

RTS

O R L A N D O



HYBRID COURSE SYLLABUS

PT 6205: Church Planting

Rev. Chris Vogel

Summer 2026

PROFESSOR'S CONTACT INFORMATION

NAME: Chris Vogel, M.Div.

EMAIL: cvogel@pcanet.org

PHONE: 262-501-1161

COURSE DATES

COURSE DATES: June 1 - August 18

ONLINE DATES: June 1 -July 12

IN CLASS DATES: July 13-17

COURSE COMPLETION DATE: August 18

COURSE OVERVIEW

DESCRIPTION:

Church Planting will cover the foundational biblical, theological, missional and structural aspects of church planting so that students have a roadmap to plant a church and consider a church planting movement within a Reformed context. Students will explore the various components necessary to begin a new work, including cultural context, establishing a presence in a community, gathering a team, beginning worship, and multiplication of a church. Students will be exposed to a variety of church plant models and cultural expressions found in North America.

GOALS:

- To understand biblical models of church planting, church health and church reproduction from a Reformed perspective.
- To evaluate their own interest and readiness regarding church planting.
- To develop the initial skills needed to plant a church
- To increase the desire to make disciples and to develop an outward facing church whether participating in a new or existing church.

COURSE DETAILS

1. GRADING SCHEDULE.

Late work will be penalized 1 letter grade per day, unless prior permission for late submission was granted.

The published RTS grading scale is used in this course. See the Catalog, page 47.

2. ATTENDANCE AND LATE ASSIGNMENTS.

Attendance and prepared participation are required. If class is not attended, the student's final grade will be affected. Late assignments are reduced by 1 letter grade per day.

3. SPECIAL NEEDS.

In order to ensure full class participation, any student with a disabling condition requiring special accommodations (e.g. tape recorders, special adaptive equipment) is strongly encouraged to contact the instructor before the beginning of the course.

4. ACADEMIC HONESTY (QUOTED AND ADAPTED FROM DR. TIMOTHY PHILLIPS OF WHEATON COLLEGE).

The assignments are designed to extend and deepen your comprehension and appreciation of Christian theology and to increase your facility with theological method. The processes of defining a topic, researching the results of others' studies, critiquing those studies, and organizing your conclusions in a clear and cogent presentation provides valuable skills for your various leadership ministries. The use of sources is an essential step in appropriating the learning of the Church's tradition in its relationship to cultures to help us understand and faithfully practice Scripture.

Using information obtained from a source without indicating it (whether by footnote, parentheses, or bibliography or some other appropriate reference, depending on the type of assignment) is plagiarism (intellectual thievery and lying). This applies to any information that you gain from someone that is not "common knowledge." It does not apply only to exact quotations or precise verbal allusions. Altering the wording does not remove the obligation to acknowledge the source.

Cheating is the presentation of someone else's work, which the student ought to have done personally. This includes submitting answers to test questions derived by some means other than that intended by the instructor. It also includes turning in written assignments composed in whole or in part by someone else.

5. DISCLAIMER.

This syllabus is intended to reflect accurately the learning objectives, instructional format and other information necessary for students to appraise the course. However, the instructor reserves the right to modify any portion of this syllabus as may become necessary.

6. SUPPORT:

Canvas allows you to interact with Rev. Vogel via the Inbox function.

Canvas also allows for interaction with classmates. You can interact with classmates via the Student to Student forum or Conferences.

See FAQ on the Home Page or at Modules > Course Resources for instructions on various Canvas features.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

LECTURES

During the initial weeks of study online, students will listen to recorded lectures (Accessible via the RTS Mobile App or through RTS Global's online postings). The weekly lectures will be specified on Canvas.

READING

Theology is an activity done largely through the process of good reading. Read carefully. Read charitably. Read with others. Read with the expectation that you will learn from others, even when you disagree with their main point. Read even when a text is dense and difficult, for you will learn perseverance and fortitude here. Read that which seems trite and obvious, asking how others might object or criticize. Most importantly, read because God was willing to reveal himself in written words, and because we can best witness to God's grace with corresponding words. Read because words matter in God's economy of grace.

The following books are required:

Timothy Keller, *Center Church*, (Zondervan: Grand Rapids, 2012).

Ed Stetzer and Daniel Im, *Planting Missional Churches*, (Nashville, TN: B&H Publishers: Nashville, 2016).

J.D. Payne, *Apostolic Church Planting*, (IVP: Downers Grove, 2015).

