HARDING SCHOOL OF THEOLOGY

BMIN 5873, LEADING CHURCHES IN MISSION, Spring 2024
Thursdays. 8:15am-10:55am.
Dr. Steve Cloer

Course description
This course utilizes missional theology to develop and formulate faithful ways to lead a church in mission. Students explore various leadership models and seek to develop capacities for missional leadership, including spiritual discernment, engaging a context, navigating change, forming a leadership team, and transformational preaching. Students participate in a guided missional experiment as a project for this course.

The course contributes to the following degree outcomes:
- Demonstrate the skills associated with leadership in their ministry specialization. (MACM)
- Demonstrate the ability to integrate the scriptures and theological tradition with diverse contemporary cultural contexts. (MACM and M.Div.)
- Demonstrate the skills associated with providing ministerial leadership for churches and communities. (M.Div.)

Additional course objectives
- Utilize missional theology to develop and formulate faithful ways to lead a church on mission.
- Engage in spiritual discernment exercises to build capacity for missional leadership.
- Explore various missional leadership models and practices for offering congregational leadership.
- Participate and lead a guided missional experiment to build competency in offering missional leadership.

Required textbooks
Michael Goheen, *A Light to the Nations: The Missional Church and the Biblical Story* (Grand Rapids: Baker, 2011).
Tod Bolsinger, *Canoeing the Mountains: Christian Leadership in Uncharted Territory* (Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press, 2015).
Alan J. Roxburgh & Fred Romanuk, *The Missional Leader: Equipping Your Church to Reach a Changing World*, 2nd ed. (Minneapolis, MN: Fortress, 2020).
Craig Van Gelder & Dwight Zscheile, *Participating in God's Mission: A Theological Missiology for the Church in America* (Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 2018).

Textbooks can now be ordered through a link on the HST website. The Textbooks tab can be viewed on the navigation bar on any page of the website. Check the book list provided under the Textbooks tab (http://hst.edu/students/textbook-services) for correct ISBN's and editions to

ensure correct ordering. A link provided there will take you to Amazon where you will only need to enter the ISBN to order your books.

Additional required readings
Cloer, Steve. "The Elder-Evangelist Relationship Through the Stone-Campbell Movement." *Restoration Quarterly* 58:4 (2016): 229-239.
_____. "The Minister-Elder Relationship Within 'Churches that Work,'" *Discernment: Theology and the Practice of Ministry* 2:2 (2016): 1-15. http://digitalcommons.acu.edu/discernment/
_____. "The Missional Catalyst: Reimagining the Role of the Minister." *Missio Dei Journal* 10.2 (Summer-Fall 2019). http://missiodeijournal.com/issues/md-10-2/authors/md-10-2-cloer
Martinez, Juan. "Discovering God's Initiatives in the Midst of Adaptive Challenge," *Journal of Missional Practice* (Autumn 2012). https://journalofmissionalpractice.com/discovering-gods-initiatives-in-the-midst-of-adaptive-challenge/

Additional readings, course notes, a place to submit assignments, and grades are available on Canvas. To access the Canvas course page, go to http://elearning.harding.edu.

Accessibility
HST professors are accessible to local and distance students. Please use the following to arrange appointments with me (in person or by phone):
Email: secloer@harding.edu
Office Phone Number: 901-432-7724
Office: Ijams Administration Building 209

Requirements and grading
1. Reading of assigned texts and class participation (10%)
2. Journal/Dwelling Exercises (15%)
3. Midterm Exam (20%)
4. Missional Church Leadership Project and Paper (35%)
6. Final Exam (20%)

Grading scale: 100-90 (A), 89-80 (B), 79-75 (C), 74-70 (D), 69 and below (F)

Students should complete all readings before the session for which they are assigned and should be prepared to contribute to the discussion of the readings in class.

If a student is absent from a class session (or unable to be fully present), the student must communicate with the professor ahead of time. The student must watch the recording of the class session and write a 500 word summary of the class lecture and discussion. This is due no later than one week after the absence. Failure to do so will result in a deduction of the class participation grade.

Students who are absent more than two class sessions (without approval by the dean) will be penalized ten points off the final grade.

Late assignments will immediately be deducted one letter grade. Each day further that the Leadership Project and Paper is late, the grade will be deducted three points per day.

Late journal entries receive an 80% grade, if received within one week. After one week late, these entries receive a 50% grade.

Academic integrity
Academic dishonesty in all its forms is inconsistent with Christian faith and practice and will result in penalties which could include a failing grade for the assignment, a failing grade for the course, dismissal from the course, and even dismissal from the school.

