



Master of Arts Church Planting

Description

With the continuing decline of Western Christianity and the expansion of the gospel around the world, church planting can play a vital role in the evangelization of people in the post-Christian cultural milieu as well as in the majority world. The Master of Arts Church Planting is a degree designed to equip those who sense God's leading into the challenging ministry of starting new churches. The 48-credit hour degree focuses on biblical, theological, and missiological considerations to effectively launch, ground, lead, multiply, and sustain healthy, reproducing churches.

In Partnership with Kairos University

The Master of Arts focused on Church Planting is offered in partnership with Kairos University. Kairos University is a global system of theological education that provides opportunities for students to build entirely customized educational journeys that are affordable, accessible, relevant, and faithful. The University has locations throughout the United States and Canada, partnerships with organizations around the world, and students from nearly every continent.

Kairos University is accredited by the Association of Theological Schools and The Higher Learning Commission.

Competency Based Theological Education

This is your education and our focus is on you not simply as a student, but as a fellow learner on a journey to develop a proficiency of theological and missiological content, vocational skills that will lead to success, and character motivated by your identity in Christ.

Character Development

- Deepen your faith as you follow Jesus.
- Participate in a journey of discipleship and formation that invites you to embody the way of Jesus as co-laborer on God's mission.
- Learn to integrate your faith and your vocation so that what you do is shaped by who you are as a follower of Jesus.

Vocational Excellence

- Develop skills across a wide array of disciplines (e.g. Bible, theology, missiology, leadership, spirituality, and more)
- Learn to communicate effectively in your culture and in the world around you.

- Be equipped for a life-time of service of church planting and training church planters.

Proficiency Learning

- Develop patterns of thinking that reflect biblical, theological, historical, contextual, and vocational realities.
- Demonstrate your learning through a portfolio of learning that provides evidence of who you are, what you can do, and where you thrive.
- Learn in the context of real-life situations rather than fabricated classroom experiences.

A Typical Students

A typical student's primary motivation is the desire to please the Lord, to glorify him in life and death. His or her passion for God constrains them to serve the Lord. They have a deep desire to make a difference in their community, to see culture transformed, and to join God's mission to extend His kingdom around the world. Our students are:

- Engaged in full-time or bi-vocational church ministry in their community.
- Seeking denominational credentialing for pastoral ministry.
- Deployed to the mission field and do not want to return for seminary.
- Preparing to go to the mission field or to church plant.
- Global church leaders.

Students graduating from the MA/CP program will have the competency to:

- Effectively exegete culture with a view to presenting a culturally appropriate gospel message.
- Disciple new believers who will have the DNA to multiply more disciples.
- Strategically identify how God is working in a community and design an indigenous gathering of new believers.
- Equip a team with the five-fold ministry Jesus left for the church.
- Reproduce mature Christ-followers, New Testament leaders, and multiplying congregations of disciples.

Learning Experiences

Each learning experience is designed to be completed in one month. A learning experience requires a minimum of 135 hours of work which includes the on-demand virtual classroom, discussion forum, book reviews, integrative essays, and research paper alongside of the practical demonstration of competencies concomitant with the course's content. The MA/CP degree can be accomplished between 16-19 months. Some students may take longer, but the objective is not the degree. Instead, it's the development of competencies to ensure that your church planting journey will be successful. The MA/CP is an excellent pathway to a MDiv or ThM, even to a DMin or PhD.

Core Learning Experiences

Our interest for each experience is their contribution to your knowledge of God, character as a Jesus follower, and how they help shape your ideas about ministry. The learning opportunities are developed and taught by some of the world's leading experts on church planting.

Essential Elements of Christian Spirituality – On the basis of The Great Commandment, Jesus' conflation of Deuteronomy 6:4-5 and Leviticus 19:18, plus His recitation of "The Parable of the Good Samaritan" in Luke 10:25-37 and the Great Commission in Matthew 28:18-20, we discern the essential elements of an authentic Christian spirituality. It is characterized by a passion for God, compassion toward others, and mission to the world. The three-fold expansion and application of the brotherly love command from Leviticus 19:18 fulfills the law in Romans 13:8-10, frees Christians to love in Galatians 5:13-15; and forbids favoritism in James 2:8-9. Spiritual disciplines and the devotional practices of prayer, Scripture reading, and reflection are primary means whereby ministry leaders develop authentic Christian spirituality.

