



**Church Planters Training Intensive
Chicago, IL
July 18-22, 2016**

What is it?

This is an intensive five-day training event focusing on the practical nuts and bolts of church planting. This intensive is designed to provide current and prospective church planters with practical tools that will equip them to plant more thoughtfully and effectively. The Training Intensive is part of a three-year pilot program to provide additional opportunities to develop church planters in the ELCA. It's a collaborative effort, spearheaded by Redeemer Lutheran Church (a multisite church in the Chicago area), with partner support from the ELCA's Congregational and Synodical Ministries, the Metropolitan Chicago Synod, and the Lutheran School of Theology at Chicago.

Church planting can be a difficult, lonely, frustrating, and confusing process. This group training will allow participants to rub shoulders with budding and experienced church planters in order to network, build collegial relationships, and share insight, encouragement, and best practices.

Who is it for?

This training is ideal for anyone who is actively planting or seriously contemplating planting a new church in the ELCA, including ordained clergy, seminarians, youth ministers, and lay evangelists. In addition, anyone who regularly coaches or supervises church planters (synodical Directors of Evangelical Mission or bishops) could also benefit from participating.

What will I learn?

While questions of the *Who* (assessment) and *Why* (missiological grounding) of church planting are important, they're not the focus of this training intensive. Though we'll touch on those concerns, we'll spend most of our time drilling down into the practical *What* and *How* of church planting. Our approach is more practitioner-focused and workshop-based, meaning that you'll have plenty of time to contextualize what you're learning for your own situation.

Each day, we'll focus on a different key dimension of thinking and behaving like a church planter:

- Church Planter as Designer and Entrepreneur
- Church Planter as Chief Evangelist and Chief of Operations
- Church Planter as Leader and Equipper
- Church Planter as Steward and Person of Faith
- Church Planter as Orchestrator

The goal of the training is that each participant will be using these tools, practicing these ways of thinking, and integrating them into their own ministry plan.

By the end of the training, each participant will have developed a...

- 1-minute personal faith story
- 1-minute gospel presentation
- 1-minute elevator speech describing their new church plant
- draft ministry plan that has received helpful feedback from experienced church planters

What happens after the training is over?

Even the best learning experience can fade if it's not reinforced. Learning and enthusiasm tends to "leak" over time. Not only that, as we implement what we've learned, new questions and concerns begin to arise that weren't directly covered in our initial training. That's why effective follow-up is important. We're building this component into our development process in two key ways:

- **Creation of local networks.** We envision the Lutheran Church Planters Network (LCPN) as a peer-driven, action-oriented "network of networks" focused on promoting, equipping, and supporting church planters. It's a low-cost, relationship-based, and "viral" approach that can provide personal support, encouragement, accountability, and a developing esprit-de-corps among ELCA planters. Local networks will be think tanks that can share resources and best practices and advocate for church planting in their area and provide opportunities for collaborative church planting. Each local network can meet in ways that work best for them in their own contexts. Currently, the Chicago network is meeting in person once every two months for a two-hour session. Others may choose to meet in an online format as well. To help connect each local network to others, we plan to hold a yearly LCPN national gathering at the Exponential Conference, the largest gathering of church planters in the world.
- **Ongoing coaching and consulting.** Timely coaching can be invaluable in a new church plant. Those who want and need a more formal coaching or consulting follow-up can arrange this with some of our trainers. The fee for this is additional and would be worked out separately, depending on the level and frequency of services desired.

What does it cost?

- **The program cost** is \$500 per participant. This includes all training materials, books, and daily coffee service during the training. Payment can be done online at Redeemer Church's website www.redeemer-changinglives.com. Click the "Donate" button, which will take you to the payment page. You may also pay with a check made payable to Redeemer Lutheran Church. Be sure to mark "Church Planter Training Intensive" in the memo line, and send it to 1006 Gillick St., Park Ridge, IL 60068. For any questions about payment, call Redeemer's Office Manager, Tracy Sommerfeldt, at 847-823-3634.
- **Housing** is available through LSTC at a discounted "departmental rate" of \$55 nightly per person, starting on July 17. If you need housing, please call LSTC directly (800-635-1116) to reserve your housing and arrange your payment. Remember to mention that you're part of the Church Planters Training Intensive.
- **Meals** are on your own. The LSTC refectory is open from 7am-2pm, for breakfast (avg. tab is \$5) and lunch (avg. tab is \$8). Each person will get their own meals, either at the refectory or at one of the many local diners, coffee shops, and restaurants.

Where and when will it be held?

Where: Lutheran School of Theology at Chicago, 1100 E. 55th St., Chicago, IL 60615

This is in the Hyde Park neighborhood of Chicago, adjacent to the University of Chicago campus.

When: July 18-22, 2016

The training begins on Monday, July 18, at 9:00am, and ends at 5:00pm on Friday, July 22.

Training runs daily from 9am-6pm, with time for lunch and breaks.

Who's leading it?

To draw on a wide range of experiences and perspectives, our training team includes a diverse group of church planting practitioners from within and outside the ELCA.



Fred Nelson. Lead Pastor at Redeemer Lutheran Church, Founder of Lutheran Church Planters Network.



Hector Garfias-Toledo. Pastor, Director for Evangelical Mission for Metro Chicago Synod, Coordinator for the synod's Affiliated Missional Communities program.



Matt Stuhmuller. Urban Church Planter and Campus Pastor at Redeemer Chicago.



Brian Zehr. Church Planter, Campus Pastor, Lead Pastor, former Director of Training and Coaching at NewThing Network, Co-Founder and Leadership Architect of Intentional Impact.



Shaun Marshall. Senior Pastor, Church Consultant, Church Planting Coach in the Evangelical Covenant Church.



David Swanson. Urban Church Planter, Director of Church Planting for the Central Conference of the Evangelical Covenant Church, contributing editor for Leadership Journal.

How do I register or get more info?

Go to www.lutheranchurchplanters.net.

Further questions? Contact Fred Nelson at fred@redeemerparkridge.com or 847-323-3774.