

6 – CP101 Church Planting Skills

Course Description

A study of church planting methods with an emphasis on spiritual preparation and skill development.

This course covers skills normally used when planting new congregations. The prerequisite for this course is *Formation of Spiritual Disciples (PL103)*. Students will be strengthened spiritually during this course to enable them to apply the other skills needed for planting churches. Students will gain basic mastery of important issues and skills including: biblical patterns for establishing a congregation, when does a group of people become a church, different ways to start local churches, how to excite (motivate) church members to serve on a team, finding people to make a team, growing prayer partners, defining a target area, making contacts, persons of peace, creating and growing small groups, growing local leaders, and contextual issues for each community. This class will also talk about different ways to work in urban (city) communities, rural communities, and villages.

Course Rationale

Starting new local churches is the most effective way of bringing people to know and follow Christ. Church planting is the most integrative of all the activities of a local church. The spiritual formation of a student is a key element in helping people actually establish new congregations. Church planting skills should be built on the foundation of a deep walk with Christ. This course could be taught over several years in conjunction with a local church or district plan for starting churches. Establishing a new congregation from nothing to a fully organized church requires a very broad range of abilities. Normally, this requires a team effort supported both by a coach and an existing local church. Only a few persons have been gifted with the abilities to do this solo, and it is notable that both Jesus and Paul used teams. Thus, most of the necessary skills focus around the building of various teams to support the efforts of establishing a new congregation. At the same time, there is a broad range of outcomes that apply and will be fulfilled in students' lives as they practically engage in church planting.

Since establishing a new congregation normally takes between 1 year to 4 years, this course is not designed to always accomplish that task, but to introduce students to the wide range of issues and give them beginning practice in those skills. It may be possible for some institutions to partner with a local church or district to help the student over a period of years to establish a new congregation.

Intended Course Outcomes through Engagements

Students will show growth in the following ways:

1. *Character Formation*: Formation through involvement in a team (cohort) that brings Scripture, prayer, and shared experiences to group times.
2. *Content Processing with Peers*: Be able to develop strategies and plans that are contextually appropriate for planting new churches with a team.
3. *Ministry Capability Development*: Identify and develop community engagement points for cultivation and motivate a small team to participate.

4. *Application in Mission and Community*: Through a process of group discernment, be involved in one of the community engagement points identified in point 3.

Connection to Ordination Preparation:

Learning Outcome	Assessment	Program Outcome	Activity Statement
1	1	CH-2,	PRA-1, ACC-1, DIS-4
2	2	CP-4, CP-10, CH-2, CX-3, CX-11	CED-3, CED-4, EVA-5, ICO-2
3	2,3	CP-4, CP-5, CP-8, CP-9, CX-3, CX-9	ADM-2, ADM-5, CED-3, DIS-15, EVA-1, EVA-2, EVA-5, LEA-5, SMG-3
4	2,3	CP-8, CP-9, CP-10, CX-9	DIS-5, DIS-15, EVA-3, LEA-8, SMG-3

Balance:

Content	20%
Competency	45%
Character	10%
Context	25%

Course Texts

Key Texts:

- Allen, Roland. *The Spontaneous Expansion of the Church: And the Causes That Hinder It*. Eugene, Oregon: Wipf & Stock, 1997.
- Garrison, David. *Church Planting Movements: How God Is Redeeming a Lost World*. WIGTake Resources LLC, 2004.
- Ott, Craig, and Gene Wilson. *Global Church Planting: Biblical Principles and Best Practices for Multiplication*. Grand Rapids: Baker, 2011.
- White, David. *Your Church Can Multiply*. Philippine Challenge, Inc., 2000. <http://missionarytraining.org/main/chmult.htm>

Additional Learning Resources:

