

ASSEMBLIES OF GOD THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY

PTH 530 Models of Church Planting

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Spring 2003

3 Hours

COURSE SYLLABUS

COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course examines the foundational biblical principles of church planting as well as contemporary strategies and models for planting new churches. Emphasis will be given to practical methods for beginning and developing new churches. Special attention will be given to helping participants develop a viable personal church planting strategy.

COURSE OBJECTIVES

Each participant should demonstrate through the academic, relational and spiritual requirements of this course that he or she has satisfactorily met the following objectives:

Knowledge

1. Have a good understanding of the biblical foundation for establishing new churches,
2. Be familiar with the current body of literature pertaining to church planting, and other existing resources for new church development,
3. Be acquainted with various models and methods of planting new churches,
4. Be familiar with particular qualities, gifts, and character traits of effective church planters,
5. Have an awareness of the unique challenges of church planting in a postmodern society,
6. Be familiar with principles and techniques proven effective in contemporary church planting,
7. Recognize the advantages of church planting with a core team,

Attitudes

1. Have an appreciation for the ministry of home missions and those who are actively involved in the planting of new churches,
2. Develop a growing burden for reaching unsaved people,
3. Have an appreciation of the importance of understanding and catering to a target audience,
4. Have a realistic understanding of the personal cost of planting a church,
5. Have a healthy self-critical perspective toward one's personal ministry giftings,
6. Demonstrate a sensitivity to the guidance of the Holy Spirit in personal life and ministry,
7. Share in the burden of prayer for the ministry of planting churches.

Skills

1. Be able to articulate several keys to effective church planting in contemporary society,
2. Be able to evaluate the potential of a community and core group for a new church plant,
3. Be able to recognize and address common barriers to effective church planting,
4. Be able to formulate a strategic plan for planting a new church,
5. Be able to identify and maximize one's personal giftings in ministry.
6. Develop a network of people who can be of assistance during the church plant process,

REQUIRED TEXTBOOKS

Cordeiro, Wayne. *Doing Church as a Team*. Oshu, HI: New Hope Christian Fellowship, 1998.

Malphurs, Aubrey. *Planting Growing Churches for the 21st Century: A Comprehensive Guide for New Churches and Those Desiring Renewal*. 2nd ed. Grand Rapids: Baker, 1998.

Moore, Ralph. *Starting a New Church*. Ventura, CA: Regal Books, 2002.

Schwarz, Christian A. *Natural Church Development*. St. Charles, IL: ChurchSmart Resources, 1996.

RECOMMENDED TEXTBOOKS

Guder, Darrell, *Missional Church: A Vision for the Sending of the Church in North America*. Grand Rapids, MI: Eerdmans, 1998.

Hunter, George G. *The Celtic Way of Evangelism: How Christianity Can Reach the West...Again*. Nashville: Abingdon, 2000.

Mannioia, Kevin. *Church Planting: The Next Generation: Introducing the Century 21 Church Planting System*. 2nd ed. Indianapolis: Light and Life Press, 1994.

Shenk, David W. and Ervin R. Stutzman. *Creating Communities of the Kingdom: New Testament Models of Church Planting*. Scottsdale: Herald Press, 1988.

METHODOLOGY

This interactive “seminar” style course will utilize a wide variety of learning methods and approaches including lecture, discussion, readings, guest lectures, interviews, and conference calls with actual church planters, as well as networking with those able to provide assistance in the church planting process. While the course will have a strong cognitive component, it is intended to be a deeply personal and practical experience in the student's ministry preparation process.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

1. *Class attendance:* Students are expected to attend and actively participate in all class sessions. Due to the nature of the course (conference calls, interviews, guests speakers, etc.), missed sessions cannot be made up, and the student’s presence in class will enable them to get the most of the experience.
2. *Complete Required Reading:* Read the required texts in their entirety. If the student has previously read a textbook for academic credit, they may substitute another book from the recommended reading section or Select Bibliography. Students will be asked to report that the reading has been completed on time. Students should be prepared to participate in class discussions pertaining to each book.

Reading Due dates:

Moore, Ralph. <i>Starting a New Church</i>	Due Jan. 23
Schwarz, Christian A. <i>Natural Church Development</i>	Due Feb. 13
Cordeiro, Wayne. <i>Doing Church as a Team</i>	Due Feb. 27
Malphurs, Aubrey. <i>Planting Growing Churches for the 21st Century</i>	Due Mar. 27

3. *Conduct a Church Planter Interview.* Interview (in person or by phone) a pastor who has planted a church within the last two years. Sample questions to get you started:
- Was there a specific strategy/philosophy/model that guided your church plant?
 - If you were starting over today, what would you do the same?
 - In an ideal world, what would you do differently?
 - What was the most difficult thing you encountered during the process?
 - What was the most unexpected thing you encountered during the process?
 - What help did you need that you wished you would have had?
 - What role did your spouse/family play in the process? Any suggestions for involving families, or helping them through the process?
 - What did you learn from your church planting experience?
 - What was/is your favorite part about your church planting experience?
 - What resources or books were the most helpful to you in the process?
 - What words of advice would you give to prospective church planters?

