

ME 7510 Missional Church, Fall 2018
Trinity Evangelical Divinity School, **Hudson, OH**
Aug 24/25, Sept 21/22, Oct 19/20, Nov 16/17
Fri. 7:00 – 9:30 pm; Sat. 8:30 am – 4:30 pm

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Course Description

Examines the missional church in light of God's mission in the world. This course gives special attention to the missional church movement within the post-Christendom context of the West. Various streams of missional church will be examined, as well as subjects such as: missional ecclesiology, holistic witness, community engagement, missional communities, disciple-making, and leadership. Three semester hours.

Course Learning Objectives

At the end of this course students will be able to:

1. Describe the theological foundation of God's mission (*missio Dei*).
2. Explain defining marks of the missional church (*missio ecclesiae*) in light of God's mission.
3. Apply missional practice (*missio praxis*) in a local context, whether planting a missional church or helping an existing congregation to become more missional.
4. Engage in the conversation regarding various perspectives and applications of missionality.

Course Texts: Required

Frost, Michael and Alan Hirsch. *The Shaping of Things to Come: Innovation and Mission for the 21st-Century Church*. Peabody, MA: Hendrickson Publishers, 2003. ISBN-10: 1876825871
Hastings, Ross. *Missional God, Missional Church: Hope for Re-evangelizing the West*. Downers Grove: IVP, 2012. ISBN-10: 0830839550
Keller, Timothy J. *Center Church: Doing Balanced, Gospel-Centered Ministry in Your City*. Zondervan, 2012. ISBN: 0310494184
Newbigin, Lesslie. *The Open Secret: An Introduction to the Theology of Mission*. Eerdmans, 1995. ISBN-10: 0802808298

Additional Texts for PhD and DMin Students:

Flett, John G., *The Witness of God: The Trinity, Missio Dei, Karl Barth, and the Nature of Christian Community*. Eerdmans, 2010, ISBN-10: 0802864414
Van Gelder, Craig and Dwight J. Zscheile. *The Missional Church in Perspective: Mapping Trends and Shaping the Conversation*. Grand Rapids: Baker Academic, 2011. ISBN-10: 0801039134

Course Format and Expectation

This course will follow a format that includes lecture, discussion, field experience and literature research.

Learning Assignments Required

1. **Reading Questions.** Complete assigned readings and be prepared to discuss in class. Write two questions (clarifying or discussion) based upon the reading for each Friday night session, two questions for each Saturday morning session, and two questions for each Saturday afternoon session. (No afternoon session Nov. 17) The entire list of twenty-two (22) questions will be due on the final weekend of class. **20%**
2. **Participation** in class discussion based on assigned readings. See attendance policy below regarding absences. **5%**
3. **Missional Experience.** Students will write a 5-6 page-paper about a missional church experience during this course. The experience should be one that the student participates in outside of class time. Describe the missional experience, missional space, and observable outcomes in light of principles discussed in class. **30%**
4. **Research Paper.** Students will write an 8-10 page-research paper, plus bibliography, that develops in detail one to three areas of missional church and practice, integrating concepts from the reading, lectures, and research. Suggested topics are: 1) holistic evangelism, 2) disciple-making and spiritual formation for mission, 3) and missional communities. For **PhD and DMin students**, the requirement for this research paper is 16-20 pages, plus bibliography, as students engage more deeply with theory and research. Examples are: a critique of Hirsch's application of APEST, leading a congregation toward missional, comparison of discipleship curricula such as Breen's 3DM and Forge Chicago's residency, application of missional metrics, and comparison of models of missional communities. All students must receive approval of topic by the professor. **45%**

Course Grading

95-100 A	88-90 B	80-83 C	72-75 D
93-94 A-	86-87 B-	78-79 C-	70-71 D-
91-92 B+	84-85 C+	76-77 D+	0-69 F

All submitted work will be evaluated according to the following criteria:

- Content
- Critical thinking
- Organization
- Communication
- Documentation
- Mechanics – grammar, spelling, style, and form

An "A" paper is exceptional in all of the above criteria. The writing style engages the reader. Organization is characterized by coherence and logic. The text is marked by originality of ideas and outstanding critical reflection. Documentation is plentiful and accurate. The student not only thoroughly answers each question or addresses each topic, he or she provides a convincing presentation that explores all of the implications related to the question or topic. The student follows the [TIU Style Guide](#), and Kate Turabian, *A Manual for Writers of Term Papers, Theses, and Dissertations*, 7th Edition.

