



C106 American Baptist Missions, Evangelism and Stewardship

**A MINISTRY OF AMERICAN BAPTIST CHURCHES OF INDIANA & KENTUCKY IN COOPERATION
WITH ABC-GI AND SPONSORING AMERICAN BAPTIST CHURCHES & ASSOCIATIONS**

September 30, October 21, November 11 & December 2, 2017

Rev. Dr. Donald M. Scott, Instructor/Coordinator

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Course Goals:

- To increase understanding and appreciation for American Baptist mission and evangelism regionally, nationally and internationally.
- To focus on biblical financial stewardship as the monetary foundation of American Baptist mission and as one focal point of one's discipleship.

Biblical Foundations:

Matthew 28:19-20 Luke 4: 14-21 Acts 1:8 II Corinthians 8-9

About your Instructor:

Rev. Dr. Don Scott came to the American Baptist Churches of Indiana and Kentucky in 1989 in the capacity of Minister of Mission Support, following pastorates in Arthur, IL, Rochester, NY, and Rome, NY. Although now retired, additional roles included that of Associate Executive Minister and Area Resource Minister for the West Central Area as well as Executive Minister during an interim period. He holds a Doctor of Ministry from Fuller Theological Seminary, a Master of Divinity from Northern Theological Seminary, and a Bachelor of Arts from Hope College.

Don has had the opportunity to visit many areas of American Baptist mission and ministry both overseas and in the United States. His strong interests in American Baptist mission, biblical stewardship, and evangelism have been areas of emphasis throughout his ministry and will be reflected in this course.

Required Texts

Please note that these books are to be used as background or foundational literature and will not be “covered” in class sessions. It is anticipated that each book will be of interest and will be a valuable resource for future use in your ministry.

It is expected that every student will read this book, hopefully before the first class session. While not a traditional “missions” text, the author skillfully explores the characteristics of “missional churches” in the first part of the 21st century and offers understanding as to what it means to be involved in God’s work and purposes in our day. This book is available through Amazon.com.

- Minatrea, Milfred, Shaped By God’s Heart: The Passion and Practices of Missional Churches, Jossey-Bass.

It is expected that each student will read **at least two (2)** of the following books. All are available through Amazon.com at a very reasonable cost. Reading all three books is highly recommended.

- Heerspink, Robert, Becoming a First Fruits Congregation, CRC Publications
- Grimm, Eugene, Generous People, Abingdon
- Miller, Kristine & McKenzie, Scott, Bounty, Abingdon

Course Requirements

Due to the nature of this course, there will be few specific weekly assignments. However, completion of *two (2)* of the following projects is required. Summary reports will be due by **JANUARY 15, 2018**. *A different due date may (under some circumstance) be negotiated with the instructor.* Please note that a “summary report” will include the following elements: description of the project, steps in implementation (including roadblocks and how they were handled) and results. Credit will not be given for this course until both reports have been submitted.

- Project #1:** Investigate the degree to which your church is involved in mission, including American Baptist mission, other Christian mission, and local community mission. Develop one new mission initiative proposal for your church and/or a Sunday School class, ABW Ministries group, American Baptist Men’s group, ABY group, etc. Design something that has the potential to involve your congregation in mission, locally, nationally, or internationally in a deeper way. Summarize your effort in a 3-5 page paper.
- Project #2:** Devise a way to encourage your congregation to think seriously about biblical stewardship. For instance, encourage the use of a stewardship resource in your church or start a small discussion group focusing on the Christian’s use of money. Do something that will give your congregation the opportunity to think about money in the context of the Christian faith. Summarize your effort in a 3-5 page paper.
- Project #3:** Consider the evangelism ministry of your church. Plan and execute a new outreach ministry. The report should include the current status of evangelism ministry in your church, the goal of a new evangelism emphasis, the target group, methodology and results. An example would be a project of follow-up with the families of unchurched children in your Sunday School or Vacation Bible School. Summarize your effort in a 3-5 page paper.

Please bring the following to each class session:

- Good English translation of the Bible
- The Required Textbooks you chose
- Notebook (for handouts, assignments and taking notes)
- 2 pens/pencils

Summary of Our Class Sessions

Note: Subject to change, depending on the schedules of invited guests

Week 1:

Following introductory remarks, introductions, and prayer, our focus in the morning will be on the biblical foundation of mission and the history and heritage of American Baptist mission in the United States and around the world. In the afternoon, we will look at what it means for a local church to be “missional” in the early 21st century. It will be helpful if class members are familiar with Minatrea’s book prior to this session.

Week 2:

Did you know that, depending upon the writer, it is now said that the United States is the 3rd or 4th largest mission field in the world? What is the Christian response? What role is the American Baptist Churches playing in light of this truth? In this session we will explore these and other issues related to evangelism in the United States in the 21st century.

Week 3:

The intended result of this day is that participants will have a clearer picture of Regional ministries and the Region’s relationship to the local congregation as well as to the wider ABCUSA family.

Week 4:

Our final session will focus on biblical stewardship principles and resources. This session will offer practical stewardship help for every participant and represented congregation. We will talk about and deal with issues around money and its relationship to our commitment to Jesus Christ. We will also explore the American Baptist mission support system. At least one of the stewardship texts should be read prior to this class session.

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DAILY CLASS SCHEDULE

Arrive at 8:45
9:00-10:15 Session A
10:15-10:30 Break
10:30-11:45 Session B
11:45-12:30 Lunch
12:30-1:45 Session C
1:45-2:00 Break
2:00-3:15 Session D

CLASS LOCATION

Franklin College
101 Branigin Blvd
Franklin, IN 46131
Johnson Center for Fine Arts
1st Floor, Room 104