I. Course Description

ME 600 (Mission and Evangelism in Church Planting) provides instruction, encouragement and equipping to the student for God’s mission in the local church through church planting. At the heart of the teaching will be a study of Scripture and its relevance and importance in today’s changing culture. Methods in which the Gospel can be contextualized in a meaningful way in various ministries and in church planting will be examined, as well as the cross-cultural aspects of the evangelistic and church planting task. The student will be expected to put this teaching into practice through reflection papers and participation in an evangelistic exercise.

II. Course Objectives

The objectives of this course are as follows:

A. The student will have an understanding of evangelistic methods and a basic outline of the gospel that can be used in parish ministry.
B. The student will be equipped to teach an understanding of God’s mission and evangelism in the local congregation and a church planting context.
C. The student will understand what it means to think missionally in a strategic manner as they study and develop contextual and cultural applications of the Gospel within the reality of church planting.
D. The student will be helped to discern their own gifts in this area and to discern those gifts in others, equipping them as potential core group members and for the ministry of evangelism in a church plant.
E. At an introductory level, the student will be familiar with the basic foundations of church planting as a Missional and Evangelistic strategy.

III. Student Outcomes
1. The student will recognize and identify the biblical theology evident in the course work.
2. The student will be able to articulate an Anglican understanding of biblical, historical, systematic, and pastoral theology. Students of other traditions, especially those in the Lutheran and Presbyterian programs, should be able to articulate the theological perspective of their own tradition.
3. The student will be able to communicate effectively the Christian message to a diversity of people in order to advance the mission of God.
4. The student will be prepared to lead effectively in a variety of Christian communities.

M.Div.: The student will be prepared to lead effectively in a variety of Christian communities.
MAR: The student will be equipped to apply scholarship to the life of the church in his or her chosen theological discipline.
STM: The student will be equipped to pursue successfully further independent research and post-graduate study in his or her chosen theological discipline.
DMin: The student will be able to identify a specific ministry problem, reflect on it biblically and theologically and apply their learning to that problem.

These outcomes will be advanced through the class discussion times, the evangelistic journal, the integration/reflection paper and one of the three choices for the final paper.

IV. Course Texts

A. Required Texts:

Keller, Tim Center Church. Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan, 2012. (382 pgs. $29.00)


Choose one of the following three books for your integrative/reflection paper


B. Recommended Texts:


X. Course Outline

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Class Date</th>
<th>Lecture and discussion</th>
<th>Reading for next class</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

3
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Topic</th>
<th>Read</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>January 27</td>
<td>Syllabus and course work</td>
<td>Read <em>Evangelism and the Sovereignty of God</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>February 3</td>
<td>Missional church planting</td>
<td>Read chapters 1-3 <em>Center Church</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>February 10</td>
<td>Christ and Gospel in post Christian culture, Jonah 4</td>
<td>Read chapters 4-6 <em>Center Church</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>February 17</td>
<td>A gospel theology</td>
<td>Read chapters 7-10 <em>Center Church</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>February 24</td>
<td>Applying the gospel of grace</td>
<td>Read chapters 11-14 <em>Center Church</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>March 3</td>
<td>Understanding and loving the city/culture</td>
<td>Read chapters 15-18 <em>Center Church</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>March 10</td>
<td>No class reading week</td>
<td>Read chapters 19-21 <em>Center Church</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>March 17</td>
<td>Balancing the church while engaging the culture</td>
<td>Read chapters 22-24 <em>Center Church</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>March 24</td>
<td>Church and culture - firm center, soft edge, excarnation</td>
<td>Read chapters 25-26 <em>Center Church</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>March 31</td>
<td>Crossing the cultural divide 1 Corinthians 9:16-23</td>
<td>Read chapters 27-28 <em>Center Church</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>April 7</td>
<td>No class</td>
<td>Holy week</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>April 14</td>
<td>Gospel and culture 1 Peter 1:13-21</td>
<td>Read chapters 29-30 <em>Center Church</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>April 21</td>
<td>Cultural intelligence and church strategy, Acts 14-16</td>
<td>Read one of the three choices for the integrative/reflection paper</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>April 28</td>
<td>Principled pluralism and Christian cultural renewal</td>
<td>Read one of the three choices for the integrative/reflection paper</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>May 5</td>
<td>The perils of church planting</td>
<td>(Integrated/reflection paper and Final paper due May 10)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
V. Course Evaluation

**Keep a journal** of conversations with at least one person who is not a practicing Christian or church attender. You will demonstrate an understanding of the components of the Gospel by keeping a written journal of a series of conversations with one person.