A "B" paper is technically competent in all of the above criteria. The writing style is clear and reasonable, and the writing is generally effective without rising to sustained excellence. Each question or topic is covered completely and the student engages in above average critical reflection and commentary.

A "C" paper represents competent but underdeveloped work. C papers are adequately but obviously organized, and the argument tends toward oversimplification without being implausible. The student fails to answer all of the questions or has failed to cover the topic completely. Errors are scattered throughout. In some C papers, excellent ideas are marred by poor presentation. In other C papers, the organization, structure, and grammar are not flawed, but the ideas ought to show greater development. In most situations, the grade of C is earned in work that merely meets the requirements of the assignment.

A "D" paper demonstrates some effort on the author's part but is too marred by technical problems or flaws in thinking and development of ideas to be considered competent work.

An "F" paper has received a failing grade, usually reserved for work that demonstrates minimal effort on the author's part (adapted from Barbara Gross Davis, *Tools for Teaching*).

Course Policies

Attendance is required at scheduled classes, from the beginning of the class time. Excuses (medical or legal) must be supported by documentation. Students are not excused for work- or ministry-related reasons. If you must miss class, speak to another student to get notes. Students who miss a Friday evening session, Saturday morning session, or Saturday afternoon session without a medical or legal excuse, will have their final grade lowered by one half letter (e.g. A > A-).

Course assignments are due on the date indicated on the syllabus. Late papers will be lowered by one full letter grade (e.g. A > B) for each day the paper is late.

Turn cell phones off, or to vibrate. Laptops may be used during class for the exclusive purpose of taking notes related to the lecture and discussion.

Students should quote books, articles, essays, and Internet sites with proper credit given to the author(s). For the policy on plagiarism see the current *TEDS Catalog* and *Academic Handbook*.

All work must be original work prepared for this class only and not work submitted previously or concurrently with another course. All spiritual conversations must be during this semester and not from earlier experiences.

This course is highly participatory and requires engaging each other with courtesy, gentleness, and respect. Students are to be mindful of the ways their speech has the power to encourage or discourage.

In compliance with Section 504 of the *Rehabilitation Act of 1973* and the *Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990* (ADA), it is the policy of Trinity Evangelical Divinity School to provide appropriate and reasonable accommodations, or academic adjustments, and services to students with a documented disability to help ensure an equal educational opportunity. Students seeking these services should contact Jana Holiday, Associate Dean of Students, at the earliest possible time with supporting documentation. If you believe you might have a disability that negatively impacts your educational performance, but have never been diagnosed, you are encouraged to meet with Jana Holiday to discuss your needs. You can contact her at jrholiday@tiu.edu or [847-317-4063](tel:847-317-4063).

Course Calendar***Missional Theology***

- F, Aug 24 Introduction to Course; *Missio Dei*: Mission of the Triune God; Biblical Meta-Narrative; Kingdom of God
 □ Newbigin 1-65
 □ Frost & Hirsch, 225-230 (Glossary)
- S, Aug 25am Incarnation; Johannine "Sent" Theology; Church as Sent; Spirit-led Ministry; Full-orbed, Mission of the Church
 □ Hastings 11-36; 80-117

Missional Ecclesiology

- S, Aug 25pm Gospel, Culture, and Church; Christ and culture; Mission in the 21st Century
 □ Newbigin 66-159
 □ Keller 29-83; 181-243
 □ Frost & Hirsch, ix-xi, 3-30
- F, Sept. 21 Missional Church Defined; Streams of Missional Thought; Missional Church Metrics
 □ Frost & Hirsch, 33-75
 □ Keller 264-275
 □ Hastings 121-146

