

Creating New Christian Communities (TMM1397)

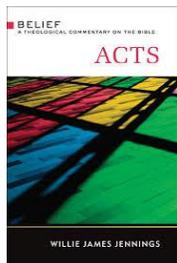
Common Awards



Level 4 Module

Diversifying the Curriculum

Books



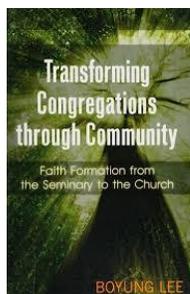
Jennings, Willie James, *Acts: A Theological Commentary on the Bible* (Louisville, KY: WJK Press, 2017)

Content:

This theological commentary covers themes that are of relevance to church planting, and as such, may be useful for this module. Willie James Jennings' writing is both accessible and engaging.

Author:

Willie James Jennings is Professor of Systematic Theology and Africana Studies at Yale Divinity School in the US.



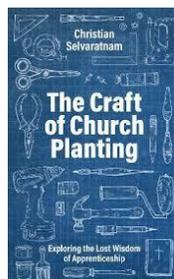
Lee, Boyung, *Transforming Congregations through Community: Faith Formation from the Seminary to the Church* (Louisville, KY: Westminster John Knox Press, 2013)

Content:

This book discusses individualism within theological education and ministry, exploring ways this can be transformed through pedagogy. Boyung Lee grew up in Korea and draws on her own personal experience in the book, particularly her understanding of community, highlighting how this is distinct from the dominant understanding of community in the US, the context in which she is based. The discussion on this topic in chapter 1 will be particularly helpful in relation to community formation.

Author:

Boyung Lee is Professor of Practical Theology at Iliff School of Theology in the US.



Selvaratnam, Christian, *The Craft of Church Planting: Exploring the Lost Wisdom of Apprenticeship* (London: SCM Press, 2022)

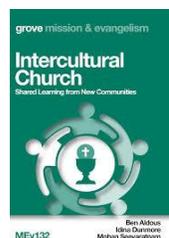
Content:

Speaking with over twenty years' practitioner experience of church planting, Christian Selvaratnam explores the topic from a historical, biblical and theological perspective. The book's central argument is that church planting is a craft. As such, Selvaratnam highlights how church planting can be informed by the model of apprenticeship, alongside aspects such as creativity.

Author:

Christian Selvaratnam is Dean of Church Planting at St Hild College.

Grove Booklets



Aldous, Ben, Idina Dunmore and Mohan Seevaratnam, *Intercultural Church: Shared Learning from New Communities* (Cambridge: Grove, 2020)

Content:

The authors of this booklet not only provide three different examples of intercultural communities in the UK and South Africa, but also explore the role of hospitality, dialogue and mutuality in such communities.

Authors:

Ben Aldous is the Principal Officer for Evangelism and Mission for Churches Together in England; Idina Dunmore is a prebendary at St Paul's Cathedral; Mohan Seevaratnam is an Assistant Minister at St Peter's Harrow.

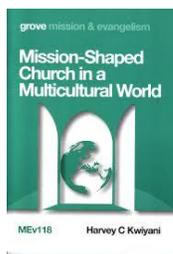
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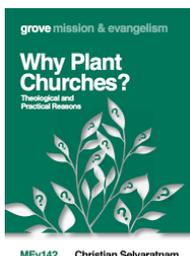
Kwiyani, Harvey, *Mission-Shaped Church in a Multicultural World* (Cambridge: Grove, 2017)

Content:

In this booklet, Harvey Kwiyani underscores the importance and value of cross-cultural relationships and engagement for Christian communities in the UK.

Author:

Harvey Kwiyani is a Malawian missiologist and theologian, currently working as African Christianity Programme Lead for the Church Mission Society in the UK.