Credit hour workload
For every course credit hour, the typical student should expect to spend at least three clock hours per week of concentrated attention on course-related work, including but not limited to time attending class, as well as out-of-class time spent reading, reviewing, organizing notes, preparing for upcoming quizzes/exams, problem solving, developing and completing projects, and other activities that enhance learning. Thus, for a three-hour course, a typical student should expect to spend at least nine hours per week dedicated to the course.

Students with disabilities
It is the policy of Harding University to accommodate students with disabilities, pursuant to federal and state law. Any student with a disability who needs accommodation should inform the instructor at the beginning of the course. Students with disabilities are also encouraged to contact Steve McLeod, the Associate Dean, at 901-761-1353.

Library resources
If you have not taken 5990 (Advanced Theological Research) or took it more than a year ago, go to the HST Web site (www.hst.edu) for information concerning library services to students. Under the "library" tab you will find a link to and instructions for searching the HST online catalog. There are also instructions for using the following databases available through the library: OCLC FirstSearch, EBSCOhost, Infotrac, and Religious and Theological Abstracts. Contact the library for passwords to these databases. Also available are the research guides distributed in 5990. These annotated bibliographies list basic tools you will find helpful in your research.

Course schedule

January 11
    (1) John 17:1-19
    (2) Goheen, pgs. 1-21
    (3) Review Syllabus
    (4) Missional Ecclesiology

January 18

(1) John 20:19-23
(2) Goheen, pgs. 23-120
(3) Missional Ecclesiology

January 25
(1) Gen. 12:1-3
(2) Goheen, pgs. 121-226
(3) Missional Ecclesiology

Feb. 1
(1) Mt. 10:1-19
(2) Van Gelder/Zscheile, pgs. 1-60
(3) Engaging the Neighborhood

Feb. 8
(1) Acts 1:1-8
(2) Van Gelder/Zscheile, pgs. 61-222
(3) Engaging the Neighborhood
(4) Missional Church Leadership Project Prospectus Due

Feb. 15
(1) Isa. 52:7-12
(2) Van Gelder/Zscheile, pgs. 223-329
(3) Engaging the Neighborhood

Feb. 22   Mid Term Exam

Feb. 29   STUDY BREAK

March 7   SPRING BREAK

March 14
(1) Acts 20:17-38
(2) Missional Leadership Teams
(3) Cloer articles

March 21
(1) Acts 4:23-31
(2) Missional Leadership Teams
(3) Roxburgh & Romanuk, pgs. 3-78

March 28
(1) Mt. 28:16-20
(2) Tensions in Missional Leadership
(3) Roxburgh & Romanuk, pgs. 79-142

April 4
    (1) Ezek. 2:1-3:15
    (2) Tensions in Missional Leadership
    (3) Roxburgh & Romanuk, pgs.143-206

April 9 **(notice date change because of HST Reunion/D.Min. Weekend)**
    (1) Lk. 4:14-20
    (2) Missional Leadership Practices
    (3) Bolsinger, pgs. 1-83
    (4) Martinez article

April 18
    (1) 1 Cor. 3:5-9
    (2) Missional Leadership Practices
    (3) Bolsinger, pgs. 84-152

April 25
    (1) Phil. 2:5-11
    (2) Missional Leadership Practices
    (3) Bolsinger, pgs. 153-223

April 29   **Missional Church Leadership Project and Paper Due**

May 2   **Final Exam**

Journaling/Spiritual Disciplines Assignment

Each student is required to keep a weekly journal and an alternating habit of two spiritual discipline exercises: Dwelling in the Word and Dwelling in the World. The student will make a 250 word entry on Canvas after their dwelling exercise of key thoughts or insights that came to their attention (*due on Fridays*). There should be 14 entries at the end of the semester (one per week). Students will alternate the dwelling exercises each week (one per week).

1. Dwelling in the Word – The student will reflect on a key text for 30 minutes, praying through the text, noticing key thoughts/insights that God is bringing to him/her through this text.
    a. Possible key texts to use: Matthew 10:1-19; Acts 1:1-8; Jn. 17:1-19; Jn. 20:19-23; Isa. 52:7-12; Lk. 4:14-30; Gen. 12:1-3; Ezek. 2:1-3:15; Isa. 6:1-13.
    b. The student is free to choose one text to focus on or alternate between texts throughout the semester.
2. Dwelling in the World – The student will find a place in their community to sit and reflect on what they see going around them. What do they notice about the people? What spiritual observations do they see? What does God bring to their minds? The goal of this exercise is to cultivate missional imagination.

