



A Community in Mission

Instructors

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Class Locations

Zoom ID: 828 2624 6834
(password: 114691)

Online classroom:
[MosaicMennonites.org/Institute](https://mosaicmennonites.org/Institute)

2024 Class Dates

(All times eastern)

- January 20, 3-5pm
- February 9 & 10, 12-5 pm
- March 8 & 9, 12-5 pm
- April 12 & 13, 12-5 pm
- May 10 & 11, 12-5 pm

Course Overview

Explore the multiplicity of ways in which our congregations can partner with God to bring about the fulfilment of God's Dream for the world.

This class is open to all but is required of newly credentialed leaders in Mosaic Conference (Formation Class #3).

Course Objectives

By the end of this class, students will:

- demonstrate a knowledge of the demographics, cultures, characteristics, gifts, and challenges of their ministry/mission context.
- articulate a theological foundation for mission and develop vocabulary to encourage members of their community to participate in mission together.
- foster missional spiritual practices, including the ability to recognize the work of God in the world around them.
- creatively express the Good News of Jesus for those in their ministry context.

Required Texts

- Shabrae Jackson Krieg & Janet Balasiri Singleterry, *Voices Rising: Women of Color Finding and Restoring Hope in the City* (Servant Partners, 2018).
- Tim Soerens, *Everywhere You Look: Discovering the Church Right Where You Are* (IVP, 2020).
- One book chosen by each student in consultation with instructors.*
- Shannan Martin, *The Ministry of Ordinary Places: Waking Up to God's Goodness Around You* (Thomas Nelson, 2018).
- Other reading assignments for this class will be posted online.

Recommended: Emily Ralph Servant, *Experiments in Love: An Anabaptist Theology of Risk-taking in Mission* (Pickwick, 2021). Free copies available through the conference office.

Assignments

Weekly Forum Posts

During each week of class, January 21-May 9, each student will make one post on the online forum describing their engagement with that month's spiritual practice. These posts should be between 100-200 words and include a short description of what happened and a longer reflection on the student's response to it.

Reading Reflection

In preparation for each monthly classes, each student will submit a 1-page reading response, reflecting on the following questions:

- What was the most interesting thing you read? Why?
- How does it apply to your ministry context?
- Why does it matter?

Students can use any format. Reflections should be submitted to Gary (garyalloway@gmail.com) at least 24 hours before Friday's class (Thursday at 12 pm EST).

Presentations

At each weekend class, students will give a 15-minute presentation on their ministry and mission context. Full descriptions of each presentation are posted in the online classroom.

- February: Introduction to you and your ministry/mission context.
- March: Deep dive into your context, in light of your reading.
- April: Learning more about your context through community interviews
- May: The Good News for your context.

Requirements for Students Desiring Academic Credit

Any student who would like to receive academic credit for this course must inform the instructor of record (PhD/DMin) before the class begins. Depending on the credit desired (certificate, undergraduate, or seminary), extra reading, papers, field research, assignments, and/or face time with the instructors may be required. Mosaic Institute does not guarantee that academic credit will be granted by your institution but will provide the materials necessary to apply for advanced standing through an institution of your choice (some institutions have prior agreements with Mosaic Institute). There may be extra fees required by Mosaic Institute or the accrediting school.

Additional assignments for students receiving seminary academic credit:

- Read entire book and lead a discussion of *Voices Rising* (for February class)
- Term paper integrating readings, forum posts, presentations, and class discussions (min. 10 pages)

Additional texts for students receiving seminary academic credit:

- *Experiments in Love* (info above)
- Randy Woodley, *Mission and the Cultural Other* (Cascade, 2022) [*Replaces student choice]

Class Session	Topics	Assignments (before this class)
January 20	Introduction Getting to know one another Overview of class, resources, assignments Intro spiritual practice: Creating Space Sign up for <i>Voices Rising</i> chapters	Prepare: Purchase or borrow textbooks. Log into the online classroom to make sure you know your password; reset password if needed.
February 9 & 10	What is mission? Sharing experiences of mission God’s “Big Mission Story” Incarnation Contextual mission Intro spiritual practice: (Prayer) Walking “My Context” Presentations	Read: <i>Voices Rising</i> & posted articles Reference: <i>Experiments in Love</i> , chs. 6-8 Prepare: Weekly forum posts “My Context” presentation Reading response (due 2/8) Practice: Creating Space
March 8 & 9	Discipleship & mission History of mission Centered set & bounded set Intro spiritual practice: Curiosity “Deeper Dive” Presentation	Read: <i>Everywhere You Look</i> & posted articles Reference: <i>Experiments in Love</i> , chs 1-2 Prepare: Weekly forum posts “Deeper Dive” presentation Reading response (due 3/7) Choose book for next month. Practice: (Prayer) Walking
April 12 & 13	Sending of the 72 as framework Evangelism & holistic witness Conflict in mission Intro spiritual practice: Reflecting “Learning More” Presentations	Read: Free choice book & posted articles Reference: <i>Experiments in Love</i> , chs 3-4 Prepare: Weekly forum posts Community interviews “Learning More” presentation Reading response (due 4/11) Practice: Curiosity
May 10 & 11	What is the “Good News”? Vulnerability & risk-taking The Holy Spirit’s presence in mission Grab bag “Good News” Presentations	Read: <i>The Ministry of Ordinary Places</i> & posted articles Reference: <i>Experiments in Love</i> , chs 5-8 Prepare: Weekly forum posts “Good News” presentation Reading response (due 5/8) Practice: Reflecting