Course Description

This course is designed to give you a biblical, theological, missiological, and practical introduction to the ministry of church growth and renewal. The emphasis will be on equipping students with the principles and strategies needed for growing and renewing healthy, reproducing, gospel-centered churches that result in healthy, growing, reproducing disciples among all nations. Leaders from more than 50 countries, representing over 300 denominations and 7 languages, have taken this training to date.

Thought-provoking lectures, interactive discussions, and practical, adult-learning activities (including the use of hybrid-social media in and outside of class) will allow you to formulate your own culturally contextualized methodologies that can find immediate application in church ministry. The primary thesis of the course is that “healthy churches grow holistically.” So church leaders must learn to focus primarily on church health, not church growth. The outcome of the course will be a personalized Church Growth and Renewal Proposal the student can actually use in leading a new or established church toward healthy growth and renewal. Course sessions will include:

- **Vision:** Why does the church exist? **Vision Statement**
- **Prayer** How do I develop prayer ministries? **Prayer Plan**
- **Worship** How do I develop worship ministries? **Worship Plan**
- **Groups** How do I develop groups & community? **Groups Plan**
- **Preaching** How do I develop preaching ministries? **Preaching Plan**
- **Mercy** How do I develop mercy & justice ministries? **Mercy Plan**
- **Evangelism** How do I develop evangelism ministries **Outreach Plan**
- **Discipleship** How do I develop discipleship ministries? **Discipleship Plan**
- **Leadership** How do I develop church leaders? **Leadership Plan**
- **Planning** What should I do in the next 12 months? **Ministry Plan**
- **Main Thing** How do I survive and thrive personally in all this? **Personal Plan**
Course Instructor(s)

This course is lead by Steve Childers and other veteran pastoral leaders representing decades of collective, in-the-trenches church growth and renewal experience. Steve is an experienced church planter and pastor, seminary professor at RTS-Orlando, and president of Global Church Advancement (GCA). He has planted and pastored two churches, urban and suburban, in North America and written church planting, growth and multiplication training curriculum (7 languages)—including the training curriculum for this course.

Steve has helped train thousands of church leaders from many denominations worldwide. He has earned masters degrees from Covenant Seminary and Trinity Evangelical Divinity School, and a doctorate from Reformed Seminary. He has also done doctoral studies at Fuller Seminary’s School of World Mission. At RTS-Orlando, he regularly teaches church planting, church growth, evangelism, missions, and spiritual formation. As this course’s professor of record, he will be debriefing and applying the concepts learned in this training to the student’s lives and ministries—as well as evaluating and grading their church growth and renewal proposals (final integration paper).

Course Requirements

Pre-Class Reading Assignments & Reports: Due July 21, 2014
There will be 2000 pages of new reading (not having been previously read by the student) assigned for the course from the Required Reading list below. If required reading texts cannot be found, or have previously been read, the student may substitute books from the Recommended Reading list below. All readings for the course must be taken directly from these two lists unless otherwise approved by the professor.

Doctor of Ministry credit students are required to submit a Reading Report (RR), giving evidence of their reading and interaction with the concepts in the assigned books/articles. This Word document must begin with a Summary Sheet and is followed by a one-page standard report for each book (see Course Reading Report Forms below). Please separate the summary and each one-page book report with a page break.

The Reading Report (RR) must be received electronically (by email as an attachment) by the first day (and meeting) of class. Students will receive a grade reduction for late reading reports. Reading Reports not submitted by the first day/meeting of class are to be submitted with the course integration paper on October 31, 2014. Please submit to dmin.orlando@rts.edu and name your Reading Report document as Yourlastname.ChurchGrowth.S14.RR.

Course Attendance and Participation
This course follows the lecture, discussion and small group sharing methods requiring attendance and participation at all sessions. Tardiness and absences will affect the course grade. Training sessions and group discussions will be based on the assumption that the student has completed the assigned readings.
Post-Seminar Integration Paper: Due October 31, 2014

Students are required to write a 15-20 page (double-spaced, 12 point font) course integration paper. This paper must also reflect new work done by the student as a result of this course. This paper must demonstrate how the course readings, lectures, and discussions can be integrated/applied to the student’s life and ministry. This paper should reflect good scholarship, including accurately quoted credible sources (8 minimum references/footnotes) and a References Cited section at the end of the paper. This is good preparation for writing a dissertation.

