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ME 630 Planting New Churches

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Asbury Theological Seminary
Fall Term, 2002

Tuesday 6-9 p.m.
Professor: Crandall
Credit: Three Hours

Prospectus for the Course
ME 730
NEW CHURCH EXTENSION

I. COURSE DESCRIPTION

An orientation to the theological, sociological, and practical dimensions of starting new churches in North America along with a brief look at case studies and opportunities for new church planting in other lands.

II. COURSE OBJECTIVES

With the much welcomed and long overdue renewal of interest in the new congregational development by many denominations, we intend to provide students with the best literature and insights available for successful leadership in this critical ministry of church planting. By the conclusion of the course, students will have confidence for launching a new congregation based on a strong theological rationale and an array of practical skills including: building a core group, clarifying core values and a philosophy of ministry, doing demographic analysis and site selection, learning to prioritize and do strategic planning, evangelizing today's pre-Christian peoples, developing cross-cultural and urban sensitivity, designing worship, exploring appropriate models for discipleship, leadership development, architectural planning, etc. In sum, students will be ready to begin a new church ministry starting with day one.

III. PROCEDURE AND COURSE REQUIREMENTS

The course consists of weekly class sessions meeting Tuesday evenings from 6:00 to 9:00 p.m. Classes will include lectures, videos, discussion, personal research, and guest resource leaders. The reading, both required and collateral, is considered part of the curriculum and a reading report must be turned in on a "Reading Report" sheet (attached) by Dec. 10th. One point will be lost for each 50 pages not completed. Due on Dec. 3rd will be the course project. A Critical Book Review following guidelines provided is due on Tuesday, November 12th. Any student missing more than one class period will need to read 100 extra pages and write a two page summary for the class missed and consult with the professor regarding other possible assignments.

A. READING REQUIREMENTS (20% of Grade) **DUE 12/10/02**

The following texts are considered required reading:

1. Planting Growing Churches, 2nd ed., Aubrey Malphurs, 1998 (400 pages).
2. Next Church.Now: Creating New Faith Communities, Craig Miller, 2000 (175 pages)
3. The Purpose Driven Church, Rick Warren, 1995 (390 pages).

In addition to required reading, 400 pages of collateral reading must be read from the texts below, items on reserve, or other materials approved by the professor. Materials read previously cannot be counted as collateral for this course.

1. *Stuart Murray, Church Planting: Laying Foundations, 2001.
2. * Linus Morris, The High Impact Church, 2nd ed., 1998.
3. Shenk and Stutzman, Creating Communities of the Kingdom, 1988.

4. *Harvie Conn, ed., Planting and Growing Urban Churches, 1997.
 5. Compton & Sallee, Growing New Churches, 1992
 6. Lyle Schaller, 44 Steps Up Off The Plateau, 1993.
 7. Tom Steffen, Passing the Baton: Church Planting That Empowers, 1993.
 8. Oscar Romo, American Mosaic: Church Planting in Ethnic Churches, 1993.
 9. * Peter Wagner, Church Planting for a Greater Harvest, 1990.
 10. George Barna, A Step-by-Step Guide to Church Marketing, 1992.
 11. * David Hesselgrave, Planting Churches Cross-Culturally 2nd Ed, 2000.
 12. * Charles Brock, Principles and Practice of Indigenous Church Planting, 1981.
 13. Monica Hill, ed., How to Plant Churches, 1984.
 14. Harry H. Fowler, Breaking Barriers of New Church Growth, 1988.
 15. Lyle Schaller, 44 Questions for Church Planters, 1990.
 16. W. James Cowell, Extending Your Congregation's Welcome, 1989.
 17. Alan Lakein, How to Get Control of Your Time and Your Life, 1973.
 18. Lyle Schaller, Center City Churches, 1993.
 19. Greenway and Monsma, Cities: Mission's New Frontier, 1989.
 20. Bob Logan, Beyond Church Growth, 1989.
 21. Brian McLaren, The Church on the Other Side, 2000.
 22. Bill Sullivan, Ten Steps to Breaking the 200 Barrier, 1988.
 23. Ezra Earl Jones, Strategies for New Churches, 1976.
 24. David Garrison, Church Planting Movements, (SBC IMB), 2000.
 25. * Hozell C. Francis, Church Planting in the African American Context, 1999.
 26. O. Dean Martin, Invite: Preaching for Response, 1987.
 27. George Hunter, How to Reach Secular People, 1992.
 28. * George Hunter, Church for the Unchurched, 1996.
 29. * Kevin Mannoia, Church Planting: The Next Generation, 1994.
 30. Charles Chaney, Church Planting at the End of the 20th Century (Revised Ed), 1991.
 31. * Paul Hiebert and Eloise Menses, Incarnational Ministry: Planting Churches in Band, Tribal, Peasant, and Urban Societies, 1995.
 32. Avery Dulles, Models of the Church-Expanded Edition, 1987
- AND Various materials from the internet, the library, or denominational sources.