Doing Theology with Revelation – This introductory course on The Revelation of Jesus Christ will explore the primary themes which are key to understanding the message of this final book of the Christian Scriptures. The Revelation--often subjected to wildly imaginative and twisted interpretations--is considered in light of its three literary genres and the historical context of the seven churches, its Christocentric focus and eschatological prophecies. Students will develop an interpretive framework that leads to reasonable applications that inspires faithful witness in times of turmoil. The Revelation is as relevant to the people of God today as it was for the early church.

Foundations for a Missiology of Movements – The increase of disciple multiplication movements around the globe currently represents a significant breakthrough in missions in recent Church history. But what exactly are these movements? Why are there so many of them occurring in diverse locations across the globe? Can you or your organization be instrumental in catalyzing movements? This course lays a foundation for developing a movements missiology through learning from various practitioners, scholars, and leaders who are part of God's work in indigenous churches planting churches among all the nations. Through in-depth description and analysis, this course looks at cutting-edge missiological research into these movements that will help you discover your place in movements today.

Identity Based Discipleship – This course introduces students to key concepts and characteristics of New Testament discipleship. Building on a foundation of an evangelical identity, the course examines both the Greek as well as the Old Testament ideas of disciple. As rooted in three distinguishing marks of the evangelical church, you will explore the meaning of discipleship as it relates to apologetics, justice, and evangelism. These markers, along with a biblical foundation, will help construct an identity-based discipleship as a practical model to equip Christ-followers to join God as imitators focused on living out their identity as a royal priesthood.

Missiological Theology – This course introduces the student to pivotal Christian doctrines as a missiological framework within which to engage the working intellectual assumptions and social issues of contemporary culture. In addition to investigating several models for Christian engagement with culture, the course encourages the positive formation of a biblically informed worldview as a foundation for creative interaction with contemporary thought and cultures.

Movemental Ecclesiology – Movemental Ecclesiology focuses on the movemental nature of the church with attention to the importance of cultural exegesis and adaptive strategies for ecclesial structures and leadership. Special attention is given to the importance of missiology in catalyzing reproducing churches. You'll analyze and evaluate contemporary church planting models with a view toward a nascent articulation of a personal church planting philosophy developed in a community of learners.

Movement Leadership – This in-depth study will equip the student with the tools to understand the people they are engaging and join with God in His work of uniting all things in Christ. You will explore God's DNA for the church as specified in Ephesians 4. Beginning with an overview to get a grounding in key terms, you will then consider the implications of APEST for individuals, the Church, and society.

Our Sacred Heritage – Our Sacred Heritage will challenge students to consider the practices, apologetics, theology, and conciliar nature of the church in her first four centuries. The course focuses on ancient writings that solidified apostolic traditions contained in the New Testament and combatted the emerging threats of the many forms of Gnosticism as well as other heresies. Students will see the emergence of a conciliar theology that was held everywhere, by everyone, for all time, especially manifesting in the atonement idea of *Christus Victor*. Additionally, students will identify a historical thread that ties Christianity of the 21st century back to Christianity of the late 1st to 4th centuries.

Teaching the Bible in Oral Cultures – If you think storytelling, or its bigger brother orality, is just for tribal and peasant people, think again. This course investigates and demonstrates the genius of the narrative/story genre for those, yes, who cannot read, but also for growing multitude who can read, but do very little of it. Class members will participate in storytelling, design a seminar on the missiological applications of narrative, and write a major paper or create a video/project or develop a series of culturally relevant lessons that emphasize the narrative medium in areas such as evangelism, business, ESL, church planting, apologetics, homiletics, community development, leadership and followership development, counseling, research. The grand tour question for this course is: Why is it important to know the role of story in Scripture and service?

The Church in Times of Crisis – This course introduces students to key issues confronting the church of the Western world. You'll hear leading experts, like Jeff Christopherson, co-director of the Send Institute at Wheaton College, and Alan Hirsch, founder of Forge and best-selling author, focus on the future of evangelicalism and its leadership. You'll also hear from church planters like Devlin Scott of NewCity Church,

Russell Cravens of Neartown Church, and Heath Haynes of The Bridge Montrose as they wrestle with how the 21st century church must adapt to the new cultural realities of racial tension, global pandemic, and pastoral leadership.