1) Pray for the Holy Spirit to lead you into a relationship with at least one non-Christian or lapsed Christian individual, through participation in a group or activity that is not specifically Christian, such as a special interest group, fitness class, recreational sports team, some other community activity or simply a neighbor. This could be a family member, an existing friendship, or it could be a new relationship.

2) During the development of the relationship, you are to be open for opportunities to share your faith and relate the Gospel to that person. This could occur through several encounters.

3) A journal will be kept of these ongoing encounters that will provide the following information.
   a. The time, location, and length of the encounter
   b. A summary of the conversations
   c. Any part of the meeting that involved the Gospel
   d. An evaluation of the relationship and an analysis of that person’s interaction with the Gospel – or lack there of and why.
   e. You are encouraged to invite that person to attend a worship service in a local congregation as part of the process – if that is appropriate.

**Due April 12  (Results are not being graded but rather a pass/fail exercise.)**

**Submit an integrated and a reflection paper** 8-10 pages on one of the three book options, integrating and reflecting on it with Center Church; the entire book or one or more the eight parts. It can be broad or specific but it must show the authors’ integration and how it has equipped you for ministry. Highlight some general concepts or specific principles from the two books that have informed you for any potential future involvement in the mission of church planting. Additional integration from class lectures and other readings is a plus. This is not a book report or book review. No bibliography is necessary but appropriate footnotes are required.

**Due May 10**

**Final paper** 8-10 pages on one of the following three options:
1) Interview a church planter (in person or by phone) and discuss how they are doing mission and evangelism in their specific cultural context. Give a brief overview of their context, the theological vision, the resulting practice of ministry and how did this inform and equip you for ministry.

2) Pick one significant cultural issue today (politics, abortion, gay rights, sex trafficking, race, etc.) and discuss how you would address the issue as a church planter from a missional stand point. How would your theological vision and ministry practice include and encapsulate this particular issue.

3) Make your case for where you think, contextually/geographically, the greatest need is for planting a church. This can be a specific place or a general area such as college towns, rural America, suburbia or the city. Support your case with data and demographics and what your vision and ministry practice would be and why.

The paper should integrate the class required readings and lectures as well as additional outside readings. No bibliography is required but use appropriate footnotes.

Due May 10

VII. Percentage of required reading completed. Due May 10
There is neither a mid-term nor final examination for this course.

VIII. Attendance

You are expected to attend all class lectures. Three unexcused absences are subject to dismissal. Let the professor know if you have a legitimate reason for missing a class.

IX. Course Structure

The class will be made up of lecture, discussions, required reading and written papers. For the reading in Center Church review the questions at the end of each chapter and be prepared to respond if called upon in class.

X. Grading

A. Evangelistic journal. 10%
B. Integration and Reflection paper. 30%
C. Final paper. 30%
D. Class participation. 15%
E. Percentage of required reading completed. 15%
Summary of books for integrative/reflection paper

- **Christopherson, Jeff, and Mac Lake.** *Kingdom First: Starting Churches that Shape Movements.* Nashville, TN: B&H Books, 2015. While the book is sectioned out like a nuts and bolts church planting book, the one theme that is constant throughout is the kingdom of God. So in every aspect of church planting, starting with the character of the planter, the context of the church, the way that communication is done, teamwork, making disciples, and multiplying, it's always kingdom first.

- **Stetzer, Ed, and Daniel Im.** *Planting Missional Churches: Your Guide to Starting Churches that Multiply,* 2nd Edition. Nashville, TN: B&H Publishers, 2016. Rather than reviewing our own book, let us tell you what it covers. This is the revised second edition with Daniel as the new co-author. In this second edition, with over 50% new content, not only will you find a completely redesigned book with new content in every single chapter, but you will also find several new chapters on topics such as church multiplication, residen-cies, multi-ethnic ministry, multisite, denominations and networks, and spiritual leadership. It is divided into five sections: the foundations of church planting, models of church planting, systems for church planting, ministry areas for church planting, and multiplication and movements.

- **Woodward, JR, and Dan White Jr.** *The Church as Movement: Starting and Sustaining Missional-Incar-national Communities.* Downers Grove, IL: IVP Books, 2016. This step-by-step guide to planting a missional-incarnational church was birthed out of the V3 Movement’s training curriculum. Although it was developed with their students in mind, the principles and exercises work for anyone wanting to approach church planting in a missional-incarnational manner.