

Track Instructors



Small Group Essentials Steve Gladen

Steve attended Evangel University in Springfield, Missouri, where he earned a B.A. in Biblical Studies with minors in Greek and Philosophy in 1982. From there he moved to Pasadena, California and received a Masters of Divinity from Fuller Theological Seminary in 1985.

While completing his Masters, Steve was awarded an internship at a local church in the San Fernando Valley, which started his full-time pastoral career in 1982. Influenced by the small group model taught at Fuller, Steve started to implement and learn the value of small groups in connecting people to the church and growing their spiritual journey. Throughout his career he has successfully implemented the small group strategy in youth ministry, singles ministry and overall church structures. Whether it was a small congregation, church plant or a large mega church such as Saddleback Church, the needs have been the same, build and develop relationships not programs.

With the experience of serving with 4 churches since 1982, Steve joined the staff of Saddleback Church in February of 1998 as Pastor of Small Groups. He has authored *Small Groups With Purpose*, *Leading Small Groups With Purpose* and co-authored the book *Big Ideas for Small Group Leaders*. He also written small group curriculum which is DVD and non-DVD based.

His passion is to see each delegate connected to a qualified shepherd from the core of the church to the ever-growing community. As Pastor Rick Warren says, "this is what makes a big place small." Teaching at small group and church growth conferences both domestic and international, Steve has seen firsthand the purpose driven principles for groups and churches to be very transferable. It is through this paradigm that each person can be challenged to apply the five Biblical purposes of the church to their own lives and to their small group.

Steve does consulting and seminars internationally and domestic championing small groups and what it means to have Small Groups with purpose. Steve and his wife Lisa have been married since 1989 and reside in Southern California with their two children, Erika and Ethan.



Small Group Experience Rick Howerton

Rick is one of the premier leaders in the small-group movement. Having facilitated an untold number of small-group journeys over the last 17 years, his passion is contagious. This guy honestly believes that small groups can and will change the world! An experienced small-group pastor (he built one church's small-group ministry from nothing to 450 members in just a few short years), Rick is also a church planter. Right now he serves as senior pastor of The Bridge, a church plant he started that is built around

healthy small groups.

Additionally, Rick is a highly sought after small-group speaker leading thousands of people in scores of conferences nationwide every year including breakout sessions at the recent Saddleback Small Groups Conference.

Rick has authored or co-authored three small-group studies:



Rick is also author of *Destination Community: Small-Group Ministry Manual*, an all-encompassing, 172-page guide to creating a small-group ministry and starting and leading passionate, life-changing small groups.



NCD Basics
Dave Wetzler

Dave Wetzler is the founder and owner of ChurchSmart Resources. He was a pastor for five years and denominational leader for seventeen years before he became a publisher. He has been leading NCD Training events since 1998 and his heart beats strong to see churches become healthy, vibrant and providing life-changing ministry in their communities. Dave and his wife live in St. Charles, IL and are active members at Willow Creek Community Church.



Corps Mission Essentials
George Hunter

George Hunter is Distinguished Professor, Emeritus of Asbury Theological Seminary's School of World Mission and Evangelism, where he served as Dean for 18 years and Distinguished Professor for 10 years. Previously, he served a county seat town church in Florida and a congregation of West Indian people in Birmingham, England. He taught evangelism at S.M.U.'s Perkins School of Theology and then served as United Methodism's executive for evangelism. His writing, teaching, consulting, advocacy, and ministry are recognized nationally and globally.

Born in 1938 in Louisville, Kentucky, Hunter was afflicted with the full name of George Gill Hunter III. His friends call him "Chuck", a lifetime nickname. Chuck is a former high school and college baseball player, and later competed as a "fast pitch" softball pitcher and a weight lifter. He still "pumps iron" and recently became a Certified Fitness Trainer. He has returned to his adolescent interest in Magic, especially Mental Magic; his title is "Mentalist Subordinaire!"

Hunter's research and writing often focus on "apostolic" ministry and communication with the West's growing number of "secular" people who have no Christian memory. His teaching ministry has engaged a full range of

denominations in the USA and churches in many other countries— including Canada, Mexico, Bolivia, South Africa, Japan, South Korea, Malaysia, England, Australia, New Zealand, Romania, Russia, Moldova, and Brazil. He has written over a dozen books, including How To Reach Secular People, Church for the Unchurched, The Celtic Way of Evangelism, Leading and Managing a Growing Church, Radical Outreach: Recovering Apostolic Ministry and Evangelism, Christian, Evangelical and . . . Democrat?, The Apostolic Congregation: Church Growth Reconceived for a New Generation, and (forthcoming) The Recovery of a Contagious Methodist Movement—all published by Abingdon Press.

George Hunter was educated at Florida Southern College, Emory University, Princeton Theological Seminary, and Northwestern University (Ph.D.) He is married to the former Ella Fay Price, and has three children-- Gill, Monica, and Donald, and two grandsons—Simeon and Abram. He is an ordained minister in the Florida Conference of the United Methodist Church, and served as a delegate to his Church's 1984 and 1996 General Conferences and to the 1984, 1988, 1992, 1996, 2000, and 2004 Southeastern Jurisdictional Conferences.

Hunter received the United Methodist Council on Evangelism's Philip award for leadership in Evangelism. He served as president of The Academy for Evangelism, and later received the academy's Charles G. Finney award for scholarship in Christian Evangelism. He served as president of The American Society for Church Growth, and later received the Society's Donald McGavran award for leadership in Church Growth.

Hunter continues as part-time Distinguished Professor of Evangelization in Asbury's School of World Mission and Evangelism, which educates missionaries, pastors, scholars, evangelists, trainers, church planters, lay leaders, change agents, and national church leaders for the Christian mission. The school, named for E. Stanley Jones, was the first "to declare North America and Europe as among the world's mission fields" and to feature this perspective within its curriculum. The school offers several degree programs, including a Ph.D. Hunter claims, "More can now be known about how to engage pre-Christian people and spread the gospel than we have ever known before. Churches who love God with their minds, as well as their hearts, can experience contagious Christian movements in their communities."



**Corps Health Coaching
Jonathan Reitz**

Jonathan Reitz has been CoachNet's Chief Executive Officer since 2009. He's also CoachNet's primary trainer and the author of most of the training options that CoachNet offers. Jonathan is a member of the Cleveland, Ohio chapter of the International Coach Federation.

“Addressing the leadership development challenge in the church and other organizations gets me up in the morning. You know, sometimes it keeps me awake at night!” he says.

Jonathan has worked as a church planter, speaker and workshop presenter, and as a strategic planning partner for congregations and denominations across North & South America. Coaching has always been a core approach, dating to his work in stewardship as a generosity coach. He's also a huge fan of the TV show "Lost", both for entertainment and the spiritual conversations it engages.