The Study of the Ephesian Movement – This course introduces students to key concepts and characteristics of a New Testament movement through a comprehensive study of the community of Christ-followers in Ephesus. An examination of the church in Ephesus provides a missiologically theocentric foundation for joining God’s mission in his relentless pursuit of more people who will worship him. The course will focus on a missiological theology of Christ-followers, leaders, and church through facilitating a conversation in community that leads to the discovery of a framework for the exponential growth of the Ephesian movement. The course encourages students to critically assess the effectiveness of church planting movements (CPMs) and disciple making movements (DMM) as well as address concerns of theological shallowness, immature leadership, and careless evangelism.

Theology of Evangelism – This course explores theological, missiological, and ecclesiological bases for effective evangelism. It is designed to help you think biblically about the gospel, what it is and what it is not. It also aims to help you wrestle with how to proclaim the good news in ways that remain faithful to the scriptures while being appropriate for your ministry setting. The course also seeks to develop skills in evangelism and in training members of the church to do the work of evangelists.

Worldview Apologetics – This course introduces students to key concepts and characteristics of engaging in worldview apologetics. Worldview apologetics is a form of apologetics that focuses more on the paradigms/ worldviews that drive the way people think, act, order life and live rather than on cultural issues that cause people to argue, debate and separate. Many forms of apologetics focus on the frameworks that emerge from the various worldviews - i.e. religious practices, sexual orientation, gender identity. Worldview apologetics goes a step deeper to look at the worldviews that drive these frameworks and helps the student learn how to engage people at the worldview level. The goal of this approach is to move from trying to win an argument to actually serving and helping people break free from the bondage of any worldview that is untethered from a Christ-centered worldview. A key distinction of this course is that you will learn how to take the first steps to building trust with people so that through the act of building trust you can have worldview level conversations in order to share the good news of the gospel and a heart level.

Internship

Jump School – This six-month coaching experience focuses on helping the student with the practical implementation of the ideas emerging from the courses in the MA/CP. Jump School gives special attention to the development of a church planting team, identifying how people gather in a community, and connecting the stories about Jesus with the culture so that the good news is indeed good news for the community. Jump School begins every March and can be taken consecutively with other MA/CP courses.

Competency Map (48 credit hours)

Learning cohorts begin each September. Applications for Admissions must be submitted by August. Asterisk (*) indicates learning experiences in the Graduate Certificate.

Starting Well (3 credit hours)

Christian Spirituality (6 credit hours)

Essential Nature of Christian Spirituality*
Movement Leadership*

Biblical Literacy (6 credit hours)

Study of the Ephesian Movement*
Biblical Theology

Contextual Project (6 credit hours)

Foundations for a Missiology of Movements
Teaching in Oral Cultures

Reflection in Community (6 credit hours)

Doing Theology with Revelation
The Church in Times of Crisis*

Christian Theology (6 credit hours)

Biblical Theology
Theology of Evangelism*
Movemental Ecclesiology*

Culture and History (6 credit hours)

Missiological Theology*
Worldview Apologetics
Our Sacred Heritage

Mentored Life (6 credit hours)

Identity Based Discipleship*
Jump School I

Continuing Well (3 credit hours)

Jump School II

Faculty

Our professors have been where you are and have collectively planted and trained church planters who have planted thousands of churches around the world. They are an international team of academic-practitioners who pushed aside the fear of failure, followed the Lord's leading, and took risks. In the process, they learned what worked and what didn't work and often accomplished what others said couldn't have been done. As academic practitioners, they know theory, generate ideas and engage you as fellow thought leaders. Perhaps more importantly, they welcome you into a creative and innovative learning community that will help shape your character, knowledge, and skills.

Michael T. Cooper, PhD (Trinity Evangelical Divinity School) – Dr. Cooper earned a PhD in Intercultural Studies with a focus on religious movements and a minor in theology from Trinity Evangelical Divinity School. He currently serves as a missiologist for East West Ministries International where he focuses on missiological research and equipping missionaries for effective cultural engagement. He has thirty years of missions experience, including ten years as a pioneer church planter in Romania after the fall of communism and has equipped church planters and leaders in Africa, Europe, North America, South America, South Asia, and Southeast Asia. He has written and contributed to more than 30 books and academic articles and has presented conference lectures at the London School of Economics, University of Bordeaux, Loyola University, Baylor University, and many others. His recent book, *Ephesiology: The Study of the Ephesian Movement* is a best seller at William Carey Publishing.