Roland Allen, "Missionary Methods: St. Paul's or Ours?" by (Eerdmans: Grand Rapids, 1962; reprinted 2003). [Link to public resource here.](#)

READING BRIEFS

Students will brief one chapter from each week's reading (as specified by the instructor). The purpose of the brief is to summarize the thesis, outline, and argument of that chapter, as well as to state one's own analysis of it (in the form of questions, confirmations, objections, etc.). Briefs may include quotations from various points in the chapter (so long as page numbers are referenced). Briefs should be no more than 350 words.

They will be submitted on the discussion board.

DISCUSSION POSTS AND REPLIES

Students will post a common place reflection from that week's lecture each week. The post may be a single paragraph, including a quote or paraphrase, that reflects on something of significance to the student. The student will then respond to a follow up question.

FINAL: CHURCH PLANT PROPOSAL

The final project for the course will involve the creating of a church plant proposal given to a hypothetical presbytery missions committee. The proposal should evidence knowledge of one's own gift mix, the cultural context in which your proposal plant will go. You should identify your launch team and present a five-year budget that accounts for internal and external fundraising.

COURSE SCHEDULE

INITIAL ONLINE SCHEDULE

Week of June 1

- Lecture Topic: Foundations of Church Planting
- To be listened: [Ed Stetzer, Church Planting 101](#)
- To be read: *Planting Missional Churches*, 1-58
- To be read: "Missionary Methods: St. Paul's or Ours?"
- Brief: *Planting Missional Churches*, Chapter Three

Week of June 8

- Lecture Topic: Models of Church Planting
- To be listened: <https://bit.ly/RuralChurchPlanting>
- To be read: *Planting Missional Churches*, 59-122
- To be read: *Center Church*, 89-134
- Brief: *Center Church*

Week of June 15

- Lecture Topic: Church Planting Systems
- To be listened: interview with a planter <https://youtu.be/QqTUGAwE3jk>
- To be read: *Planting Missional Churches*, 123-222
- Brief: Processing the interview with the church planter

Week of June 22

- Lecture Topic: Church Planting Teams
- To be listened to: <https://bit.ly/ChurchPlantingTeams>
- To be read: *Planting Missional Churches*, 223-318
- To be considered: Review MissionInsite Documents
- Brief: Share conclusions from MissionInsite material

Week of June 29

- Lecture Topic: Church Planting Models
- To be listened: interview with a church planter <https://pcamna.org/resources/growing-together-podcast-hope-springs-eternal/>
- To be read: *Apostolic Church Planting*
- Brief: Apostolic Church Planting

Week of July 6

- Lecture Topic: Church Planting Movements
- To be listened: interview with a church planting network leader <https://youtu.be/ePYEjUo8TNw>
- To be read: *Planting Missional Churches*, 319-376
- To be read: *Center Church*, 251-290
- Brief: Center Church

HYBRID WEEK SCHEDULE

Class meets July 13-17 from 6:00-9:00 p.m. We will take short breaks roughly every hour.

Monday, July 13

Topic: Biblical and Theological Foundations

Tuesday, July 14

Topic: Appraisal of Self and Site

Wednesday, July 15

Topic: Gathering to Launch

Thursday, July 16

Topic: Planting Models

Friday, July 17

Topic: Church Planting and Movements

CONCLUDING ONLINE SCHEDULE

August 18

Church Plant Proposal Final Project due.

FURTHER READING

Select Bibliography

For small town planting: Griggs, Donnie. *Small Town Jesus: Taking the gospel mission seriously in seemingly unimportant places*. Damascus, MD: EverTruth, 2016. 165pp

Hesselgrave, David. *Planting Churches Cross Culturally, North America and Beyond*. Second Edition. Grand Rapids, Mich.: Baker Books, 2000.

Malphurs, Aubrey. *Planting Growing Churches for the 21st Century*. Second Edition. Grand Rapids, Mich.: Baker Books, 2004, (409 pages). For US Church Planting

Malphurs, Aubrey. *The Nuts and Bolts of Church Planting*. Grand Rapids, Mich.: Baker Books, 2011.

Hernando Saenz, ¡Plantemos! A New Dawn for Hispanic Church Planting in the USA, Kindle Direct Publishing, 2022.