The integration paper will be a real or hypothetical Church Growth and Renewal Proposal (including an Action Plan for the next 12 months). This paper must include the statements and plans that correspond with the course training sessions (Vision Statement, Prayer Plan, Worship Plan, etc., see page 1).

The integration paper is due (electronic copy in RTS inbox) October 31, 2014. Please include a cover sheet with the name and number of the course, professor, your name and email address. If your work is not received by the due date, you may have an additional month to complete your paper (November 30, 2014) and you will be assessed a $120 late fee. Please save your Microsoft Word document as Yourlastname.ChurchGrowth.S14.IP and submit it electronically to dmin.orlando@rts.edu. Your work will be forwarded to the professor of record for evaluation and grading.

Course Grading

Your final course grade will be based on the following:
1. Reading Reports (25%)
2. Class Attendance & Learning Activities Participation (50%)
3. Integration Paper (25%)

Course Registration with RTS & GCA

- Enrolled RTS D.Min credit students must register with RTS and pay for the course online at https://selfservice.rts.edu/Home.aspx.

- Enrolled credit students must also register with Global Church Advancement by clicking here http://bit.ly/16MgkEr, entering Promotion Code: RTSDMINJULY14 when asked, and paying a $100.00 registration fee online (this is above the RTS tuition fee). This fee covers GCA administrative expenses and the cost of the training manuals for both Part 1 (Workshop) and Part 2 (Seminar) of the course:

Important: Modified Course Schedule (Mon 1pm Start and Mon & Tues Evening Sessions)

- Part One (Church Growth Workshop): Mon 1:00pm-4:30pm*, 6:30-8:00pm and Tues 8:30am-11:15am
- Part 2 (Church Growth Seminar): Tues 1:00pm-4:30pm, 6:30-8:30pm, Wed-Thurs 8:30am-4:00, and Fri 8:30am-Noon.
*NOTE* The first class does not begin until MONDAY AFTERNOON 1:00PM and there is one class session on MONDAY AND TUESDAY EVENING.

- **D.Min. Student Spouses Discount.** To encourage student spouses to attend this training, they can register through GCA at a special reduced rate. Spouses are required to register and pay (the early-bird or regular spouse rate) for the workshop and/or Seminar they are planning to attend. Many students have used this time (including before or after the conference) to have a getaway to Florida in January! For spouses to register click here [http://bit.ly/16MgkEr](http://bit.ly/16MgkEr) and enter Spouse when prompted.

- **No D.Min Student Auditors:** D.Min. students may not attend this training conference as RTS auditors. Students considering “auditing” the course should register with GCA online (not RTS) and pay the normal GCA seminar fee (& take advantage of special Early-Bird and Group rates): [http://www.gca.cc/gca-conference/pricing/](http://www.gca.cc/gca-conference/pricing/)

### Course Readings

**A. Required Reading: 2000 pages from the following lists**


Hughes, Kent and Barbara, *Liberating Ministry from the Success Syndrome.* Crossway, 2008, Wheaton IL


Pope, Randy *Insourcing: Bringing Discipleship Back to the Church.* Zondervan 978-0310490678 2013 230

**B. Recommended Reading*: Substitutes if required books have been read**

**Important:** Student’s may choose books from the Leadership Network Book Series, that address their church's greatest need(s): [http://leadnet.org/books/](http://leadnet.org/books/)


Conn, Harvie M. (ed.)

Greenway, Roger S.

Griffith, Jim and Bill Easum
2008  *Ten Most Common Mistakes Made by Church Starts*. Chalice Press

Guder, Darrell L., et. al, (eds.)

Hesselgrave, David J.

Hunter, George

Hughes, Kent and Barbara

Logan, Robert E.
1989  *Beyond Church Growth*. Old Tappan, NJ: Revell
2006  *Be Fruitful and Multiply*. ChurchSmart Resources.

Macchia, Stephan A.

Miller, Darrow
1984  *Discipling Nations: The Power of Truth to Transform Cultures*. YWAM.

Murray, Stuart

Nebel, Tom
2002  *Big Dreams in Small Places: Church Planting in Smaller Communities*. St Charles, IL: ChurchSmart Resources.
2005  *Church Planting Landmines*. ChurchSmart Resources.