Missional Church Leadership Project and Paper

Each student will cultivate a team from their ministry context and will communally discern together and participate in a series of missional experiments that will total at least **10 hours**. The team can be a small group, Bible class, youth group, ministry staff, elder team, or discipleship group. The team must consist of at least 5 people.

Types of missional experiments could be: prayer-walking in the neighborhood, serving together in a ministry in the city, starting a new ministry to some group in the neighborhood, engaging in evangelistic outreaches, partnering with a non-profit ministry in some way.

The student is responsible for developing the team, convening the team, leading the team in a discernment process, coordinating and leading the missional experiments, and then guiding the team in de-briefing and processing.

Each student will write a **12 page** paper that details a brief contextual analysis, a missional theological framework for the project, a description of the project, and brief reflections on what was learned about yourself, your team, and the mission of God. A brief prospectus is due on Feb. 9. Students will report periodically in class about their project and what they are learning.

Recommended resources

I. Missional Theology

Bosch, David Jacobus. *Transforming Mission: Paradigm Shifts in Theology of Mission*. American Society of Missiology Series, No. 16. Maryknoll, NY: Orbis Books, 1991.

Franke, John. *Missional Theology: An Introduction*. Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Academic, 2020.

Goheen, Michael W. and Timothy Sheridan, *Becoming a Missionary Congregation: Lesslie Newbigin and Contemporary Church Movements*. Grand Rapids: Baker, 2022.

Goheen, Michael W. *The Church and Its Vocation: Lesslie Newbigin's Missionary Ecclesiology*. Grand Rapids: Baker, 2018.

Guder, Darrell, ed. *Missional Church: A Vision for the Sending of the Church in North America.* Grand Rapids, MI: Eerdmans, 1998.

Hastings, Ross. *Missional God, Missional Church: Hope for Re-Evangelizing the West.* Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press, 2012.

Keller, Timothy. *Center Church: Doing Balanced, Gospel-Centered Ministry in Your City.* Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 2012.

Padilla, Rene, ed. *The Local Church, Agent of Transformation: An Ecclesiology for Integral Mission*. Buenos Aires, Argentina: Kairos, 2004.

Van Gelder, Craig. *The Essence of the Church: A Community Created by the Spirit*. Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Books, 2000.

_____, ed. *The Missional Church in Context: Helping Congregations Develop Contextual Ministry*. Grand Rapids, MI: Eerdmans, 2007.

Van Gelder, Craig, and Dwight J. Zscheile. *The Missional Church in Perspective: Mapping Trends and Shaping the Conversation*. The Missional Network. Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Academic, 2011.

Williams, Paul S. *Exiles on Mission: How Christians Can Thrive in a Post-Christian World.* Grand Rapids, MI: Brazos Press, 2020.

Wright, Christopher J. H. *The Mission of God: Unlocking the Bible's Grand Narrative*. Downers Grove, IL: IVP Academic, 2006.

_____. *The Mission of God's People: A Biblical Theology of the Church's Mission*. Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan, 2010.

For further resources related to missional hermeneutics, missional theology, and missional ecclesiology, see the bibliography at this website: https://bibleandmission.org.uk/missional-hermeneutics-bibliography/

II. Missional Leadership

Bolsinger, Tod. *Tempered Resilience: How Leaders are Formed in the Crucible of Change.* Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press, 2020.

Branson, Mark Lau and Juan F. Martinez, *Churches, Cultures, and Leadership: A Practical Theology of Congregations and Ethnicities*. Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press, 2011.

Branson, Mark Lau and Alan J. Roxburgh, *Leadership, God's Agency, and Disruptions*. Eugene, OR: Cascade, 2020.

Briggs, J.R. and Bob Hyatt. *Eldership and the Mission of God: Equipping Teams for Faithful Church Leadership*. Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity, 2015.

Cormode, Scott. *The Innovative Church: How Leaders and Their Congregations Can Adapt in an Ever-Changing World*. Grand Rapids: Baker Academic, 2020.

_____. *Making Spiritual Sense: Christian Leaders as Spiritual Interpreters*. Nashville: Abingdon Press, 2006.

Dietterich, Paul. *Foretaste: Leadership for the Missional Church*. Eugene, OR: Cascade Books, 2019.

