

SDA Theological Seminary

Andrews University

CHMN778 Church Growth and Discipleship In the Urban Church

(6 credits)

The 2008 cohort

Professors:

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Course Module Description

This module provides both reflection and practice in the unique enterprise of fostering wholistic church growth and discipleship in the urban church context. The module will emphasize: the centrality of church growth and discipleship in the mission and life of the local church, the historical role of the local church in the civic life of urban centers, the steps to creating a culture of year round evangelism, methods to motivate and equip members for ministry, contemporary trends in urban church growth and discipleship, commonalities and differences between urban and non-urban ministries, and the incorporation of natural church development principles for urban ministry.

This module is prepared especially for pastors, church leaders, evangelists and teachers who wish to advance their competence in church growth and discipleship in an urban context.

Each cohort participant will integrate the practices learned into their context of church leadership and demonstrate competencies in a portfolio of experience. Participants will share accountability for their development in peer groups that meet outside the two-week intensive.

Participants take this module with a cohort as the first in their sequence of modules and courses in the urban ministry concentration.

The Cohort

A cohort will form with this course May 11-19, 2008, and continue through GSEM 730 Field Research for Ministry, May 20-23. Presently the location for the cohort is the campus of Oakwood University in Huntsville, Alabama.

Brief Content Outline for the Module

1. Program Orientation
2. Reflection
3. The centrality of church growth and discipleship in the urban context.
4. Natural Church Development and the urban church.
5. Implementing change in the local church.
6. Leadership development and the urban church.
7. Local politics and the urban church.
8. Economic development and the urban church.
9. New trends in urban church growth and discipleship.
10. The challenge of church planting.

Module Requirements

I. PRE-INTENSIVE

Pre Intensive Reading:

A. A reading report and journal is due the first day of the teaching intensive for the required pre-session titles. The journal is an informal reflection of your thoughts as you read the book. Reflection in this context suggests a cognitive and imaginative process. Examine what you read in the article and “bounce it off” what you have experienced or imagined. Consider the text in the light of your values, experiences, ideas and hopes. The result is your “reflection” on the text. Give deliberate and intentional attention to how the text relates to your life, and relate it with written clarity. Journals are usually four to six pages, need not follow any particular style and will not be graded for grammar, writing, etc. The reading report is a simple statement that you have read the required books.

Schwarz, Christian. *Natural Church Development- A Guide of 8 Essential Qualities of Healthy Churches*. Church Smart Resources, 1996.

Schwarz, Christian. *Implementation Guide to Natural Church Development*. Church Smart, 2001.

Conn, Harvie and Ortiz, Manuel. *Urban Ministry - The Kingdom the City and the People of God*. Intersity Press, 2001.

Smith, Efreem and Jackson, Phil. *The Hip Hop Church- Connecting with the Movement Shaping our Culture*. Intersity Press, 2001.

Ogden, Greg. *Unfinished Business-Returning the Ministry to the People of God*. Zondervan Press, 2003.

- B. A two-page report reviewing the worship services, local ministries, and social services of a prominent non-Adventist urban church. Report may include interviews with members of the pastoral staff and other ministry leaders. The report should include your personal reflections on the effectiveness of the local

church in addressing urban problems. The report should be brought to the opening class session.

II. THE INTENSIVE

A. Punctual attendance is required for all classes. A maximum of 10% absence of total activities is allowed.

B. Participation in class discussion, group activities, journaling, and compilation of notes is expected.

C. Formation of a Ministry Development Plan will begin during the intensive.

D. A cohort field experience will be planned for Saturday and Sunday.

III. POST-INTENSIVE

A journal and reading report for the following books in the same manner as the pre-intensive books.

Lindberg, Tod. *The Political teachings of Jesus*. Harper Collins, 2007.

Mittlenberg, Mark. *Building a Contagious Church*. Zondervan Publishing, 2000.

Burrill Russell. *Reaping the Harvest*. Hart Publishing, 2007.

B. A ministry development plan of 5 to 8 pages.

C. A paper of at least 11 but no more than 20 pages will be required including these elements:

1. Description of a specific ministry-embedded church growth challenge.
2. Application of church growth principles to that challenge.
3. A review of relevant church growth theory.
4. Research of literature relevant to the challenge.
5. An account of your personal experience, as you address the challenge.
6. Theological reflection.

NOTE: The Andrews University Standards for Written Work, 9th Edition (or more recent edition) will provide the standards for all written work.

D. PEER WORK GROUPS: Students will participate in a minimum of three work group

sessions for peer support, reflection, and sharing experience.

- a. A journal and attendance record of the group meetings will be required from a secretary for each group by December 31, 2008.
- b. The first group meeting must occur on or before June 30, 2008 and review all Ministry Development Plans from group participants.
- c. The second group meeting must occur on or before August 25, 2008, and review the work of each participant on their paper.
- d. The third group meeting must occur on or before October 27, 2008, and review the case study done by each participant.
- e. Groups may meet by phone conference, face-to-face, or via electronic conference.

E. PORTFOLIO: Each participant will develop a plan and organization for a personal ministry portfolio that gives evidence of ministry competence and creativity. The completed portfolio is due in the fourth year of the program and must give evidence of work-related application of the urban church growth and discipleship principles presented in this intensive. Remember that the portfolio will be prepared for submission and presentation in the fourth year of the program. Submission of a one page description of your plan for organizing your portfolio is due in the first module.

All work is due for the module on December 31, 2008. A DG will be given to participants whose work is not completed on time. The maximum grade available when work is not completed on time is B+.