Missional Praxis

- S, Sept. 22am Ministry in Context; Cultural Exegesis; Contextualization
 □ Frost & Hirsch, 76-94
 □ Keller 89-132
 □ Hastings 147-189
- S, Sept. 22pm Disciple-making; Learning theory in the Missional Church; Formation and Equipping
 □ Frost & Hirsch, 134-162, 201-223
 □ Keller 277-289
- F, Oct. 19 Spirit-led Leadership, Trust and Discernment, Decision-Making;
 □ Hastings 268-306
- S, Oct. 20am Congregational Culture; Missional Communities; Small Groups
 □ Keller 251-261; 311-320
- S, Oct. 20pm Evangelism, Holistic Witness, Justice, and Human Flourishing
 □ Keller 135-179; 322-335
 □ Hastings 219-239

F, Nov. 16 **Paper on Missional Church Experience DUE**
 Worship: Gathered and Sent; Preaching; Missional Hermeneutic
 Keller 291-309
 Hastings 190-218

S, Nov. 17am Vision; Missional Imagination; Church as a Missional Movement; Gospel Eco-systems
 Frost & Hirsch 201-223
 Keller 337-377
 Hastings 307-321

(No pm session due to time allotted for missional experience)

M, Dec. 3 Final Paper on Area(s) of Missional Church and Practice DUE (no class)

Bibliography

Works by Self-Identified Proponents of the Missional Church Movement

Alan Hirsh. *The Forgotten Ways: A Practical Guide for Developing Missional Churches*. Grand Rapids, Brazos Press, 2009.

Barrett, Lois, et al. *Treasure in Clay Jars: Patterns in Missional Faithfulness*. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 2004.

Boren, M. Scott. *Missional Small Groups: Becoming a Community That Makes a Difference in the World*. Grand Rapids: BakerBooks, 2010.

Frost, Michael. *Exiles: Living Missionally in a Post-Christian Culture*. Peabody, MA: Hendrickson Publishing, 2006.

Frost, Michael and Alan Hirsch. *The Shaping of Things to Come: Innovation and Mission for the 21st-Century Church*. Peabody, MA: Hendrickson Publishers, 2003.

Guder, Darrell L. *The Continuing Conversion of the Church*. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 2000.

Guder, Darrell L., ed. *Missional Church: A Vision for the Sending of the Church in North America*. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1998.

Hirsh, Alan and Debra Hirsh. *Untamed: Reactivating a Missional Form of Discipleship*. Grand Rapids: Baker Books, 2010.

Hunsberger, George. *Bearing the Witness of the Spirit: Lesslie Newbigin's Theology of Cultural Plurality*. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1998.

Hunsberger, George R. and Craig Van Gelder, eds. *The Church Between Gospel and Culture: The Emerging Mission in North America*. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1996.

Keifert, Patrick. *We Are Here Now: A New Missional Era*. Eagle, ID: Allelon Publishing, 2006.

McNeal, Reggie. *Missional Renaissance: Changing the Scorecard for the Church*.
San Francisco: Jossey-Bass, 2009.

----- . *Missional Communities: The Rise of the Post-Congregational Church*. Jossey-Bass, 2011.

Rouse, Rick and Craig Van Gelder. *A Field Guide for the Missional Congregation: Embarking on a Journey of Transformation*. Minneapolis: Augsburg Fortress, 2008.

Roxburgh, Alan J. *Missional Map-making: Skills for Leading in Time of Transition*.
San Francisco: Jossey-Bass, 2010.

_____. *The Sky is Falling: Leaders Lost in Transition*. Allelon Publishing, 2006.

Roxburgh, Alan J. and Fred Romanuk. *The Missional Leader: Equipping Your Church to Reach a Changing World*. San Francisco: Jossey-Bass, 2006.

Roxburgh, Alan J. and M. Scott Boren. *Introducing the Missional Church: What it is, Why It Matters, and How to Become One*. Grand Rapids: BakerBooks, 2009.

Van Gelder, Craig. *The Ministry of the Missional Church: A Community Led by the Spirit*. Grand Rapids: BakerBooks, 2007.

Van Gelder, Craig, ed. *The Missional Church and Leadership Formation: Helping Congregation Develop Leadership Capacity*. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 2009.

_____. *The Missional Church in Context: Helping Congregational Develop Contextual Ministry*.
Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 2007.

Van Gelder, Craig and Dwight J. Zscheile. *The Missional Church in Perspective: Mapping Trends and Shaping the Conversation*. Grand Rapids: Baker Academic, 2011.

