

TM710: The Local Congregation as a Missional Outpost. (12 or 8 units) Kurt Fredrickson and Alan Hirsch

DESCRIPTION/RELEVANCE FOR MINISTRY:

Lesslie Newbigin wrote that the only hermeneutic of the gospel is a congregation of men and women who believe it and live by it. The only church that makes a difference in culture is a real, tangible, visible church. Too many congregations have very little impact on culture, choosing instead to live in isolation and irrelevance. Any congregation in any setting has the opportunity, and the obligation to be a missional outpost. This course will explore theological basis for the missional church and how that identity emerges and is lived out in the practices of a local congregation.

LEARNING OUTCOMES:

- Develop an enriched theological understanding of the missional nature of the church
- Become a critical interpreter and apostolic engager of culture
- Cultivate an understanding of the organic nature of the church
- Foster new practices for developing Christian community
- Advance new leadership paradigms for disciple making
- Utilize new ecclesial practices for transformative engagement in culture

COURSE FORMAT:

This course will consist of lectures, large and small group discussion, a field cultural immersion experience, the viewing of videos, visits to local congregations and interaction with guest lecturers.

REQUIRED READING:

- Anderson, Ray S. *An Emerging Theology for the Emerging Church*. Intervarsity Press, 2006.
- Allen, Roland. *The Spontaneous Expansion of the Church* (Fourth Edition). London: World Dominion Press, 1960.
- Campbell, Jonathan S. *The Way of Jesus: A Journey of Freedom for Pilgrims and Wanderers*. San Francisco: Jossey-Bass, 2005.
- Cole, Neil. *The Organic Church: Growing Faith Where Life Happens*. San Francisco: Jossey-Bass, 2005.
- Frost, M., Hirsch, A. *The Shaping of Things to Come: Innovation and Mission for the 21st Century Church*. Peabody: Hendrickson, 2003.
- Frost, Michael. *Living As Exiles*. Hendrickson.
- Gibbs, E., Bolger, R.K. *Emerging Churches: Creating Christian Communities in Postmodern Cultures*. Grand Rapids: Baker, 2005.
- Guder, Darrell L., ed. *Missional Church: A Vision for the sending of the Church in North America*. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1998.
- Hauerwas, Stanley. *A Community of Character: Toward a Constructive Christian Social Ethic*. Notre Dame: University of Notre Dame Press, 1981.
- Hirsch, Alan. *The Forgotten Ways: Reactivating the Missional Church*. Brazos.
- McNeal, Reggie. *The Present Future: Six Tough Questions for the Church*. San Francisco: Jossey-Bass, 2003.
- Murray, S. *Post-Christendom: Church and Mission in a Strange New World*. Carlisle: Paternoster, 2004.
- Newbigin, Lesslie. *The Gospel in a Pluralist Society*. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1989.
- Pascale, R.T., Millemann, M., Goijs, L. *Surfing the Edge of Chaos: The Laws of Nature and the New Laws of Business*. New York, three Rivers Press, 2000.
- Roxburgh, A.J., Romanuk, F. *Christendom Thinking to Missional Imagination: Leading the Cultivation of Missional Congregations*. Unpublished Manuscript, 2004.
- Van Engen, Charles. *God's Missionary People: Rethinking the Purpose of the Local Church*. Grand Rapids: Baker, 1991.
- Ward, Pete. *Liquid Church*. Peabody: Hendrickson, 2002.
- Wright NT. *Following Jesus: Biblical Reflections on Discipleship*. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1994.

RECOMMENDED READING:

- Barrett, Lois Y., ed. *Treasure in Clay Jars: Patterns in Missional Faithfulness*. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 2004.
- Bass, Diana Butler. *The Practicing Congregation: Imagining a New Old Church*. Herndon, VA: Alban Institute, 2004.
- Bonhoeffer, Dietrich. *The Cost of Discipleship*. New York: Simon and Schuster, 1995
- Bosch, David J. *Transforming Mission: Paradigm Shifts in Theology of Mission*. Maryknoll: Orbis, 1991.
- Dulles, Avery. *Models of the Church*. New York: Image, 2002.
- Garrison, D. *Church Planting Movements: How God is Redeeming a Lost World*. Midlothian: WIGTake Resources, 2004.
- Hall, Douglas John. *The Cross in our Context: Jesus and the Suffering World*. Minneapolis: Fortress, 2003.

- Peterson, Eugene. *Christ Plays in Ten Thousand Places: A Conversation in Spiritual Theology*. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 2005.
- Roxburgh, A.J. *The Missionary Congregation, Leadership, & Liminality*. Harrisburg, Trinity Press, 1997.
- Schreier, Robert. *Constructing Local Theologies*. Maryknoll: Orbis, 185.
- Volf, Miroslav. *After Our Likeness: The Church as the Image of the Trinity*. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1998.
- Wheatley, M. *Leadership and the New Science: Discovering Order in a Chaotic World*. San Francisco: Berret-Koehler, 1999.
- Willard, Dallas. *The Divine Conspiracy: Rediscovering Our Hidden Life in God*. New York: Harper Collins, 1998.
- Yoder, John Howard. *Body Politics: Five Practices of the Christian Community Before the Watching World*. Scottsdale, PA: Herald Press, 2001

ASSIGNMENTS:

Pre-Seminar –

- Read the required/recommended books (4500 pages for 12 units, 3000 pages for 8 units), and write a one page (single-spaced) critical interaction on each book

Mid-Seminar –

- Attend all class sessions and participate in the immersion experience and visit to a local congregation. Note, this visit most likely will take place over the weekend in the middle of the course. Please plan to be in Pasadena for most of the weekend.

Post-Seminar –

- Write a paper describing the immersion experience
- Write a paper (12 units: 60-70 pages, 8 units: 40-50 pages) on missional engagement in a specific local context. This paper will include:
 - A theological reflection on the church's mission in culture
 - Characteristics of a missional congregation
 - Application of these characteristics in that local context

CATALOG COPY:

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