



**DC 945Z**  
**Developing the Missional Church**  
**FALL 2017**

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**Course Description**

This course is an analysis of the Biblical theme of mission and its significance for the development of a Missional ecclesiology of ministry. DMIN students are presented with a Missional church model of ministry that is derived from a collaborative study of both Testaments as well as pertinent Missional church studies. Implications of the "Missional Church" model for twenty-first century parish ministry in a variety of contexts will be considered. Faithful responses to the challenges facing the Church will be explored.

*Elective. Three hours.*

**Course Purpose**

To introduce the student to challenges of congregational ministry in postmodern, post-Christian America. There will be a critical examination of the five Christian responses to culture from Helmut Richard Niebuhr's *Christ and Culture* (1951), as well as consideration of D. A. Carson's *Christ and Covenant Revisited* (2008). Students will consider the current studies and peer-reviewed articles on cultural transformation and secularism (James Davidson Hunter, Charles Taylor) and the possibilities of post-secularism (Jürgen Habermas), as well as a study of the theology of mission (Christopher Wright), reflecting on the models through the lens of authoritative Scripture, ecclesial tradition, and church history to arrive at a more informed Biblical-theological-pastoral presence for shepherding congregations and local church leaders to become more informed critical thinkers about God's mission in the world and to cultivate a Great Commission intentionality in every facet of parish ministry.

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## Course Learning Outcomes

The mission of Erskine Theological Seminary is to educate persons for ministry in the Christian Church. As a part of that mission, the seminary has identified four goals for the Doctor of Ministry program, summarized as Concepts, Competence, Calling, and Character. Regarding Concepts, this course challenges students regarding the application of a sound Biblical and theological foundation to a missional church context. Regarding Competence and Calling, this course informs students biblically and theologically regarding the spiritual formation both individually and corporately. Specific Course Learning Outcomes (CLOs) linked to degree Student Learning Outcomes (SLOs) for this course are that, by the end of the course, students will:

1. Define the theological and Biblical concept of mission. **(DMIN SLOs 1a, 1b and 1c)**
2. Explain the relationship between mission and formation. **(DMIN SLOs 2c and 3)**
3. Articulate a missional church theology. **(DMIN SLO 2a)**
4. Apply missional church concepts to an established church or a new church plant. **(DMIN SLOs 2c, 2d and 3)**
5. Interact with one another in class and online to sharpen our mastery of course concepts. **(DMIN SLOs 2a and 2b)**

## Required Textbooks

Students are expected to secure their own copies of all required textbooks. As a convenience, the seminary has this [bookstore portal](#) on the website. Here find links to familiar vendors (CBD and Amazon), and check availability of texts, compare prices, and place orders. The ETS SBA will receive a modest percentage of the profits from students' and professors' purchases through this portal. The Erskine Campus Bookstore will carry a limited number of copies of every required text and orders for books can be placed through the Campus Bookstore.

Other recommended works are suggested in a bibliography at the end of this syllabus. The **required textbooks** for this course are as follows:

Berding, Kenneth. "At the Intersection of Mission and Spiritual Formation in the Letters of Paul." *Journal of Spiritual Formation & Soul Care* 6, no. 1 (Spring 2013). <http://journals.biola.edu/sfj/volumes/6/issues/1/articles/18>. (There is a \$5.00 fee for this article.)

Carson, D. A. *Christ and Culture Revisited*. Grand Rapids: William B. Eerdmans Publishing, 2008.

Hunter, James Davidson. *To Change the World: The Irony, Tragedy, and Possibility of Christianity Today*. New York: Oxford University Press, 2010.

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Milton, Michael A. *Finding a Vision for Your Church: Assembly Required*. Phillips burg: P&R Publishing, 2010.

Newbigin, Lesslie. *The Household of God: Lectures on the Nature of the Church*. New York: Friendship Press, 1954.

Niebuhr, H. Richard. *Christ and Culture*. New York: Harper, 1951.

