CHURCH PLANTING

by

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COURSE DESIGN

Reformed Theological Seminary

Jackson, Mississippi
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Course Description:

This course will provide a biblical, theological, exegetical, historical (including studies on the Book of Acts), strategical, and practical principles to guide us in the process and movements of church planting. Biblical and contemporary models of church planting will be seriously considered as well.

Biblical, theological, exegetical, and historical principles of church planting are studied in the context of the local churches and pastoral ministry.

Case studies of church planting in the teaching and ministry of Christ, His “evangelists,” and His Apostles are examined.

Contemporary case studies of effective church planting within different contexts will be presented and evaluated.

Course Requirements:

Research Component

The building up of a personal bibliography on Church Planting (please include articles [journals, magazines, etc], chapters of books, theses, dissertations, websites, etc.).

Watching Component

Video lectures by “successful” church planting movements will be posted periodically as part of our listening, watching, and reasoning.

Reading Component:

Darrin Patrick, Church Planter: The Man, the Message, the Mission (Crossway Books, 2010).

Video clip: https://vimeo.com/14551672
Video clip: [http://www.timothykeller.com/books/center-church](http://www.timothykeller.com/books/center-church)


**Written Report Component** of your reading shall be submitted highlighting personal conclusions that you consider very important for immediate and future use for a local church planting project.

**Exegetical/Theological Component**

Careful reading of the book of Acts and a written report of at least 10 pages, single space, as a sentence (topic) outline on principles of "church planting in the book of Acts."

**Practical Components**

A trip will be scheduled to visit one of the churches successfully involved in a church planting movement.

A 5-10 pages church plant project that could be sponsored and carried out by a local church.

**CHURCH PLANTING COURSE DESIGN**

I. INTRODUCTION

A. Personal Pilgrimage

B. Course Design

II. Church Planting–Dangers

A. Demographic reductionism

B. Urban workers, semi-urban workers, rural workers, and jungle workers

C. Cultural complexity of both urban and rural ministries

D. Prioritizing what is secondary.

E. Exegetical reductionism

III. WHY CHURCH PLANTING?

A. Preliminary remarks

B. Biblical and Theological Reasons
C. Strategical reasons

IV. ATTITUDES (BELIEFS AND ASSUMPTIONS)

A. God has elected people from among every tribe, tongue and nation
B. Hell is real and to live without Christ is to live a life unworthy of living.
C. Church Planting has to be deliberately, intentionally planned
D. There is not just one way to plant a church, but a church cannot be planted without Bible Exposition
E. Do not take the Holy Spirit for “granted” in church planting.

V. Perceptual Barriers

VI. Case Studies in the Scriptures

A. Jerusalem

VII. Contemporary Church Planting Movements: Case Studies

A. Redeemer PCA, New York, NY (Tim Keller and
B. Spanish River PCA, Boca Raton, Florida
C. Perimeter PCA, Atlanta, Georgia (Randy Pope and Bob Cargo)
D. The Village Church, Dallas, Texas (Matt Chandler)
E. The Summit Church, North Carolina (J.D. Greer)
F. Exponential: Championing Church Multiplication