Reflect on the highlights of this interview in a 5-7 page report.

4. *Complete a “Church Planting Strategy” Project.* Develop a personalized church planting strategy. This is intended to be a practical step-by-step process that you could follow in an actual church plant situation. If possible, make this an actual proposal; however, a fictitious setting is acceptable. This assignment will be due in three separate stages, with each section being at least 12-15 pages (approximately 40-45 pages total). See attached sheet for further specifics regarding this project.

Project due dates:

Paper 1: Laying the foundation	Due Feb. 6
Paper 2: Preparing for the launch	Due Mar. 13
Paper 3: Six month follow-up strategy	Due April 10

GRADING PROCEDURE

Reading of textbooks (4 @ 5% each)	20%
Active participation in class sessions	10%
Church Planter Interview	10%
Paper 1	20%
Paper 2	20%
Paper 3	20%

Late papers will be penalized at the discretion of the instructor. Work received after the due date will result in a change of grade fee (\$15.00) being charged, even when an extension has been granted by the instructor.

A PERSONAL STRATEGY FOR PLANTING A CHURCH

Following is the outline for the term project. You should answer these types of questions as thoroughly as you can at this stage of your quest to plant a church.

I. Laying the foundation: your ministry strategy and context

A. Personal Profile

Discuss your personal vision/mission, giftings, personality, calling, etc. In what way are you uniquely suited to plant this church? What are some specific strengths and weaknesses that you bring to the plant?

B. Church Plant Strategy

In light of your personal profile, discuss your strategy for the church plant. For what unique purpose does your church exist? What specifically do you want it to be known for--what is its mission or purpose? Be sure to spell out things like the church's philosophy/style of ministry, style of worship, type of ministries it will offer, type of building that will best facilitate the mission, etc.

C. Target Context

Who are you trying to reach? Who specifically is your target group? (*age subgroup? socioeconomic subgroup? ethnic/cultural subgroup? etc.*) In what geographical area are you going to plant the church? Discuss the area and demographic profile of your target context.

D. Leadership Structure/Support

Who are you going to cooperate with on a broad scale, and what will their role be in the plant? (*i.e. a sponsoring church? a district or denomination? flying solo?*) Who is going to help you in the day-to-day efforts of planting the church? How will decisions be made? Who will you have praying for you? Who could you recruit for prayer support?

II. Preparing for the launch: an action plan

In light of section I, develop a church planting strategy (action plan) for the six months prior to the launch. This plan should be tangible, practical, and realistic.

A. Church particulars

What will be the name of the church? Logo? Vision/mission/purpose statement? Core values?

B. Ministry Goals

What are your goals for the church plant? for converts? for growth? for financial independence? How many do you plan to have at your first public service? After your first service?

C. Recruiting and training your church planting team

What people need to be in place prior to the launch? What kind of people are you looking for to be your initial leaders? What process and qualifications will you use for selecting leaders? What training will these leaders need?

D. Facilities

Estimate what size facility you will need--describe it. Where can you set up an office? Describe the office equipment you will need. What worship equipment will you need?

E. Finances

How much money will you need? How will you obtain it? When will you need it? Write out a budget (Include as an appendix). Include such items as salaries, benefits, mailing, printing, equipment--office, sound, seating, rent, advertising, secretarial, nursery, curriculum.

F. Service particulars

What will a typical order of service be? Consider matters such as dress style, preaching style, atmosphere, seating arrangements, greeters, ushers, offering, greeting guests, altar calls, information booths, refreshments, child care, Sunday school.

G. Preparing for the first service

How will you contact people and get them to come? What sort of gathering will you have? Detail your plans and goals for the first public service.

H. Legalities

What legal paperwork must be done to incorporate the church? What is needed as far as insurance, etc. Are there any other state or city requirements of which you should be aware?

III. Six month strategy following opening service

Develop a church planting strategy for the six months following the launch. Prepare a tentative action plan (specific steps you will take and when).

A. General game plan

What is your game plan for the first six months of the new plant? (i.e. service and program schedules, preaching themes, marketing/PR, etc.)

B. Assimilation & Discipleship

How will you effectively assimilate new people into the church? How will you disciple these people once they have joined the church? What curriculum will you use for discipleship classes, small groups, children and youth ministries, adult classes, new member's classes, discipleship classes? What process/qualifications will you use for accepting new members?

C. Recruiting and training leaders within the church

What key ministries will be needed for a successful church plant? What process and qualifications will you use for recruiting new leaders? In what areas do you need to disciple them--vision, theology, decision making, commitment, attitude, devotional, integrity, morality, ministry skills, giftedness?

SELECTED BIBLIOGRAPHY

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