B. THE BOOK REVIEW (15% of Grade) **DUE 11/12/02**

Students must select one of the texts above marked (*) and write a 750 to 800 word (word count important) critical book review following guidelines provided for writing academic-critical book reviews. PLEASE read samples of such reviews in *academic journals* if you are unfamiliar with this assignment.

C. CLASS PROJECT (50% of Grade) **DUE 12/03/02**

Each student will be responsible for a class project and a written report (or a take home final examination) due the last day of class. The following projects are considered to be most helpful, but other projects may be accepted after consultation with the professor.

1. Choose a political area (a county, city, census tract, etc.) and study the census and/or current demographic reports. Compare this with earlier demographic studies or census for trends. Identify and interview at least one knowledgeable person who can interpret trends being noted and projected for the next decade. Then, do a "windshield survey" and identify at least one tract or other section of your area "ripe" for new church development. Write a simulated (or actual) proposal for such development to your judicatory office and make your case. Copy it to your professor.
2. Participate in a community survey seeking out the unchurched in a neighborhood or area. Evaluate their receptivity and identify basic human, social and spiritual needs.

Project the kinds of ministries and emphases that would best reach these people for Christ if a new church were to be started. Give a brief description of how you would plant a new church in this area, including a philosophy of ministry.

3. Work with and interview a local pastor and/or denominational official involved in new church development. Evaluate the experience and report on lessons learned, contributions made, recommendations, etc.
4. Interview three new church planting pastors and at least two lay persons in each church. Write up your interviews in the form of three case studies not to exceed four double-spaced typed pages each. Include in each case study the basic historical, demographic and statistical information, problems faced, special awareness of God's presence, special gifts and emphases of the pastor, and other similar ingredients emphasized in our texts or in class.
5. Write or phone your own church extension board or agency requesting all available information on preparing you for a church-planting ministry. Write up an evaluation of their program and materials including such matters as alternative models for new churches, cross-cultural and ethnic minority focus, mission opportunities, the relationship of your polity to successful new church development, etc. We would appreciate an extra copy of any material not currently on file from your denomination or agency.
6. Do a study of church planting in a particular mission field or your home country, using published reports and field data. Evaluate the effectiveness of the efforts and recommend adjustments and/or alternatives.

D. CLASS PRESENTATION (15% of Grade)

All Th.M., D.Miss., and Ph.D. students will be asked to lead the class in a 15-20 minute presentation on some aspect of the challenge before us. Select one of the areas listed below and draw on both your reading and your personal experience. A handout and/or PowerPoint slide presentation will be helpful.

IV. PROPOSED SCHEDULE

Although we may vary slightly from the order listed due to the availability of our "outside guests" and field contacts, our intended course outline is below.

Date	Session	TOPIC
9/03	I	Biblical/Historical/Theological Issues
9/10	II	Church Planting Pastors: Gifts, Personalities, and Style
9/17	III	Core Values and Philosophy of Ministry
9/24	IV	Models & Strategies for New Churches
10/01	V	Contextual Research
10/08	VI	Craig K. Miller <i>Next Church Now</i>
10/15	VII	Advertising & Initial Contacts
10/22	VIII	Kingdom Conference
10/29	IX	Understanding & Reaching Unchurched
11/05	X	Designing Worship
11/12	XI	Leadership and Discipleship
11/19	XII	Buildings: Sites, Architecture, Construction
11/26		NO CLASS – READING WEEK
12/03	XIII	Odds and Ends, and Final Assignments are Due

ME 730 READING REPORT

NAME (PRINT) _____ (Signature below)

I have read the following number of pages for ME 730, 2002.

REQUIRED ASSIGNED READING: (Sign below at Bottom of Page)

	Author	Title	Total Pages
1.	A. Malphurs	<u>Planting Growing Churches</u> (400 pages)	_____
2.	Craig Miller	<u>Next Church.Now: Creating New Faith Communities</u> (175 pages)	_____
3.	R. Warren	<u>The Purpose Driven Church</u> (390 pages)	_____
TOTAL PAGES OF ASSIGNED READING			_____

COLLATERAL AND ELECTIVE READING:

	Author	Title	Total Pages
1.	_____	_____	_____
2.	_____	_____	_____
3.	_____	_____	_____
4.	_____	_____	_____
5.	_____	_____	_____
6.	_____	_____	_____
TOTAL PAGES OF COLLATERAL READING			_____
GRAND TOTAL PAGES READ FOR CREDIT			_____

TOTAL NUMBER OF **ABSENCES** FROM CLASS DURING SEMESTER _____

MAKEUP READING: (Not to exceed 100 pages = 1 Free + 1 Makeup = 2 Maximum classes)

	Author	Title	Total Pages
1.	_____	_____	_____
2.	_____	_____	_____

SIGNED _____ **DATE** / / _____