



**SCHOOL FOR MINISTRY**

The Episcopal Diocese of San Diego

# **CHURCH MISSION & SOCIETY**

**SYLLABUS**  
**Spring Semester 2022**

**INSTRUCTOR**

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**Zoom linfo:**

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81786795832?pwd=TkUwQ0tFVjQzVWh3V1RVN2VwTnU3dz09>

Meeting ID: 817 8679 5832

Passcode: 985451

Why does The Church exist? What is the mission of The Church? How are we to be The Church in the 21st century? These are just a few of the questions that students will explore throughout this course. With a focus on the practical applications of Episcopal missiology, this course will give students an opportunity to learn new ways of being in their communities, to experiment with and experience missional strategies, and to participate in actual mission development.

## **COURSE MISSION**

In this course students will embark on a theological exploration of the Mission of God, the “Good News” of Jesus Christ, and of the telos of the Church in a postmodern context. In addition to gaining a theological and theoretical foundation on these topics, students in this course will learn and engage in individual and group practices that will lead to a better understanding of, and deeper participation in God’s mission. These experiential components will give students the tools, practices and hands-on experience which will further empower them to participate in the Church’s mission, creating and participating in incarnational communities-on-mission wherever they serve.

## **COURSE OBJECTIVES**

In this course, students will:

- Be able to clearly articulate the Good News of Jesus Christ
- Gain an understanding of the purpose, role and function of the Church in the 21<sup>st</sup> century
- Be able to formulate and express their own view of mission of church as consistent with Scripture, traditions of church, and Anglican/Episcopal identity
- Gain an understanding of the importance of place, neighborhood, and community in their ministry.
- Be able to create and lead incarnational/missional communities
- Develop the ability to nourish the neighborhood beyond the walls of the church building
- Be able to articulate the connection between evangelism and discipleship
- Be able to recognize elements of intercultural, multicultural and monocultural communities and learn strategies for moving toward intercultural ministry
- Learn prayerful practices for engaging with the neighborhood and discovering God's presence there

## **REQUIRED TEXTS**

Gittins, Anthony J. *Living Mission Interculturally: Faith, Culture, and the Renewal of Praxis*. (Liturgical Press, 2015)

Roxburgh, Alan J. *Joining God, Remaking Church, Changing the World: The New Shape of Church in Our Time*. (Morehouse, 2015)

Stone, Bryan. *Evangelism After Christendom: The Theology and Practice of Christian Witness*. (Brazos Press, 2007)

White Jr. & Woodward Jr. *The Church as Movement: Starting and Sustaining Missional-Incarnational Communities*. (Intervarsity Press, 2016)

## COURSE SCHEDULE

- Jan 22:** *Course Introduction*
- Jan 29:** *What is God's Mission?*  
**Reading Due:** W&W: Introduction- Ch. 1.2 (pp. 1-41), Roxburgh: Part 1 (pp. 1-50)
- Feb 5:** *What is "The Gospel?"*  
**Reading Due:** W&W: Ch. 5 (pp. 120-142), Stone: Part 2 (pp. 55-110)  
**Assignment Due:** Interview Reflection Paper
- Feb 12:** *Church and Society*  
**Reading Due:** W&W: Ch. 1.3-2 (pp. 41-69), Stone: Part 3 (pp. 111-171)
- Feb 19:** *The Mission of the Church*  
**Reading Due:** W&W: Ch. 6 (pp. 143-168), Stone: Ch. 7 (pp. 171-221)
- Feb 26:** *A Theology of Place*  
**Reading Due:** W&W: Ch. 8.1 (pp. 191-196), Roxburgh: Pt. 2 (pp. 47-110)
- Mar 12:** *Being in the Neighborhood: Community Organizing*  
**Reading Due:** W&W: Ch. 8.2- 8.5 (pp. 197-215)  
**Assignment Due:** Exegete the Neighborhood
- Mar 19:** *Who is my Neighbor?*  
**Reading Due:** W&W: Ch. 7.1-7.2 (pp. 171-180), Gittins: Ch. 1-5 (pp. 1-79)
- Mar 26:** *Missional Communities/ Radical Welcome*  
**Reading Due:** W&W: Ch. 7.3-7.4 (pp. 180-190), Gittins: Ch. 10-12 (pp. 147-186)
- April 2:** *Missional Communities, Discipleship & Evangelism*  
**Reading Due:** W&W: Ch. 3 (pp. 73-88), Stone: Ch. 8 (pp. 223-255)  
**Assignment Due:** Multicultural Experience Reflection Paper
- Apr 16:** *The Great Commission*  
**Reading Due:** W&W: Ch. 4 (pp. 89-115), Stone: Ch. 9 (pp. 257-275)
- Apr 23:** **Conclusion...next steps**  
**Final Project Presentation Due**