Scholars Whose Work Provides Foundational and/or Complementary Thinking about Missional

Arias, Mortimer. *Announcing the Reign of God: Evangelization and the Subversive Memory of Jesus*. Eugene, OR: Wipf and Stock, 1984.

Bosch, David J. *Transforming Mission: Paradigm Shifts in Theology of Mission*. Maryknoll, NY: Orbis Books, 1991.

Flett, John G., *The Witness of God: The Trinity, Missio Dei, Karl Barth, and the Nature of Christian Community*. Eerdmans, 2010, ISBN-10: 0802864414

Franke, John. R. *The Character of Theology: An Introduction to Its Nature, Task, and Purpose*. Grand Rapids: Baker Academic, 2005.

Glasser, Arthur F. *Announcing the Kingdom: The Story of God's Mission in the Bible*. Grand Rapids, Baker Academic, 2003.

Grenz, Stanley J. and John R. Franke. *Beyond Foundationalism: Shaping Theology in a Postmodern Context*. Louisville: Westminster John Knox Press, 2001.

Hauerwas, Stanley and William H. Willimon. *Resident Aliens: Life in the Christian Colony*. Nashville: Abingdon, 1989.

Jenkins, Philip. *The New Faces of Christianity: Believing the Bible in the Global South*. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2006.

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Kirk, J. Andrew. *The Mission of Theology and Theology as Mission*. Valley Forge, PA: Trinity Press, 1997.

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McKnight, Scot. *One Life: Jesus Calls, We Follow*. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 2010.

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Newbigin, Lesslie. *Foolishness to the Greeks: The Gospel in Western Culture*. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1986.

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Smith, James K. A. *Desiring the Kingdom: Worship, Worldview, and Cultural Formation*. Grand Rapids: Baker Academic, 2009.

Wright, Christopher J. H. *The Mission of God: Unlocking the Bible's Grand Narrative*. Downer's Grove, IL: IVP Academic, 2006.

_____. *The Mission of God's People: A Biblical Theology of the Church's Mission*. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 2010.

Wright, N.T. *After You Believe: Why Christian Character Matters*. New York: HarperOne, 2010.

Yoder, John Howard. *Body Politics: Five Practices of the Christian Community Before the Watching World*. Scottdale, PA: Herald Press, 1992.

**Thought Leaders and Practitioners Whose Writings Express
and/or Explore Missionalty**

- Belcher, Jim. *Deep Church: A Third Way Beyond Emerging and Traditional*. Downer's Grove, IL: IVP Books, 2009.
- Chan, Francis. *Crazy Love: Overwhelmed by a Relentless God*. Colorado Springs, David C. Cook, 2008.
- Chilcote, Paul W. and Lacey C. Warner, eds. *The Study of Evangelism: Exploring a Missional Practice of the Church*. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 2008.
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- Creps, Earl. *Off-Road Disciplines: Spiritual Adventures of Missional Leaders*. San Francisco: Jossey-Bass, 2006.
- Dally, John A. *Choosing the Kingdom: Missional Preaching for the Household of God*. Alban Institute, 2007.
- Gibbs, Eddie and Ryan K. Bolger. *Emerging Churches: Creating Christian Community in Postmodern Cultures*. Grand Rapids: Baker Academic, 2005.
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- Platt, David. *Radical: Taking Back Your Faith from the American Dream*. Colorado Springs: Multnomah Books, 2010.
- Raschke, Carl. *The Next Reformation: Why Evangelicals Must Embrace Postmodernity*. Grand Rapids: Baker Academic, 2004.
- _____. *GloboChrist: The Great Commission Takes a Postmodern Turn*. Grand Rapids: Baker Academic, 2008.
- Schmit, Clayton J. *Send and Gathered: A Worship Manual for the Missional Church*. Grand Rapids: Baker Academic, 2009.
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- Stetzer, Ed and David Putman, *Breaking the Missional Code*. B&H Publishing Group, 2006.

Swanson, Eric, and Rick Rusaw. *The Externally Focused Quest: Becoming the Best Church for the Community*. San Francisco: Jossey-Bass, 2010.

Tickle, Phyllis. *The Great Emergence: How Christianity Is Changing and Why*. Grand Rapids: Baker Books, 2008.

Webber, Robert E. *The Younger Evangelicals: Facing the Challenges of the New World*. Grand Rapids: Baker Books, 2002.