I. COURSE DESCRIPTION
This course is comprised of 3 modules that will provide a systematic overview of the process of church planting from both the biblical and current cultural models. The course will expose primary character qualities needed in a church planter and provide an introduction to methods, resources and necessary tools used in planting biblically sound churches.

II. RATIONALE
This course is designed to provide the student with an exposure to practical problems and solutions experienced in a church-planting endeavor. This will be accomplished through the use of various texts, interaction through written papers, and extensive discussion contrasting and comparing their personal church plants with those being evaluated in the class.

III. LEARNING OUTCOMES/REQUIREMENTS
The participants will be exposed to develop a biblical vision for ministry, philosophy of ministry templates and church development strategies. Through lectures, class discussions, and exposure to successful and unsuccessful church plants, the participants will learn to formulate their own culturally contextualized values, mission, and church planting strategy that can find immediate application in their specific situation. The primary outcome of the course will be the production of a personalized Church Planting Proposal or the development of primary documents for a church already planted (i.e. philosophy of ministry, constitution and by-laws as well as a planned strategy for ongoing church development).

The student will be able to:

1. Define key biblical principles in church planting taken directly from the Bible.

2. Summarize various concepts of church-planting methodologies currently in use and evaluating their relationship to the Bible.

3. Describe the role and personal character qualifications of a church planter.

4. Identify the flow of a church plant from its inception, through the maturation process, to the full establishment of the church. A fully established church will possess biblically qualified leadership, a regenerate membership, and a self-supporting and self-propagating capacity.

1 Curriculum developed by Stephen Lonetti 2020
5. Summarize a comprehensive strategy for beginning a new church including each stage of maturation up till full establishment.

IV. MODULE COMPONENTS

**Module 1**

I. WHY CHURCH PLANT?
   A. Biblical Basis – Really? (what others use as a basis…)
   B. Motivations for Planting; Positive and Negative
   C. Cultural Implications can make or break a church plant

II. THE PROFILE OF A CHURCH PLANTER
   A. Contrasted to a pastor
   B. Biblical Qualifications
   C. Skill sets and personal makeup of the planter
   D. Marriage and Church planting (the stress on marriage and the family)

III. GENERAL OVERVIEW OF THE STEPS/STAGES OF CHURCH PLANTING
   A. The Pauline Cycle
   B. How to begin the church plant
   C. Evangelism or Transference

**Module 2**

I. FIRST STEPS OF CHURCH PLANTING

II. CULTIVATING THOSE WHO GOD GIVES

III. INSTILLING ASPIRATIONS

**Module 3**

I. RAISING UP & ORDAINING LEADERSHIP IN THE CHURCH

II. PROGRAMS VERSUS MINISTRY

III. CHURCHES PLANTING CHURCHES – GOD’S METHOD FOR EVANGELISM

V. READING AND ASSIGNMENTS FOR EACH YEAR’S MODULES:

**Module 1**

Read both books and be ready to discuss the content, comparing and contrasting methodologies with contemporary church planting systems.

Hesselgrave, David J. *Planting Churches Cross-Culturally: North America and Beyond, 2nd ed.* Baker, 2000

**Module 2**  
Read Malphurs’ book and be ready to discuss the content with classmates. Also compile the following papers, with one class presentation.


**3-5 page paper: Book Report** (complete and send at least 1 wk. before seminar to slonetti@gmail.com)  
- Describing the author’s flow of thought in his development of the principles and describe them in your own words, i.e. First you need to...; Secondly, you need to..., etc.  
- Explain why the author believes these methods to be valid. Do you agree or disagree, why or why not?  
- Give your overall impression of the book and its contents as a summary

**3 page paper: Review the Book with Other Books on Church Planting**  
(complete and send at least 1 wk. before seminar to slonetti@gmail.com)  
- Compare and contrast the principles presented by Malphurs with other church planting methodologies you are aware of, identifying your sources and whether or not you believe any of these methods to be biblically based, valid and applicable to church planting today.

**Personal Project:** (written paper no more than 3 pages to be turned in before seminar – send to slonetti@gmail.com)  
Be ready to present to the class, utilizing at least one principle gleaned from Malphurs’ book, what you will apply to your specific situation.  
- Identify the principle  
- Explain why it would be helpful in your specific context  
- Provide the steps you could take to implement the principle  
- Be prepared to field questions from the class and stimulate their involvement in discussing the principle you have chosen. Do they agree, disagree, and why or why not? Do they see potential problems implementing the principle you have chosen, etc.?

**Personal Presentation:** (verbal before the class with or without powerpoint, etc)  
- Prepare a presentation for the class, a succinct report of where you are at presently in the church planting cycle.  
- Identify your next 3 steps moving forward in the development of your church plant
- Explain potential roadblocks or difficulties you foresee for implementing the next 3 steps to move forward in your specific context
- List potential solutions to the potential roadblocks for moving forward

Lead a class discussion post presentation, fielding questions, and stimulating their involvement in discussing the report you have presented. Do they agree, disagree, and why or why not? Do they see potential problems implementing the steps to move forward you have laid out, etc.?