COURSE DESCRIPTION
PT527 Dreams and Schemes:
Creativity, Innovation, and Strategy for Church Planters and Renewers
Vancouver School of Theology, Summer, 2019

The Rev. Emily M. D. Scott
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PURPOSE
In the book of Genesis God’s first act is one of creation; in the book of Revelation God promises to make all things new. Developing a rich theology of creation is at the heart of this course, which will invite you to consider what God is making new in your own ministry context, as well as develop tools to move vision toward reality. Together, we will explore a six-part process of creation: void, hunger, vision, reality, identity, and growth. Rooted in the instructor’s experience as a church planter, the content of this course is applicable to any situation in which a new thing is coming into being: a new ministry for an established congregation, a community project, a non-for-profit startup, a church plant, or an established congregation that seeks to be more outwardly-focused.

The course will be highly participative, including class discussion, experiential learning, case studies, and theological reflection.

OBJECTIVES
At the end of this course students will have:
• Reflected on the process of creation in ministry and that of God’s creation in Genesis
• Developed their own creative practice and experienced a model of collaborative creativity
• Participated in creating a neighborhood assets map to deepen an understanding of context for ministry
• Addressed the nature of institutional power and the disruptive nature of new ministries
• Engaged and exegeted case studies of new ministries, reflected on stories of new ministries
• Have a framework for the financial realities of a new ministry, including budgets, business plans, and fundraising
• Have a framework for the communication needs of a new ministry

REQUIRED READING – please purchase online

OTHER READING – will be made available
Dehmlow Dreier, Mary Sue. Created and Led By the Spirit: Planting Missional Congregations.
Grand Rapids/Cambridge, 2013
Kawasaki, Guy. The Art of the Start. Penguin Group, 2004

SCHEDULE OF READINGS AND ASSIGNMENTS
All readings noted in the calendar below should be finished before the course starts. The daily journals should be one page long, about 250-300 words. Students will participate in presentation of their new ministry ideas during the last class.

For Day 1
• Genesis 1:1-31
• Salvatierra, Alexia and Heltzel, Peter. Faith-Rooted Organizing: Mobilizing the Church in Service to the World. Downers Grove: InterVarsity Press, 2014. chapter 2
Journal Question (to be completed before class)
• As you view Rivers and Tides, write down what you notice about the creative process taking place, and its relationship to the environment around it?

For Day 2
• Kawasaki, Guy. The Art of the Start. Penguin Group, 2004. chapter 1
Journal Question (to be completed after class, in preparation for Day 3)
• Write down the vision for the community/project you feel called to create. How does it extend from the hungers you see present around you? You don’t need to have all the answers!

For Day 3
Journal Question (to be completed after class)
• When have you bumped into realities that have kept a vision from coming into being? How did you address those realities? Which strategies were successful, and why? What are your own tendencies when it comes to power structures?
Journal Question (to be completed after class)

- Write down some ideas about a branding strategy for your project. What are you hoping to communicate to the world about why your project exists? How do you want it to look and feel? Are there colors or images that comes to mind? What about a name and a tag line? What would the “mantra” (described by Kawasaki) be?

Presentation of new ministry ideas by students

ASSIGNMENTS

1. Reading and class participation: All Students including auditors are expected to do all the required readings and participate in class discussions. Students will present their new ministry idea during the last class. 100% attendance is required.

2. Certificate students: the daily journals specified in the reading assignments will fulfill the writing assignments for Certificate students.

3. Basic degree students (Diploma; MA; M.Div): in addition to the daily journals, basic degree students will be required to submit a 4-5 page final paper, due August 31.

BIOGRAPHY

Emily is a church planter. Currently, Emily is creating a new church community in Baltimore. Called to this work by the Delaware-Maryland Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church, and working in collaboration with neighbors, this new church community is an LGBTQ-rooted community of joy, restoration and justice where we’re free to be the people God made us. Worship is soulful and Spirit-led, invites truth-telling and gratitude, and moves us to bring God's dream of justice into being.

From 2008-2017, Emily served as the founding pastor of St. Lydia' Dinner Church in Brooklyn, where worship was a full meal, shared around a dinner table. Emily and the congregation were involved on combatting police brutality and a lack of affordable housing with organizations such as Faith in New York. St. Lydia's is now a national model for new church starts and congregations seeking to explore the practice of Dinner Church.

A graduate of Yale Divinity School, Emily received the Alumni Award for Distinction in Congregational Ministry in 2016. She was the Director of Worship at The Riverside Church from 2007-2009, and a cofounder of Music That Makes Community. Her work at St. Lydia's has been covered by The Atlantic and the Wall Street Journal.