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

### **Course Components and Requirements**

The purpose and learning outcomes of this course will be achieved through five learning themes representing each of the course outcomes. Each of the first four themes has a focus, a required reading element, and an assignment that assesses the student's achievement of the learning outcome for that module. Achievement of the learning outcome will be determined by an analysis of the student's activity report generated by the course learning platform in the final paper. The final paper will combine all of the themes listed here:

- Theme I      Set out a Biblical foundation for the missional church by examining the Old and New Testaments. **(CLO 1)**
  
- Theme II     Explore the relationship between mission and spiritual formation individually and corporately using Paul's concept of the Body of Christ. **(CLO 2)**
  
- Theme III    Consider how we might articulate a theology of the church from a missional perspective. **(CLO 3)**
  
- Theme IV    Examine alternative strategies for implementing a missional conception of the church. **(CLO 4)**
  
- Theme V     Develop a Biblical-theological missional commitment of the local church within the context of the culture. **(CLOs 4 and 5)**

**NOTE: In addition to the required readings and papers, the professor will include as assessments of learning in progress weekly quizzes, and weekly discussion board postings. More information will be provided online in *Schoology*.**

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## Course Readings

Following are the **Course Readings by Weeks**:

Doctor of Ministry students: Read James Davidson Hunter prior to class.

Wright's <i>The Mission of God</i> :	<b>By Week 1, Part 1 (Pages 29-70); By Week 1, Part II (Pages 71-188); By Week 3, Part IV (Pages 397-420).</b>
Berding's "At the Intersection" article:	<b>By Week 2. (\$5 fee to download article)</b>
Newbigin's <i>The Household of God</i> :	<b>By Week 4, the following chapters: Introduction; the Household of God (11); The Congregation of the Faithful (32); and Unto All the Nations (135).</b>
Niebuhr's <i>Christ and Culture</i> :	<b>By Week 7, Chapter 1 "The Problem," then each of the five approaches to address the culture.</b>
Carson's <i>Christ &amp; Culture Revisited</i> :	<b>By Week 7, The ENTIRE book, as this is one of the main texts for this course.</b>
Milton's <i>Finding a Vision</i> :	<b>By Week 8, The entire book.</b>

## Course Requirements by Weeks (1 through 8)

### ***Week 1 - Biblical and Theological Concept of Mission***

We use the first week of the course to explore the biblical and theological concept of mission, as it will be used in this course. We will be guided through this section by the book *The Mission of God* and my own presentation in class. Students should begin reading *The Mission of God* before the first class. After reading the book and upon our completion of Week 1, **write a 3-5-page paper** outlining the highlights of your own evolving biblical theology of mission. This paper will synthesize and integrate course concepts covered in Week 1 and your reading of the required text. Papers may be turned by Monday morning of the following week at 0900.

### ***Week 2 - Missional Formation for the Missional Church***

In this week, we explore the power of the missional community as a God-ordained and structured instrument of individual and corporate formation. In addition to class presentations, we will be guided in our deliberations about the place of spiritual formation in the missional church by the peer-reviewed journal article, Berding, Kenneth. "At the Intersection of Mission and Spiritual Formation in the Letters of Paul." As in Module I, you will **compose a 3-5-page**

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**paper** in which you synthesize the course concepts covered in the class presentations with the material in the selected portions of the textbook for this Week regarding the role of the church community in spiritual formation.

### ***Week 3 - Considering a Missional Ecclesiology***

Having read Newbigin, *The Household of God*; Lectures on the Nature of the Church for this module in which we will explore the ecclesiology of mission as we move to the heart of the course. I want you to consider the implications of the missional perspective for the practice of church ministry and your view of the church. **Write a 3-5-page research paper** entitled “My Emerging Ecclesiology of Mission.” As in previous Weeks, I expect students to support critical thinking with peer-reviewed journal articles. Support your ideas on the Discussion Board.

### ***Week 4 - Implementing a Missional Model: Incremental and Transformational***

In this module, we will wrestle with the practical applications and ministerial implications of the missional church model. There are two general ways to utilize the concepts set out in this course in church ministry. One is to apply them to an existing church thereby bringing about church revitalization. The other is to apply them to a new church plant. Yet, in both cases there must be a pastoral approach that includes a diagnosis and treatment approach to the congregation, the community, the culture, and yourself. The lectures will address the major assignment. Then, after noting the presentations of your colleagues on the Discussion Board you will **begin to write your “Ministry Plan for Implementing a Missional Church.”** This final project (again, due at the completion of the course) will constitute your final exam for the course.

Choices for writing this paper range from implementing a “Ministry Plan for Implementing a Missional Church” in a church plant, an existing church, a church revitalization, or even as a position paper for a denomination or an adjudicatory within a denomination. Or, the student could write a Plan for a missions agency.

