CHURCH PLANTING FOR THE 21ST CENTURY

Whether you have already planted a church, find yourself contemplating a new launch or are experimenting with multi-site congregations, this cohort trains church planters in essential skills and strategies to start healthy, disciple-making congregations. Recognizing that few “church planter boot camps” offer extended reflection and support on the theological, historical, cultural and organizational aspects of this kind of spiritual work, our faculty mentors and coaches help you develop critical perspectives and practices that result in vibrant, reproducing communities. They do so with a commitment to equipping you with missiological, social science and leadership skill sets needed for culturally relevant communities.

Participants in this cohort:

• Revisit biblical, theological and missiological foundations for the practice of extending and establishing the church.
• Gain missional awareness on how your calling, capacity, community and context (especially denominational and cultural contexts) can be leveraged for strategic impact.
• Experience immersion in field-based learning, enjoy extended sessions with nationally recognized church planters, and develop support networks in your own local regions and denominations.
• Receive special emphasis on Wesleyan evangelism, lay mobilization and community formation factors.

Faculty Bio

**Dr. Art McPhee** was a pastor for 23 years, more than half of them in churches he also planted. He has been a denominational overseer of church planting, a church planter coach, and, since the mid-1990s, a professor of evangelism with a specialization in new church development. Art is the Sundo Kim Professor of Evangelism and Practical Theology at Asbury Seminary. He has both North American and international experience. For the past 18 years, he has taught and conducted research on church growth in Southern Asia.

**Dr. Bryan Collier** is the Founding Pastor and also the Lead Pastor and Ministry Coach at The Orchard: A United Methodist Congregation in Tupelo, Miss. Prior to planting The Orchard, he served four pastorates in the Mississippi and Kentucky Annual Conferences of The United Methodist Church. Collier has more than 20 years of experience in pastoral ministry. His interests and expertise include leadership issues, church for the un-churched and cultural dissection. He is passionate about helping people at all stages of faith grow deep in the love of God and branch out to others with that love.

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Class Descriptions

I. Ancient-Future Church Planting
During this class, participants translate the best of what church planters discerned in the first century into profitable principles and strategies for church planting today. Participants explore a biblical and theological framework for church planting within the Wesleyan tradition. The cohort analyzes successes and setbacks of perennial church planters, evaluating best practices of discipleship.

II. New Church Types and Networks
Participants critically evaluate a range of paradigms and practices employed in contemporary church planting. These methods and models include the traditional church, small groups and cell churches, satellite extensions, and innovative church planting movements, such as organic and Internet church planting. Using case studies, lectures, discussions and guest presenters, this course examines church theology, compares church planting philosophies, methods, and congregational types, and connects participants to church planting networks.

III. From Adding to Multiplying: Church Planting Math
This course appreciates contemporary ministry organizational contexts, such as congregations, non-profits and marketplace engagements. By applying the insights of renowned church planters, participants study historical and modern examples of rapid church growth, both domestically and internationally. Participants focus on the essential and dynamic methods of multiplying disciple-making disciples by revisiting the foundations for contextualized, sustainable ministry vision, ethic and practice.

IV. Missional GPS: Navigation for New Churches
Participants connect church planting vision to action in this course. Faculty mentors and participants engage in round-table discussions that articulate a range of prominent, contemporary church planting issues, emphases, and debates. Through a publishable article, participants articulate and defend a particular aspect of church planting and demonstrate habits, postures and behaviors of a missionary.

“For I made it my aim to not build on another’s foundation, but to build where Christ has not been named.”
– Romans 15:20