Selvaratnam, Christian, *Why Plant Churches? Theological and Practical Reasons* (Cambridge: Grove, 2023)

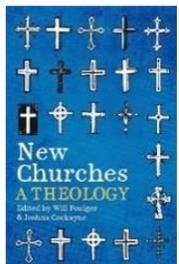
Content:

Christian Selvaratnam discusses theological and practical reasons why church planting is so important, emphasising its scriptural roots and continued relevance today.

Author:

Christian Selvaratnam is Dean of Church Planting at St Hild College.

Edited Volumes



Foulger, Will and Joshua Cockayne (eds), *New Churches: A Theology* (London: SCM Press, 2024)

Content:

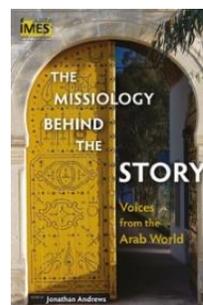
This edited volume discusses the theology and practice of church planting. It includes

several chapters written by scholars of global majority heritage. In chapter 7, for example, Paul Ayokunle introduces omolúàbí-shaped ecclesiology (OSE), a concept that derives from an African (Yoruba) understanding of personhood, highlighting its value for church planting.

Editors:

Will Foulger is Vicar of St Nics in Durham; Joshua Cockayne is Director of the Centre for Church Planting Theology and Research at Cranmer Hall, Durham.

Book Chapters



Mary (not her real name), assisted by Donnie Bentley and Samah Fakhreldein, "Church Planting in the Mission of God," in Andrews, Jonathan (ed), *The Missiology Behind the Story: Voices from the Arab World* (Carlisle: Langham Publishing, 2019)

Content:

This chapter contains stories and examples from several different contexts in the Middle East, where churches are often planted in Muslim majority communities, and where the legal dynamics at play vary by country and sometimes also within countries.

Author:

'Mary' is the wife of the pastor of a church in a major city in the Middle East.

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Journal Articles

Aldous, Benjamin and Eugene Baron, "Expressions of whiteness? A Black ecclesiological reflection on Fresh Expressions of Church," *Verbum et Ecclesia* 45 (1) (2024)



Content:

This article offers an important critique of Fresh Expressions from a Black Liberation Theology perspective. While it is written in response to the adoption of Fresh Expressions within South Africa, the argument holds relevance for the UK context as well, which comprises people of differing worldviews and cultural heritage.

Authors:

Ben Aldous is the Principal Officer for Evangelism and Mission for Churches Together in England; Eugene Baron is a Professor at the University of South Africa.

Podcasts

[Kwiyani, Harvey, Catalyst Multiply Conference 2022, Multiply Church Planting Podcast \(Part A\)](#)



Content:

In this 25-min talk for the 2022 Catalyst Multiply Conference, Harvey Kwiyani discusses church planting in a multicultural world. He addresses the question of what Christian communities should do when they are situated in contexts where cultural diversity is the norm and explores Matthew 16:13-20 in this regard. Kwiyani highlights the importance of God's Spirit and discipleship for church planting.

Speaker:

Harvey Kwiyani is a Malawian missiologist and theologian, currently working as African Christianity Programme Lead for the Church Mission Society in the UK.

Webinars

Oyekan, Yinka and Kang-San Tan, *Church Planting Conversations: Planting in Multi-Cultural Contexts*, forthcoming 2025



Content:

[To be added]

Speakers:

Yinka Oyekan is a minister in Reading, and former President of the Baptist Union in the UK; Kang-San Tan is General Director of BMS World Mission.

[Shin, Sarah, Avoiding Technique: Church Planting as Attuned Response to the Holy Spirit in Place and Time, 2023](#)



Content:

In this webinar, Sarah Shin discusses church planting in light of Jacques Ellul's critique of 'technique' and the emphasis he places on presence instead. Shin also explores church planting in Acts and principles for today, and this includes a discussion on diversity and the need to avoid employing it as a technique, which can lead to tokenism, rather than something that can arise through being attentive to the Spirit's leading.

Speaker:

Sarah Shin is a Korean American theologian and Lecturer at Westminster Theological College.