Requirements are:

- The Plan should (for purposes of presentation and discussion in the same organizational “language”) follow the main headings in *Finding a Vision for Your Church: Assembly Required* (Milton).
- The Plan should integrate the Biblically informed human-cultural challenges studies in the course, as well as the Biblically revealed responses, informed by your readings and research.
- The Plan should be in Turabian with cover and references.
- The Plan should be well documented with at least two peer-reviewed articles, as well as citations from class readings and other material indicating your research.
- The Plan should demonstrate your own pastoral critical thinking in a way that diagnoses

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and treats the problem as a spiritual physician, not merely a social scientist.

### ***Week 5 - Implementing a Missional Model: The Church in a Secular Age***

This week we will examine the claims of philosopher Charles Taylor and the Secular Age. What is the meaning for the Church? What is the meaning for implementing a truly missional church?

**Write a 3-5-page paper** on your understanding of the "Challenges of the Local Church in a Secular Age.

### ***Week 6 - Implementing a Missional Model: The Church Speaks in a Changing World***

Miroslav Volf of Yale and others consider the possibility of post-secularism. How will the Church speak in such a time? James Davidson Hunter proposes a unique way that the Church must enter the life of the world. Students will reflect on these ideas, consider the Biblical response, import scholarly research, and provide critical thinking of their own in **composing a 3-page paper** on "The Voice of the Missional Church in a Secular World" or you may write on "The Voice of the Missional Church in a Post-Secular World."

### ***Week 7 - Implementing a Missional Model: The Challenges in Our Own House***

Mission remains the *raison d'être* for the Biblical and Reforming parish church. Yet, the vision of God's mission as priority in every single area of the life of the local church can take on such an overwhelming transformation of identity that resistance is encountered. This week consider some of these pathologies of the Spirit-filled organization that is nevertheless earth-bound for now. You are a pastor or an associate pastor of a department of the church (youth, senior adults, Christian education, mercy, worship) and you want to encourage the committee. They have shown resistance to what they feel is "too much emphasis on missions" in their department. You have been asked to address them and speak to them about how "Youth is missional" or "Christian Education must be missional," etc. You should do with careful attention to their concerns, to an appeal to Scripture, and a thoughtful practical suggestion on how their department can, in fact, become missional. You should do this by **recording your presentation as a video on your computer**. Use the feature on Schoology or another application of your choice that can be accessed e.g., YouTube) by your professor. The criteria include:

- Choosing a department of your local church (youth, CE, children, worship)
- Imagining two or three areas of concern that the department or committee have voice and addressing those.
- Citing Scripture within a larger narrative to speak about the mission of God in the world.

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- Integrating that into a cogent, clear, but pastoral visionary word of encouragement to consider the larger work of the Lord.

This means, I expect you to integrate and incorporate all previous course concepts and previous required reading into this final writing effort. **The paper should be between 10-12 pages in length**, according to the Turabian Erskine template for research papers (available online).

### ***Week 8 - Missional Commitment of the Local Church***

We will think through Finding a Vision for Your Church: Assembly Required, introduce strategies and pastoral methods for helping the local church move from a Christ-revealed burden for God's mission in the world to practical pastoral responses in leadership. The Discussion Board in Week 8 will be focused on **discussing strategies for your final paper**.

Your final paper will follow:

You will research and write (building on your earlier work, beginning in week 4) a 5-7 page final research paper: **"Ministry Plan for Implementing a Missional Church."** This paper will count as your final examination. See Week 4 requirements for the paper.

### **Grading Criteria**

The following grading scale from the Seminary catalog is used to assign a numeric value to each completed assignment. All scores are weighted equally. The final grade is the average of each grade received. A letter grade will be computed based on the average raw score using the following grade scale adopted by the Seminary faculty:

A Level Work = Exemplary ability to differentiate constituent parts; assess and critique theories, thoughts, ideas, concepts, proposals, and relevant literature; and the ability to reason in a logical and compelling manner.

B Level Work = Reflects above average grasp of the subject matter; displays a superior ability to use new knowledge in a creative manner; and can demonstrate an above average ability to discriminate among alternative viewpoints.

C Level Work = Adequate but not exceptional ability to think cogently and clearly; sufficient ability to understand and comprehend subject matter; and

a satisfactory ability to integrate and organize course concepts in a logical and coherent manner.