## **GRADING**

|                                     |     |
|-------------------------------------|-----|
| Class Participation                 | 20% |
| Interview Reflection                | 10% |
| Exegete the Neighborhood            | 10% |
| Multicultural Experience Reflection | 10% |
| Holy Trinity Mission Experiment     | 50% |

### **Class Participation**

Will be based on participation in class discussions and spiritual practices, engagement with texts, and completion of the formational learning elements in the Woodward and White text.

### **Interview Reflection Paper**

Interview someone who does not self-identify as a “Christian” and does not currently attend any organized religious gathering. It could be a friend, neighbor, co- worker, relative, or stranger, but ideally it would be someone from the neighborhood around the church you attend. Ask them to share their thoughts and feelings about God, Jesus, Christianity, church attendance, religion, spirituality, etc. Try to get a sense of their openness to spirituality and what barriers prevent them from connecting with an organized religious community. Reflect on your conversation. What did you learn about un-churched people from your conversation? What do you think your local parish needs to learn about this sort of person? What barriers prevent your local parish from connecting with this sort of person? How could your parish begin to overcome those barriers? (1500-2000 words)

### **Exegete the Neighborhood**

In order to discern what God is doing in the neighborhood, we must first listen! Invite one to three other members of your church that you will “exegete” the neighborhood around your church by embarking on 2 “listening walks.” To help you listen, you will use either Practice Guide B on p.170 of the Roxburgh text, answering the questions in that section, or you can use Ch. 8.1 of the Woodward & White text and write a NEAR report about the neighborhood. This “exegesis” should be condensed into a 4-5 pp document that would clearly convey your findings to the group.

### **Multicultural Experience Reflection**

Attend a worship service or gathering at a church culturally different than your own. Observe aspects of multi/inter/cross culturalism. You will then write a reflection paper about your experience. Be prepared to answer some the following questions: What cultures were present? Is the community multicultural, intercultural, or cross-cultural? How did you know? How did the different cultures interact with or influence one another? What was the dominant culture? How did you know? In what ways was this community different from or similar to your church? How did you feel while you were there? In what ways were you challenged or made uncomfortable? What did you enjoy? You will need to use/reference the key concepts read in the Anthony Gittins text. (1500-2000 words)

## **Missional Experiment**

Students will synthesize the concepts explored throughout the semester by participating in a missional experiment. Over the course of the semester, and building on the other assignments, you will identify the mission and vision of for a new missional expression specific to its context and create a strategy for engaging in that mission. Please show how each piece of the strategy clearly ties back to either the mission of the Church, the Good News, and/or the mission of God. The final strategy will be presented to the class on April 23. Further details on project requirements will be given once the semester has begun.

## **RECOMMENDED READING**

Allen, Roland. *Missionary Methods: St. Paul's of Ours?*. (Eerdmans, 1962).

Bosch, David. *Transforming Mission: Paradigm Shifts in Theology of Mission*. (Orbis, 1991).

Gortner, David. *Transforming Evangelism*. (Church Publishing, 2008).

Guder, Darrell L. ed. *Missional Church: A Vision for the Sending of the Church in North America*. (Eerdmans, 1998).

Heath, Elaine A. *The Mystic Way of Evangelism: A Contemplative Vision for Christian Outreach*. (Baker Academic, 2017).

Heltzel, Peter and Alexia Salvatierra. *Faith-Rooted Organizing: Mobilizing the Church in Service to the World*. (IVP, 2013)