Prerequisites:

Students must first be accepted into a 3DM Learning Community in order to register for this module. You can find more about 3DM and register for a Learning Community at www.weare3dm.com

Course Description

Launching Missional Communities is the third of four modules offered in partnership with 3DM through Learning Communities (www.3dmlearningcommunities.com). This module is offered through a four-day immersion experience at various locations determined by 3DM and continues through two academic quarters.

The purpose of this module is not only to help students understand the theological nature, and practical nature of missional communities, but also to equip them with the skills to cultivate and launch a missional community in their own ministry context.

Course Objectives

1. Understand and be able to articulate, in both biblical and theological terms, the relationship between the Gospel, Jesus’ Kingdom Mission and People of Peace.

2. Understand, articulate, and experience the concept of spiritual families on mission together and “sentness” as the way of life in the kingdom.

3. Develop and implement a six-month, strategic ministry plan related to launching a missional community in your church or ministry setting.

4. Learn how to identify and discern, with increasing ability, how God is speaking and at work in your life and in the lives of those you are discipling.

5. Demonstrate personal growth and maturity as a disciple.

Required Reading


If you have already read any of the assigned texts consult with the professor for alternate reading options.

**Course Requirements**

1. **Read Required Textbooks.** Turn in a list and percentage read of each book. (20% of grade)
   Due March 30, 2014 e-mailed to mherringshaw@faculty.seminary.edu.

2. **Session attendance and response.** All students are expected to attend 3DM session Launching Missional Communities.

   **Teaching Input 1:** What is the Gospel?
   **Teaching Input 2:** Jesus' Kingdom Mission & People of Peace
   **Teaching Input 3:** Launching Missional Communities: Spiritual Families on Mission Together
   **Teaching Input 4:** Sentness as the Way of Life in the Kingdom

   In response to that session students will complete the following two tasks Due March 30, 2014 to mherringshaw@faculty.seminary.edu. (10% of course grade)
   - Write a two-page “Strategic Planning Tool” (guidelines provided by 3DM) that you will craft for your own ministry.
   - Write a short prayer that you plan to pray regularly over the course of the next six months that will center, guide, and sustain you as you seek to focus on God’s work in and through you.

3. **Participation weekly, 90-minute, huddle/coaching calls for six months following the immersion experience.**

   These weekly huddle calls have three primary aims:
   - Directed engagement in a process of personal spiritual formation and discipleship
   - Providing space for students to glean from and contribute to the questions, issues, and perspectives of huddle members
Creating an opportunity for students to exhibit how they are integrating their biblical/theological reflection with their ministry experience as they develop the skill-set of a missionary leader.

4. **Reading Integration Papers.** Students will write two five-page reading integration and reflection papers that will demonstrate their ability to integrate course readings, biblical reflection, ministry experience, and personal growth and development including intentional prayer, reflection and practice in embodying sentness as a way of life in the Kingdom based upon your understanding of the gospel. **Due March 30, 2014 e-mailed to mherringshaw@faculty.seminary.edu. (20% of course grade)**

   a. **Paper 1**
      - Provide a one-page summary *King Jesus Gospel* and *Launching Missional Communities*. Your summary should include information about the author (noting their background and perspective in writing), the author’s thesis and summary of how they support and defend this thesis throughout the book.
      - Use the final two-three pages of your reflection paper to explore how your reading intersects with your own life story, your ongoing spiritual formation, and your ministry context.

   b. **Paper 2**
      - Select two texts from the assigned reading. Provide a one page summary for each text. Your summary should include information about the author (noting their background and perspective in writing), the author’s thesis and summary of how they support and defend this thesis throughout the book.
      - Use the final two – three pages of your reflection paper to explore how your reading intersects with your own life story, your ongoing spiritual formation, and your ministry context.

5. **Research Paper.** A 15-20 page final research paper that will demonstrate your integrated thought at the conclusion of the module as well as your ability to search out and integrate non-course content. Reflect upon the following questions. Draw upon your reading, peer reflection time, scriptural, historical and theological reflection. **This paper is due March 30, 2014 to mherringshaw@faculty.seminary.edu.** Reflect upon the following questions:

   a. In the first part of your paper: **Critique and Research**
      i. Reflect upon the connections between the readings, discussions, and sessions.
      ii. What are other voices, outside of your assigned reading, saying? Doing? (You will have to do some additional research to answer this question).
      iii. Articulate in biblical, theological and historical terms, the relationship between the gospel, Jesus’ kingdom mission, and people of peace. Reflect in scholarly terms, your discoveries. What do you find theologically, historically and biblically that supports what you are reading and learning? Does anything challenge what you are learning?

   b. In the second section of your paper: **Personal Discovery and Reflection**
      i. How does your personal ministry experience reflect or challenge what you are learning?
      ii. Reflect upon how you know think differently?
iii. What are the things you are unearthing that are foundational in your faith, spiritual formation, congregational leadership, and gender and multicultural awareness and relationships?

iv. c. In the final section of your paper: Action and Response
   i. What ministerial, spiritual, and/or theological action do you now feel called to do?

ii. What does missional look like in light of the readings, discussions and modules?

iii. What implications, consequences, and challenges arise out of these topics?

**Course Evaluation:**

Reading and Participation: 20%
Reading Integration Reflection Papers: 20%
Course Prayer and Strategic Planning Tool: 10%
Final Paper: 50%

Late work will be deducted a full letter grade for each week late. For each week late, then, an “A” paper will receive a grade of “B”.

**Grading Scale**

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\begin{align*}
A & = 100-95 & A- & = 94-90 \\
B+ & = 89-87 & B & = 86-83 \\
B- & = 82-80 & C+ & = 79-7 \\
C & = 76-73 & C- & = 72-70 \\
D+ & = 69-67 & D & = 66-63 \\
D- & = 62-60 & F & = 59 and below \\
\end{align*}
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**Course Evaluation**

Students must complete an online course evaluation using the seminary Moodle system at [http://moodle.edu](http://moodle.edu) in order to receive a final grade in the course. The evaluation will be opened on March 30, 2014, after all coursework has been completed. If you need assistance connecting to Moodle or accessing the evaluation, please send an email to ithelpdesk@seminary.edu.