D Level Work = Inadequate mastery of basic facts and information presented in the course; insufficient or inappropriate use of common terms and language indicating an inadequate grasp of the material; and an inferior ability to analyze and judge proposals, ideas or concepts.

### Grading Scale

	Average	Grade Points		Average	Grade Points
<b>A</b>	95 - 100	4.0	<b>C</b>	80 – 83	2.0
<b>A-</b>	93 - 94	3.7	<b>C-</b>	78 – 79	1.7
<b>B+</b>	91 - 92	3.3	—	—	—
<b>B</b>	88-90	3.0	—	—	—
<b>B-</b>	86-87	2.7	—	—	—
<b>C+</b>	84-85	2.3	<b>F</b>	0 - 77	0.0

Final grades are calculated by percentages of the various learning tasks. All are equally weighted as follows:

Weekly Research Papers	30%
Readings	20%
Weekly Quizzes	10%
Weekly Discussion Boards	20%
Final Paper	<u>20%</u>
TOTAL VALUE POSSIBLE	100%



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## **Erskine Theological Seminary Writing Standards and Guidelines**

All written work must conform to the latest edition of the Turabian manual of style and typed in twelve-point type, Times New Roman (or similar), normally double-spaced, with one-inch margins. Some reflection papers (which do not use footnotes) may be single spaced. See syllabus requirements for each assignment

Turabian, Kate L., et. al. *A Manual for Writers of Research Papers, Theses, and Dissertations*. Eighth ed. Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 2013.  
(464 pp., ISBN 978-0226816388)

Additional writing guidelines are available in the [Sample Paper and Writing Aids](#) folder found on the Seminary's web site. Here you will find sample papers for several courses, a "Seminary Research Paper Template," a Bibliography sample, footnote samples, and more.

Students who may need more assistance are encouraged to make use of the [Write Here Center](#) (Click Here) for improved writing skills. Students may find the [Erskine Theological Seminary Writing Rubric](#) (Click Here). Scroll down to the Writing Assessment Rubric and download.

All written work presented is expected to be the student's own unless credit for the ideas, words, etc. of others is clearly identified. Plagiarism in sermons costs pastors their jobs. Plagiarism in class will not be tolerated and penalties will be assigned in keeping with the Seminary's Catalog.

Students are strongly encouraged to review the provisions of the Seminary's Catalog, particularly those governing registration for and withdrawal from classes, class attendance, grades (including incompletes), academic conduct, and expectations for written assignments.

Click [here](#) for a video tutorial on formatting a document in Turabian style.

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## Recommended Literature on the Missional Church

### Biblical Foundations for Mission

Berding, Kenneth. "At the Intersection of Mission and Spiritual Formation in the Letters of Paul." *Journal of Spiritual Formation & Soul Care* 6, no. 1 (Spring 2013).  
<http://journals.biola.edu/sfj/volumes/6/issues/1/articles/18>.

(There is a \$5.00 fee for this article.)

Blauw, Johannes. *The Missionary Nature of the Church; a Survey of the Biblical Theology of Mission*. New York: McGraw-Hill, 1962.

Bolt, Peter, Mark Thompson, and Peter T. O'Brien. *The Gospel to the Nations: Perspectives on Paul's Mission*. Downers Grove: IVP, 2000.

Carson, D. A. *Christ and Culture Revisited*. Grand Rapids: William B. Eerdmans Pub., 2008.

DuBose, Francis M. *God Who Sends: A Fresh Quest for Biblical Mission*. Nashville: Broadman Press, 1983.

Dupont, Jacques, and John R. Keating. *The Salvation of the Gentiles: Essays on the Acts of the Apostles*. New York: Paulist, 1979.

Filbeck, David. *Yes, God of the Gentiles, Too: The Missionary Message of the Old Testament*. Wheaton: Billy Graham Center, Wheaton College, 1994.

Gelder, Craig Van. *The Ministry of the Missional Church: A Community Led by the Spirit*. Grand Rapids: Baker Books, 2007.

Guder, Darrell L. *Be My Witnesses: The Church's Mission, Message, and Messengers*. Grand Rapids: W.B. Eerdmans Publishing, 1985.