- Arn, Win and Charles Arn. *The Masters Plan for Making Disciples*. Kansas City, MO: Nazarene Publishing House, 1982.
- Bustle, Louie E. *Church Growth*. Kansas City, MO: Beacon Hill Press, 1990. Bustle, Louie E. *New Solutions*. Nashville, TN: Choice Books, 1992.
- Coleman, Robert E. *The Master Plan of Evangelism*. Tarrytown, NY: Fleming H. Revell Company, 1991.
- Hesselgrave, David J. *Planting Churches Cross-Culturally*. Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Book House, 1980.
- Scott, Jon & Margaret, Chambo, Filimao, et al. *From Jesus Film to Viable Church*. Florida, South Africa: Africa Nazarene Publications, 2003.
- Sullivan, Bill M. *Starting Strong New Churches*. Kansas City, MO: Nazarene Publishing House, 1997.
- Toler, Stan and Bustle, Louie. *Each One Win One*. Kansas City, MO: Beacon Hill Press, 2006.

Course Requirements

- 1. Bible Reading and Prayer Journal:** Students should read through the Bible as designated in the *Master Plan for Bible Reading* in the Course of Study. For this course, students will read Deuteronomy 1 – 34 and Luke 12 – 24. The focus of the Scripture reading and prayer time for this course is on students' response to God's call to love others. Sometime during each week, in response to what God is speaking to them about, students should determine one tangible way to express love to others. This may be a family member, a neighbor, friend, co-worker, or stranger. Students will then write at the close of the week at least one paragraph of 200 words reporting their experience and what God taught them through this experience. The entries can be scattered across a semester, be daily for intensive modules, or in follow up to modular class meetings. As an alternative, students may give a short oral report in the cohort small group during the class meeting time, sharing how God is developing them through reading the Bible.
- 2. Local Community Consultation:** Teams of two students (preferably) will research a community by gathering stories and histories from community members. These stories will include at least (as a minimum) two businesses, two homes, and one local official of some type. Students will also observe the community and make notes about the type of community it is, what features or characteristics it has, what the majority culture is and what minority cultures are present, what places of worship are present, what the spiritual atmosphere seems to be, and if there is any evidence of need for a new church. A written or oral report will be given to the class. If oral, half ($\frac{1}{2}$) of the report will be delivered by each of the team members and the report must be at least 20 minutes long. A time of reflection and input from the class is to be given for immediate feedback. If written, each student will take responsibility for a different section of the report, the report must be about 2,000 word (eight pages double spaced).
- 3. Church Planting Plan:** Using the same team of two people as before, and based on the community research done, students will plan to help motivate their local church to start a new church in that community. They will need to make specific plans: Who would you talk to? What activities would you promote? How would you help them see the burden for the lost in that area? What potentials would you emphasize? How would you gather a prayer team to help you? The project can be given orally or in writing. A written or oral report will be given to the class. If oral, half ($\frac{1}{2}$) of the report will be delivered by each of the team members and the report must be at least 20 minutes long. If written, each student will take responsibility for a different section of the report, the report should be about 1,000 words (four pages double-spaced).

Course Assessment

Bible Reading and Prayer Journal	15 %
Local Community Consultation	35 %
Church Planting Plan	50 %

Course Outline

1. Overcoming Barriers and Enemies of Evangelism
2. First Encounters with God and Cultural Values
3. The Church on Mission and Ministry

4. Keys for Church Growth
5. Evangelism Methods
6. Multiplying Churches and Pastors and Three Health-Enhancing Habits
7. 21 Strategic Principles
8. Spiritual Growth in Devoted Disciples
9. "Addition Can Never Keep Up with Multiplication"
10. Reaching our Neighbors
11. Impart Vision to Your Church
12. Mobilize a Team
13. Set a Goal and Write Plans
14. Confirm the Target Village and Make Contacts
15. Start Outreach Bible Studies (OBS) and Nurture the New Believers
16. Form a Fellowship
17. Continue Nurture and Outreach
18. Formally Organize the New Church
19. Ongoing Activities in Church Planting
20. Church Planting Movement Principles