

Grace Theological Seminary

In conjunction with

Grace Brethren North American Missions

Course Prospectus

Course Title: **Seminar on North American Church-planting**
Masters Level Course – PM 610

Date: July 30 to August 3, 2007

Instructor: Dr. Terry Hofecker

Dr. Terry Hofecker (*B.S., M.Div., D.Min., M.A.T.S.*) is an adjunct faculty member for Grace Theological Seminary and Ashland Theological Seminary in the area of North American church planting. He is the founding pastor of Northwest Chapel in Dublin, Ohio, a Grace Brethren congregation of over 1600 members. He is a recognized expert on church-planting movements having founded and facilitated three such movements in North and Latin America that are still actively creating new congregations annually. Northwest Chapel is presently planting a daughter congregation in Ohio every year. Additionally, Dr. Hofecker works with the Lilly Endowment and the Sandberg Leadership Center (Ashland, Ohio) on research in the area of pastoral health.

Course description: This seminar introduces the student to the basic understanding and skills necessary to *start* a congregation in any North American cultural context. It takes the student from call through self-assessment to reaching and bringing together a group of 25-75 individuals committed to being a church. A separate training track is planned to train developmental pastors to take a congregation beyond the 75 barrier through developmental pastoral ministry. Informed by David Garrison's concepts of church multiplication, it seeks to train church-planters to form new congregations aggressively and rapidly with a dependence upon follow-on pastoral church developers. Some attention is given to participants who desire to pursue a founding pastor model as well. Students will be expected to engage the experience both intellectually and spiritually with significant encouragement given to building spiritual community within the class and Work Groups.

Objectives:

- To give the student a basic theoretical framework for a lifelong journey of growing in the understanding of and skills for North American church planning.
- To equip the student to develop a healthy, balanced approach to church planting that fosters on-going personal, spiritual relational and professional health and development and to be able to integrate that planned health into the demanding task of starting a new congregation in a North American cultural context through the use of the Sandberg Leadership Center/Lilly Endowment Four Journey Model.
- To equip the student to use the Logan Life Cycle Model to develop a practical, comprehensive and realistic vision for a church planting project.
- To introduce the student to the CMTC's Boot Camp Strategy Model for developing a strategic plan for a new North American church plant.
- To familiarize the student with research resources, methodologies and tools that allow for a demographic, psychographic and spiritual analysis of the target population and area.
- To assist the student in preparing practical time management structures, outreach and marketing plans, and relevant taxonomy decisions that allow for reasonable prospects of effectiveness and accountability and coaching support in a church planting context.
- To introduce the student to the necessary dynamics of an attractional congregation's first public service.
- To survey basic issues that relate to the Infancy Stage of a new congregation before it attains and aggregate participating membership of 75 individuals.\
- To provide the opportunity for the student to experience spiritual community in the context of a small cohort of learners exploring the practical and spiritual dynamics of North American church planting.
- To allow the students to engage personally at least two practitioners or theoreticians of North American church planting with the expectation that some limited post-course interaction may be possible and encouraged.

Requirements:

- Attendance at all sessions and experiences.
- Complete the SVP-CP on-line assessment before attending the first class hour on July 30, 2007. Instructions for completing this assessment are e-mailed to all participants who register with Grace Seminary.
- Timely completion of all prerequisite reading and submission of a reading report by October 30, 2007.

The following books are to be read in their entirety (total to exceed 1500 pages):

Planting Missional Churches, Ed Stetzer, 2006 (372 pages).

Planting Growing Churches for the 21st Century, Aubrey Malphurs, second edition, 1998 (425 pages).

Community of Kindness, Steve Sjogren and Rob Lewin, 2003 (219 pages).

Breaking the Missional Code, Ed Stetzer and David Putnam, 2006 (244 pages).

Church Planting Landmines: Mistakes to Avoid in Years 2 through 10, Tom Nebel and Gary Rohrmeyer, 2005 (140 pages).

Church Planting Movements, David Garrison, 1999 (49 pages).

Big Dreams in Small Places, Tom Nebel, 2002 (136 pages).

- Submission of a typed personal church-planter portfolio indicating completion of assigned exercises by October 30, 2007. This portfolio will represent the first draft of a personal management philosophy and strategic ministry vision document for the church-planter's proposed project. It will be based upon insights gained from the class and assessment materials. It will include the following:
 - First draft of a Church-planter Self-management Plan.
 - First draft of a Boot Camp Strategy
 - First draft of a Contact-making Strategy
 - First draft of a Birth Design
 - First draft of Proposed Metrics and Two Year Ministry Plan for the new congregation

- Active and positive participation in the worship and Work groups

Schedule:

Day One *Theme: How to win the world without losing your soul.*

- Brief worship
- Introduction and overview
- Brief overview of the assessment materials
- Assessment review and interpretation in *Work Groups*
- How to be a healthy church-planter
 - Your Upward Journey of walking with God
 - Your Inward Journey of self-care and personal growth
 - Your Outward Journey of family, peers and friends
 - Your Forward Journey into Spirit-anointed ministry

Day Two *Theme: Conception*

- Brief worship
- Your call to church-planting
- Your call to a target group
- Analyzing the soil of your God-given field (observation, demographics, psychographics, interviews and surveys, networking with other leaders, churches and denominations)
- *Work Group* exercise: Create a fictional target group and target group assessment
- Your Taxonomy Toolbox--WHAT is God calling you to do that will fit WHERE He has called you
 - Attractional/Incarnational continuum—Zero orientation principles
 - Dynamic Congregation/Established Assembly Continuum--all types are true churches
 - Taxonomy of Types and discussion of unique models and hybrids
- Introduction to Creating a BootCamp Strategy
 - Target group
 - Ministry Values
 - General values-based goals
 - Mission Summary Statement
 - Vision Statement
 - Timeline
- Resource Discovery

Day Three *Theme: Pre-Natal development*

- Worship and intercession in work groups
- Definition and description of a church embryo and fetus: introduction to the Pre-natal Critical Path Chart
- Contact Making Theory and Realities
- Contact Making Strategies (*Work Group* exercise)
- Process Evangelism Theory and Skills
- Group Formation and Cohesion

Day Four *Theme: Birth*

- Brief worship
- Differing launch realities by Taxonomy Type (critical mass, etc.)
- Worship for different types and venues
- Achieving and maintaining community connection
- Introduction to Marketing and Guerilla Marketing
- *Work group* discussion on Marketing and Guerilla Marketing
- Evening fellowship dinner

Day Five *Theme: Infancy*

- Brief worship
- Introduction to cohort training and the ACT structuring principles:
 - Strategic planning and implementation
 - Contact discovery
 - Process evangelism
 - Biblical discipleship
 - Spiritual community
 - Leadership development
 - Inspirational Worship
 - Functional organization
- The Law of Small Numbers: Understanding the dynamics in overcoming the 5, 25, 35 and 75 barriers
- Leadership development
- Born to reproduce: The call to multiplication and not just addition
- Prayer and consecration