Guder, Darrell L., and Lois Barrett. *Missional Church: A Vision for the Sending of the Church in North America*. Grand Rapids: W.B. Eerdmans Pub., 1998.

Guder, Darrell L. *The Continuing Conversion of the Church*. Grand Rapids: W.B.

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- Hahn, Ferdinand. *Mission in the New Testament*. Naperville: A.R. Allenson, 1965.
- Hays, J. Daniel. *From Every People and Nation: A Biblical Theology of Race*. Downers Grove: Inter Varsity Press, 2003.
- Jeremias, Joachim. *Jesus' Promise to the Nations*. Naperville: A.R. Allenson, 1958.
- Jonge, M. De. *Jewish Eschatology, Early Christian Christology, and the Testaments of the Twelve Patriarchs: Collected Essays of Marinus De Jonge*. Leiden: E.J. Brill, 1991.
- \_\_\_\_\_. *God's Final Envoy: Early Christology and Jesus' Own View of His Mission*. Grand Rapids: W.B. Eerdmans Publishing, 1998.
- Kaiser, Walter C. *Mission in the Old Testament: Israel as a Light to the Nations*. Grand Rapids: Baker Books, 2000.
- Keathley, Naymond H. *The Church's Mission to the Gentiles: Acts of the Apostles, Epistles of Paul*. Macon: Smyth & Helwys Pub., 1999.
- Köstenberger, Andreas J. *The Missions of Jesus and the Disciples According to the Fourth Gospel: With Implications for the Fourth Gospel's Purpose and the Mission of the Contemporary Church*. Grand Rapids: W.B. Eerdmans, 1998.
- Köstenberger, Andreas J., and Peter Thomas O'Brien. *Salvation to the Ends of the Earth: A Biblical Theology of Mission*. Leicester: Apollos, 2001.
- Kraus, Hans-Joachim. *The People of God in the Old Testament*. New York: Association Press, 1958.
- LaGrand, James. *The Earliest Christian Mission to "All Nations" in the Light of Matthew's Gospel*. Grand Rapids: W.B. Eerdmans Pub., 1999.
- Manson, T. W. *Only to the House of Israel? Jesus and the Non-Jews*. Philadelphia: Fortress Press, 1964.
- McKnight, Scot. *A Light among the Gentiles: Jewish Missionary Activity in the Second Temple Period*. Minneapolis: Fortress Press, 1991.
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- Peters, George W. *A Biblical Theology of Missions*. Chicago: Moody Press, 1972.
- Piper, John. *Let the Nations Be Glad! The Supremacy of God in Missions*. Grand Rapids: Baker Academic, 2003.
- Ridder, Richard De. *Discipling the Nations*. Grand Rapids: Baker Book House, 1975.
- Rowley, H. H. *Israel's Mission to the World*. London: Student Christian Movement Press, 1939.
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- Stumme, Wayne. *Bible & Mission: Biblical Foundations and Working Models for Congregational Ministry*. Minneapolis: Augsburg Publishing House, 1986.
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- Edwards, D. "[Six Benefits Of Rest - Darryl Edwards - The Fitness Explorer - Eat for Health, Move for Life : The Paleo Lifestyle](#)."
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- Humphreys, W. Lee. "[A Life-Style for Diaspora: A Study of the Tales of Esther and Daniel.](#)" *Journal of Biblical Literature* 92, no. 2 (June 01, 1973): 211-23. Accessed May 1, 2016.
- Hunter, James Davison. *Culture Wars: The Struggle to Define America*. New York: BasicBooks, 1991.
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- Kraemer, Jr. Casper J. "[Pliny and the Early Church Service: Fresh Light from an Old Source.](#)" *Classical Philology* 29, no. 4 (October 01, 1934): 293-300. Accessed May 14, 2016.
- Milton, Michael A. *Cooperation without Compromise: Faithful Gospel Witness in a Pluralistic Setting*. Eugene: Wipf and Stock Publishers, 2006.
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### **Hermeneutics and Mission**

Bauckham, Richard, and Richard Bauckham. *Bible and Mission: Christian Witness in a Postmodern World*. Grand Rapids: Baker Academic, 2003.

Beeby, H. D. *Canon and Mission*. Harrisburg: Trinity Press International, 1999.

Brownson, James V. *Speaking the Truth in Love: New Testament Resources for a Missional Hermeneutic*. Harrisburg: Trinity Press International, 1998.