” and “plans” for each training track.

The integration paper is due April 30, 2013. Please include a cover sheet with the name and number of the course, professor, your name and contact information. If your work is not received by the due date, you may have an additional month to complete your paper (May 30, 2013) and you will be assessed a $120 late fee. Please save your Microsoft Word document as Yourlastname.ChurchPlanting.W13.IP and submit it electronically to dmin.orlando@rts.edu. Your work will be forwarded to Dr. Childers.

Course Registration with RTS & GCA
Students may register for the course during the four-week period of November 1, 2012, to December 1, 2012. Enrolled credit students must register with RTS online at https://selfservice.rts.edu/Home.aspx. Enrolled credit students must also register with GCA online at https://www.regonline.com/gcachurchplantingconference2013 by entering Promotion Code: RTSDMIN and paying a $100.00 GCA registration fee online (this is above the RTS tuition fee). This fee covers administrative expenses and the cost of the training manual (course notes).

Church Planter Spouses Attend for Free
The spouses of registered D.Min credit students may attend all training sessions for free, but the D.Min student must register his spouse with GCA online by entering Promotion Code: RTSCOUPL instead of RTSDMIN. This includes free attendance at a specialized forum (6 sessions) for the wives of church planters. Topics include: Gospel & Identity, Calling & Roles, Responding to Chaos, Coaching Your Heart, Issues We Face, and Afraid to Ask?. Many students have used this time (including before or after the conference at special GCA hotel rates) as a “couples getaway” to Florida in January!

No D.Min. Student Auditors
D.Min. students may not attend this training conference as RTS auditors. Students considering “auditing” the course should register with GCA online (not RTS) and pay the normal GCA conference fee (take advantage of Early-Bird and Group special rates).
Course Readings

A. Required Reading: 2000 pages from the following list


Recommended Reading

Bosch, David J.

Clowney, Edmund.

Conn, Harvie M. (ed.)

Greenway, Roger S.

Griffith, Jim and Bill Easum
2008 *Ten Most Common Mistakes Made by Church Starts*. Chalice Press

Guder, Darrell L., et. al. (eds.)
Hesselgrave, David J.
2000 *Planting Churches Cross-Culturally: North America and Beyond, 2nd ed.*

Hunter, George

Hughes, Kent and Barbara
1997 *Liberating Ministry from the Success Syndrome.*
Wheaton, IL: Tyndale House Publishers, Inc.

Logan, Robert E.
1989 *Beyond Church Growth.* Old Tappan, NJ: Revell
2006 *Be Fruitful and Multiply.* ChurchSmart Resources.

Macchia, Stephan A.

Miller, Darrow

Murray, Stuart

Nebel, Tom
2002 *Big Dreams in Small Places: Church Planting in Smaller Communities.* St Charles, IL: ChurchSmart Resources.
2005 *Church Planting Landmines.* ChurchSmart Resources.

Newbigin, Lesslie

Pope, Randy
2002 *The Prevailing Church.* Chicago, IL: Moody.

Roberts, Jr. Bob

Sande, Ken

Schaller, Lyle E.

Wagner, C. Peter
## Course Reading Report Forms

### Summary Reading Guide

**READING REPORT**

- Your Name
- Course Title & Number
- Professor/s
- Date Completed

List books read

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Author</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>#Pages Read</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

Total Number Pages Read: _______

*Insert page break and follow with one-page report per book.*

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### Guide for one-page reading reports

**Title of Book**

**Complete Bibliographic Reference**

**Overview**—Give a brief overview of the book, including its theme, perspective and approach.

**Critique**—Offer a brief critique of the book, including elements of strength and weakness.

**Application**—Offer some specific application to your own ministry—demonstrating the value and relevance of the material in this book.

**Best Quote**—Be sure to include the page number where the quote can be found.

*Insert page break and follow with each report.*

2 (and following)
# Course Objectives Related to D.Min Student Learning Outcomes

**Course:** Church Planting & Development: 2DM853 or 2DM804  
**Professor:** Steven L. Childers  
**Campus:** Orlando

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>D.Min Student Learning Outcomes</th>
<th>Rubric</th>
<th>Mini-Justification</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Articulation (oral &amp; written)</strong></td>
<td>Strong</td>
<td>Knowledge of church planting and renewal will be presented and articulated in both written assignments and a dialogical teaching approach.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Scripture</strong></td>
<td>Moderate</td>
<td>Direct engagement with Scripture in the original languages will not be required. Student will demonstrate suitable use of Scripture and hermeneutical methods in understanding the priority of a healthy reproducing church.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Reformed Theology</strong></td>
<td>Moderate</td>
<td>Material will be presented through the grid of Reformed Theology and Practice. Minimal emphasis will be placed on the Westminster Standards.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Sanctification</strong></td>
<td>Strong</td>
<td>By God’s grace and through interaction with the materials and each other, the student will die more to self, and deepen their affection for the Triune God, the Church, and their neighbor.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Desire for Worldview</strong></td>
<td>Strong</td>
<td>Student will gain a deep understanding of the Mission of God, particularly as it applies to church planting.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Winsomely Reformed</strong></td>
<td>Strong</td>
<td>Student reads books by authors that are not Reformed, and discusses the value of ecumenicalism as it applies to church planting and renewal.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Preach</strong></td>
<td>Moderate</td>
<td>Materials will be presented that give the students a better understanding on how to teach and preach in a church planting context.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Worship</strong></td>
<td>Minimal</td>
<td>Materials will be presented that give the student a better understanding of the priority of worship in church planting and renewal.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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**Articulation (oral & written)**

Broadly understands and articulates knowledge, both oral and written, of essential biblical, theological, historical, and cultural/global information, including details, concepts, and frameworks.

**Scripture**

Significant knowledge of the original meaning of Scripture. Also, the concepts for and skill to research further into the original meaning of Scripture and to apply Scripture to a variety of modern circumstances. (Includes appropriate use of original languages and hermeneutics; and integrates theological, historical, and cultural/global perspectives.)

**Reformed Theology**

Significant knowledge of Reformed theology and practice, with emphasis on the Westminster Standards.

**Sanctification**

Demonstrates a love for the Triune God that aids the student’s sanctification.

**Desire for Worldview**

Burning desire to conform all of life to the Word of God.

**Winsomely Reformed**

Embraces a winsomely Reformed ethos. (Includes an appropriate ecumenical spirit with other Christians, especially Evangelicals; a concern to present the Gospel in a God-honoring manner to non-Christians; and a truth-in-love attitude in disagreements.)

**Preach**

Ability to preach and teach the meaning of Scripture to both heart and mind with clarity and enthusiasm.

**Worship**

Knowledgeable of historic and modern Christian-worship forms; and ability to construct and skill to lead a worship service.
| **Shepherd** | Ability to shepherd the local congregation: aiding in spiritual maturity; promoting use of gifts and callings; and encouraging a concern for non-Christians, both in America and worldwide. | Moderate | The student will grow in their understanding of the role of a shepherd in a church planting context. |
| **Church/World** | Ability to interact within a denominational context, within the broader worldwide church, and with significant public issues. | Strong | The student will gain an understanding on how to interact denominationally, ecumenically and in the local context. |