David D. Feiser, PhD (Trinity Evangelical Divinity School) – A graduate of Penn State, Pastor Dave earned a Master of Theological Studies at Palmer Theological Seminary outside of Philadelphia, and then to Trinity Evangelical Divinity School in Deerfield, IL, where he received a Ph.D. in Theological Studies with a concentration in Systematic Theology. His dissertation was a theology of proclamation, aiming to help the local church use not only preaching, but the sacraments and living out one's faith in the world as means of proclaiming the gospel of Jesus Christ.

Donald Patrick Harris, DMin (Gordon Conwell Theological Seminary) – Dr. Harris earned a doctorate of ministry from Gordon Conwell Theological Seminary. He is a Christian thinker and communicator, church missions consultant and spiritual mentor. After four years as the director of missions at Sherwood Bible Church, Don spent the next 25 years church planting and training church planters in the Czech Republic. His foci are congregational — organizational—health, and Christian leadership development. Others appreciate his creative, contemplative, and collaborative approach to complex issues. Individuals and organizations also apply the insights and experiences Don shares via seminars and workshops, small groups, and—of course—one-to-one.

Alan Hirsch, MDiv (Melbourne School of Theology) – Alan Hirsch is the founding director of Forge Mission Training Network, 100Movements, The 5Q Collective, and Future Travelers. All these are focused on developing missional leadership and movemental organization. Known for his innovative approach to mission, Alan is

considered to be a thought-leader and key mission strategist for churches across the Western world. Hirsch is the author of *The Forgotten Ways*; *5Q*; *The Shaping of Things to Come*, *ReJesus*, and *The Faith of Leap* (with Michael Frost); *Untamed* (with Debra Hirsch); *Right Here, Right Now* (with Lance Ford), and *On the Verge* (with Dave Ferguson).

Peyton Jones, MA (Wales Evangelical School of Theology) – Peyton Jones has been on the front lines of ministry for over twenty years. In 1999, at the age of 25, he moved to Europe, and served as the evangelist at Lloyd-Jones’s legendary Sandfields church, Aberavon. An accidental church planter, Jones planted in a Starbucks before returning to America, and planting in inner city Long Beach. To reach those nobody is reaching, Jones has worked as a firefighter, factory worker, barista, and psychiatric nurse, bringing all these experiences to the table. Jones received his MA Theology: Pastoral Studies from Wales Evangelical School of Theology, and is the Regional Catalyst for NAMB. He is also the host of the Jump School Core Team Training Series, Managing Editor of Church Planter Magazine and the co-host of the weekly Church Planter Podcast.

Stephen Leston, DBS (Master’s International School of Theology) – Dr. Stephen Leston is the President of To Every Tribe, a mission training and sending agency. Prior to this role, Stephen served as the pastor of Kishwaukee Bible Church in DeKalb Illinois. He has been involved in ministry for over 20 years. He loves preaching, teaching, and equipping the next generation of leaders how to do the same. In addition to being the Author of *The Bible in World History*, He is also the author of *The Illustrated Guide to Bible Battles* and has contributed to several volumes of the *Layman’s Commentary Series*. Steve’s heart is to see people understand how to read, understand, and apply the Christian Bible to their lives.

Randy Newman, PhD (Trinity Evangelical Divinity School) – Dr. Newman is the Senior Fellow for Apologetics and Evangelism at The C. S. Lewis Institute in the Washington, DC area. He has taught at several evangelical seminaries, Patrick Henry College and is currently an adjunct faculty at Reformed Theological Seminary. After serving for over 30 years with Campus Crusade for Christ, he established Connection Points, a ministry to help Christians engage people’s hearts the way Jesus did. He has written several books, including the award-winning *Questioning Evangelism* and, more recently, *Unlikely Converts*, as well as numerous articles about evangelism and other ways our lives intertwine with God’s creation. He and his wife Pam live in Annandale, VA and have three grown sons, two delightful daughters-in-law, and two stunningly adorable granddaughters.