Ellison, Pat Taylor. "Word Dwelling, Deep Listening, and Faith-Based Moral Conversation in Congregations: A Nested Vision for Learning New Habits." In *Testing the Spirits: How Theology Informs the Study of Congregations,* ed. Pat Keifert, 91-108. Grand Rapids, MI: Eerdmans, 2009.

Elton, Terri. *Journeying in the Wilderness: Forming Faith in the 21st Century*. Minneapolis, MN: Fortress, 2020.

Fields, David R. *Preaching and the Mission of God: Faithful Witness After Christendom*. Eugene, OR: Wipf and Stock, 2023.

Fuder, John. *Neighborhood Mapping: How to Make Your Church Invaluable to the Community*. Chicago, IL: Moody, 2014.

Hagley, Scott. *Eat What is Set Before You: A Missiology of the Congregation in Context*. Skyforest, CA: Urban Loft Publishers, 2019.

Keifert, Pat and Wesley Granberg-Michaelson. *How Change Comes to Your Church*. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 2019.

McNeal, Reggie. *Missional Renaissance: Changing the Scorecard for the Church*. San Francisco: Jossey-Bass, 2009.

Roxburgh, Alan J. *The Missionary Congregation, Leadership, & Liminality*. Christian Mission and Modern Culture. Harrisburg, PA: Trinity Press International, 1997.

Woodward, J.R. *Creating a Missional Culture: Equipping the Church for the Sake of the World*.
     Downers Grove, IL: IVP Books, 2012.
Zscheile, Dwight. "Dwelling in the Word – Affirming Its Promise."
     https://waytolead.org/dwelling-in-the-word-affirming-its-promise/

Use of technology

Canvas Online Learning System
In addition to the live video platform Zoom.us (see below), this course uses Harding's *Canvas Online Learning System*, which is accessed at http://elearning.harding.edu. If you have problems gaining access to Canvas, contact HU technical support (501) 279-4545. You will need your HST username and your password to log into Harding Pipeline. These are the same credentials you use to register for classes via Pipeline.

When you need to contact your professor via email, you may use the email system contained in the Canvas learning management system or email your professor directly at secloer@harding.edu.

Harding University gives each student an email address that also utilizes your user name. Many students use other email addresses as their preferred address. You can set your Harding G-mail account to forward messages to an alternative email address if you want; however, it is your responsibility to check your Harding email account regularly because this is the official Harding email address to which all Harding-related email will be sent.

HST Live Interactive Video Education (HST LIVE) via ZOOM
In addition to Canvas (see above), this HST-Live course is supported with the video platform Zoom.us. For new Zoom platform users, go to https://support.zoom.us/hc/en-us/categories/200101697-Getting-Started for helpful video tutorials about using this platform.

The HST LIVE/Zoom Meeting ID for this course can be found on Canvas.

Students new to HST LIVE should watch the HST LIVE orientation video before the first day of class. The video can be found at https://hst.edu/students/canvas-online-learning/.

Equipment Requirements for LIVE Sections:
- Internet access using a latest version of a web browser such as Firefox (preferred).
- Latest version of Zoom software. This changes periodically without notification. If you already have Zoom, use that account. Basic Zoom.us is available free.
- Laptop or tablet with camera or desktop computer with camera.
- Ear buds with microphone - Apple MD827LL/A EarPods with Remote and Mic work well. Order on Amazon.com, https://goo.gl/jLYfBG.
- Additional monitor – Live video conferencing is best facilitated with two monitors.

LIVE Etiquette:

- HST Live is a convenience for distance broadcast and attendance. In terms of responsibilities, it is no different than on-campus participation. Attendance at all class sessions is required just as if in residence on the Memphis campus.
- "Making up" a missed session by watching the recording will be granted only in extreme cases such as illness or family emergency (the same policy for those on the Memphis campus). Please make arrangements in your ministry context or employment to be in attendance for all scheduled sessions (e.g., a staff meeting is not an excused absence). The same applies to arriving late or leaving early.
- Be seated in an environment that approximates a classroom setting (for example, a chair at a desk in your office). Create a distraction free environment. It is not acceptable to sit or lie down on your bed or in a recliner, lounge on your deck or on the beach, or sit in a coffee shop, etc.
- Remain stationary at your computer during the class session except during breaks. If you must go to the restroom & mute your audio/video, Then return to your screen, un-mute, and resume the class.
- Arrange for your HST Live environment to be distraction free (for example, no family noise, TV, etc.).
- Failure to observe these and related etiquette matters will result in grade reductions at the professor's sole discretion.