For spiritual health in the planter and coaching: Morey, Tim. *Planting a Church without Losing Your Soul: Nine Questions for the Spiritually-Formed Pastor*. Downers Grove: Intervarsity Academic Press, 2020. 192pp

Thomas, Scott and Tom Wood. *Gospel Coach: Shepherding Leaders to Glorify God*.

Wood, Tom. *Church Planter Field Manual*. 3 Volumes.

For multi-cultural discipleship: Fernando, Ajith. *Discipling in a Multicultural World*. Wheaton: Crossway, 2019.

For prayer and planting: Smed, John. *Disruptive Prayer*. Vancouver, British Columbia: Prayer Current, 2018. 189pp.

For Philosophy of Planting: Paas, Stefan. *Church Planting in the Secular West: Learning from the European Experience*. Grand Rapids, Mich.: Eerdmans, 2016.

Payne, J.D. *Discovering Church Planting, An Introduction to the Whats, Whys, and Hows of Global Church Planting*. Downers Grove, Ill.: InverVarsity Press, 2009.

Amberson, Talmadge R. *The Birth of Churches: The Biblical Basis for Church Planting*.

Mischke, Werner. *The Global Gospel: Achieving Missional Impact in Our Multicultural World*. Scottsdale, Arizona: MissionOne, 2015. 325pp

Powell, James M. *Boldly Bi-Vocational: Navigating Dual Callings in the Ministry and the Marketplace*. Fearn, Ross-shire, Scotland: Christian Focus Publications, 2025.



Course Objectives Related to MDiv* Student Learning Outcomes

Course: 02PT6205

Professor: Vogel

Campus: Orlando

Date: Summer 2026

<u>MDiv* Student Learning Outcomes</u>		<u>Rubric</u>	<u>Mini-Justification</u>
<p><i>In order to measure the success of the MDiv curriculum, RTS has defined the following as the intended outcomes of the student learning process. Each course contributes to these overall outcomes. This rubric shows the contribution of this course to the MDiv outcomes.</i></p> <p><i>*As the MDiv is the core degree at RTS, the MDiv rubric will be used in this syllabus.</i></p>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Strong ➤ Moderate ➤ Minimal ➤ None 	
Articulation (oral & written)	Broadly understands and articulates knowledge, both oral and written, of essential biblical, theological, historical, and cultural/global information, including details, concepts, and frameworks.	Strong	Student demonstrates ability to articulate the reasons for church planting, evaluate options and opportunities for planting a church and create a church planting proposal.
Scripture	Significant knowledge of the original meaning of Scripture. Also, the concepts for and skill to research further into the original meaning of Scripture and to apply Scripture to a variety of modern circumstances. (Includes appropriate use of original languages and hermeneutics; and integrates theological, historical, and cultural/global perspectives.)	Moderate	Interacts with relevant portions of Scripture and applies them to making disciples and incorporating them into the Body of Christ.
Reformed Theology	Significant knowledge of Reformed theology and practice, with emphasis on the Westminster Standards.	Moderate	Be conversant in a wide range of church planting philosophies and aptly evaluate them in light of our Reformed theology
Sanctification	Demonstrates a love for the Triune God that aids the student's sanctification.	Minimal	Understand the sovereignty of God in church extension and planting as a means of one's sanctification.
Desire for Worldview	Burning desire to conform all of life to the Word of God.	Moderate	Express a biblical view of contextualization with respect to church planting.
Winsomely Reformed	Embraces a winsomely Reformed ethos. (Includes an appropriate ecumenical spirit with other Christians, especially Evangelicals; a concern to present the Gospel in a God-honoring manner to non-	Minimal	While expressing biblical and theological convictions with regard to planting, be able to express appreciation of and

	Christians; and a truth-in-love attitude in disagreements.)		gentle critique of those models from a non-Reformed tradition.
Preach	Ability to preach and teach the meaning of Scripture to both heart and mind with clarity and enthusiasm.	Minimal	There will be some consideration of how church planting is to be expressed in the congregational context
Worship	Knowledgeable of historic and modern Christian-worship forms; and ability to construct and skill to lead a worship service.	None	
Shepherd	Ability to shepherd the local congregation: aiding in spiritual maturity; promoting use of gifts and callings; and encouraging a concern for non-Christians, both in America and worldwide.	Strong	The student will be able to express the importance of evangelism and discipleship as foundational to church planting.
Church/World	Ability to interact within a denominational context, within the broader worldwide church, and with significant public issues.	Moderate	The student will understand the role of the denomination in a church plant and how the plant affects the broader church in one's community.