Sylvie Raquel, PhD (New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary) – Dr. Raquel has twenty-five years of academic experience in teaching biblical studies. She is committed to using her knowledge for building the Kingdom of God. Her heart is for missions. She is fluent in three spoken languages (English, French, and Spanish) besides the biblical languages (Koine Greek, Hebrew) and has a working knowledge of German and Latin. She also has ministerial experience. She worked in three different international churches in the area of youth ministry, discipleship ministry, prison ministry, and ESL ministry.

She participated to or led missions' trips to Kazakhstan, France, Mexico, Ecuador, Brazil, Zambia, and India, as well as within the U.S.A. She is now looking into teaching online English, Spanish, and French theological studies.

Tom A. Steffen, DMiss (Biola University) – Dr. Steffen served 20 years with New Tribes Mission, 15 of those in the Philippines. He is Professor Emeritus of Intercultural Studies in the School of Intercultural Studies at Biola University in La Mirada, California. He specializes in church multiplication, orality, honor and shame, and business as mission. His latest books include *New and Old Horizons in the Orality Movement: Expanding the Firm Foundations*, *The Return of Oral Hermeneutics*, *Encountering Missionary Life and Work*, and *Worldview-based Storying*.

Wes Watkins, DMiss (Fuller Seminary) – Dr. Farah earned a DMiss from Fuller and is currently working towards a PhD from the Oxford Center of Mission Studies. He is co-editor of *Margins of Islam: Ministry in Diverse Muslim Contexts* (2018) and editor of *Motus Dei: The Movement of God and the Discipleship of Nations* (forthcoming in 2021). As a missiologist with One Collective, he currently serves in theological education in the Middle East, training Arab world leaders for ministry in the region. His research topics include Muslim Studies, Frontier Missiology, Theology of Mission, and Movements. Warrick has published in journals such as *Evangelical Missions Quarterly*, *International Journal of Frontier Missiology*, and *Global Missiology*.

Cost

Our unique subscription plan gives you financial options for your seminary education! \$350 gets you started with the application fee and first month's tuition. Then, \$300 per month keeps you enrolled in the degree. The sooner you complete a course the less you pay in tuition. We do this to incentivize your hard work and help you steward the financial resources God has given you. If life gets in the way, simply cancel your subscription and re-subscribe when your calendar permits.

Model 1: Take one course per month for 13 months + six-month internship (19 months)

Application Fee:	\$50
Monthly Tuition (13 courses):	\$3,900
<u>Internship (6 months):</u>	<u>\$1,800</u>
Total Cost:	\$5,750

Model 2: Take one course per month for 10 months + 3 over-lapping courses with six-month internship (16 months)

Application Fee:	\$50
Monthly Tuition (10 courses):	\$3,000
<u>Internship (+3 courses):</u>	<u>\$1,800</u>
Total Cost:	\$4,850

For majority world students, generous scholarships will be granted for qualified applicants.

Need and Opportunity

Ever since C. Peter Wagner declared church planting as the greatest strategy for the spread the gospel around the world (1990), church planters have taken up the banner of what is no doubt one of the most obvious results of making disciples in the book of Acts. Indeed, Tim Keller writes, “The continual planting of new congregations is the most crucial strategy for the growth of the body of Christ” (2012). Pick up any church planting text these days and you’ll hear similar remarks. In fact, Ed Stezter and Daniel Im go so as far as to say, “We are most like Christ when we join him in the mission of reaching the unchurched by planting new churches” (2011, p. 26). Both domestically and internationally, the need and opportunity for church planting has never been greater. The MA/CP strategically prepares future church planters to address these present realities.

Domestically

- Lifeway Research estimated a net loss of 1,500 church in 2019.
- Send Institute at Wheaton College estimates the need to start and sustain 2,700 new churches each year to maintain a 1:1000 church to population ratio.
- If the trend of net loss of 1,500 churches continues and in order to net 2,700 churches, there is a current need to equip more than 4,000 church planters each year.

Internationally

- World Evangelical Alliance estimates more than 50,000 new baptisms each day.
- Assuming an average church size of 50, there is a daily need for 1,000 newly equipped pastors.