Newbigin, Lesslie

Pope, Randy
Roberts, Jr. Bob  

Sande, Ken  

Schaller, Lyle E.  

Wagner, C. Peter  

Warren, Rick  
Course Reading Report Forms

**Summary Reading Guide**

**READING REPORT**

Your Name  
Course Title & Number  
Professor/s  
Date Completed  

List books read  
Author  Title  #Pages Read  

Total Number Pages Read: ______

*Insert page break and follow with one-page report per book.*

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**Guide for one-page reading reports**

**Title of Book**
**Complete Bibliographic Reference**

**Overview**—Give a brief overview of the book, including its theme, perspective and approach.

**Critique**—Offer a brief critique of the book, including elements of strength and weakness.

**Application**—Offer some specific application to your own ministry—demonstrating the value and relevance of the material in this book.

**Best Quote**—Be sure to include the page number where the quote can be found. *Insert page break and follow with each report.*

2 (and following)
# Course Objectives Related to D.Min Student Learning Outcomes

Course: Church Growth Core 2DM804  
Professor: Steven L. Childers  
Campus: Orlando

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>D.Min Student Learning Outcomes</th>
<th>Rubric</th>
<th>Mini-Justification</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Articulation (oral &amp; written)</strong></td>
<td>Strong</td>
<td>Knowledge of church growth and renewal will be presented and articulated in both written assignments and a dialogical teaching approach.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Scripture</strong></td>
<td>Moderate</td>
<td>Direct engagement with Scripture in the original languages will not be required. Student will demonstrate suitable use of Scripture and hermeneutical methods in understanding the priority of a healthy, growing, reproducing church.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Reformed Theology</strong></td>
<td>Moderate</td>
<td>Material will be presented through the grid of Reformed Theology and practice. Minimal emphasis will be placed on the Westminster Standards.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Sanctification</strong></td>
<td>Strong</td>
<td>By God’s grace and through interaction with the materials and each other, students will die more to self, and deepen their affection for the Triune God, the Church, and their neighbor.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Desire for Worldview</strong></td>
<td>Strong</td>
<td>Students will gain a deep understanding of the Mission of God, particularly as it applies to church growth and renewal.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Winsomely Reformed</strong></td>
<td>Strong</td>
<td>Student reads books by authors that are not Reformed, and discusses the value of ecumenicalism as it applies to church growth and renewal.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Preach</strong></td>
<td>Moderate</td>
<td>Materials will be presented that give the students a better understanding of how to teach and preach in a both an unhealthy and healthy, growing church.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Worship</strong></td>
<td>Minimal</td>
<td>Materials will be presented that give the student a better understanding of the priority of worship in church growth and renewal.</td>
</tr>
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Articulation (oral & written): Broadly understands and articulates knowledge, both oral and written, of essential biblical, theological, historical, and cultural/global information, including details, concepts, and frameworks.

Scripture: Significant knowledge of the original meaning of Scripture, and the concepts for and skill to research further into the original meaning of Scripture and to apply Scripture to a variety of modern circumstances. (Includes appropriate use of original languages and hermeneutics; and integrates theological, historical, and cultural/global perspectives.)

Reformed Theology: Significant knowledge of Reformed theology and practice, with emphasis on the Westminster Standards.

Sanctification: Demonstrates a love for the Triune God that aids the student’s sanctification.

Desire for Worldview: Strong desire to conform all of life to the Word of God.

Winsomely Reformed: Embraces a winsomely Reformed ethos. (Includes an appropriate ecumenical spirit with other Christians, especially Evangelicals; a concern to present the Gospel in a God-honoring manner to non-Christians; and a truth-in-love attitude in disagreements.)
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<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Ability to shepherd the local congregation: aiding in spiritual maturity; promoting use of gifts and callings; and encouraging a concern for non-Christians, both in America and worldwide.</th>
<th>Moderate</th>
<th>The student will grow in their understanding of the role of a shepherd in a church growth and renewal context.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Church/World</strong></td>
<td>Ability to interact within a denominational context, within the broader worldwide church, and with significant public issues.</td>
<td>Strong</td>
<td>The student will gain an understanding of how to interact denominationally, ecumenically and in the local context.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>