

Planting a Church that Stands for Something

Biblical and Theological Foundations in the Practice of Church Planting

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Course Title: “Planting a Church that Stands for Something: Biblical and Theological Foundations in the Practice of Church Planting”

Course Schedule: Three days lecture (one day consisting of two three hour blocks); one day group study, planning and preparation, one day presentations, discussions, and conclusions, class includes a class working dinner (discussions);

Learning Outcome: The seminary student will have a Biblical, theological and practical foundation for the Gospel kingdom work of church planting and will have also produced a church planting plan for a proposed site

Required Texts: St. Paul’s First and Second Epistles to Timothy and the Following:

Required Reading

Books (to be read before the end of the course)

Let the Nations Be Glad by John Piper (Baker, 2004, ISBN:9780801026133) [or the Spanish version, *Alegrense las Naciones*, may be downloaded as a PDF for free at http://www.desiringgod.org/media/pdf/spanish/books_bnat_spanish.pdf];

Seven Steps for Planting Churches by Tom Cheyney, J. David Putman and Van Sanders, Editors (available for free at: [Spanish Version] <http://www.churchplantingvillage.net/atf/cf/{087EF6B4-D6E5-4BBF-BED1-7983D360F394}/7StepsSpan040135A.pdf>; [English Version] [http://www.churchplantingvillage.net/atf/cf/{087EF6B4-D6E5-4BBF-BED1-7983D360F394}/7%20Steps%20for%20Planting%20Churches%20\(Planter%20Edition\)%20030729.pdf](http://www.churchplantingvillage.net/atf/cf/{087EF6B4-D6E5-4BBF-BED1-7983D360F394}/7%20Steps%20for%20Planting%20Churches%20(Planter%20Edition)%20030729.pdf)).

Examination: A written test, and the presentation of a church-planting plan for a specific location

Resources:

[Global Church Advancement](#)

[Bibliography of Church Planting](#)

[MNA \(Presbyterian Church in America home missions\) Church Planting](#)

[Am I a Church Planter](#) (produce by the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America)

Day One: “Surveying the Land”—Biblical Foundations of Church Planting

- . Shallow Roots and Deep Roots: Why Getting it Right in Church Planting is Critical
- . The Biblical Basis for Church Planting—Old Testament Foundations
- . The Biblical Basis for Church Planting—New Testament Foundations
- . A Portrait of the Church Planter: Issues in Assessment
 - o Reflections from Acts and 1 and 2 Timothy
 - “I planted, Apollos watered, but God gave the growth. So neither he who plants nor he who waters is anything, but only God who gives the growth” (1Corinthians 3.6, 7 ESV)
 - See [*Am I a Church Planter*](#)

Day Two: “Preparing the Ground”—Strategies in Church Planting

- . Biblical Strategies Observed in the Book of Acts
 - o We will move through, beginning with Acts 13, and list the expository thoughts concerning strategies for church planting according to God Himself
- . Biblical Strategies Observed in the Pastoral Epistles
 - o A similar exercise in observing the strategies of the Lord through Paul’s epistle to Timothy
- . Preparing a Church Planting Plan *from Narrative to Burden to Values to Vision to Mission to Strategies*

Day Three: “Tilling the Soil”—Pastoral Issues in Church Planting

- . Project Management for Church Planters
- . Core Group Dynamics
- . Stages on the Field
 - o From Gathering to Bible Study to First Service

- From First Service to Organization
- From Organization to Infrastructure Development
- . Issues from the Pastoral Epistles
- . Other Issues to Consider

Day Four: Team studies on church planting sites

Teams will be formed of no more than 3 people and will:

1. Work together to select a site with strategic justification
2. Assign members to prepare parts of the Church Planting Plan, after working together to discuss the issues
3. Church Planting Plan will include
 - a. Title Page with members names
 - b. Narrative
 - c. Description of site
 - d. Church name
 - e. Church Vision and Mission Plan
 - i. Burden
 - ii. Core Values
 - iii. Vision Statement
 - iv. Mission Statement
 - v. Philosophy of Ministry for
 1. Preaching
 2. Worship
 3. Discipleship
 4. Leadership
 5. Outreach in Word and Deed

6. Community

vi. Strategies

1. In Phase One: Planning

2. In Phase Two: Mission

3. In Phase Three: Organization

Day Five: Presentations of Church Planting Plans and Exam