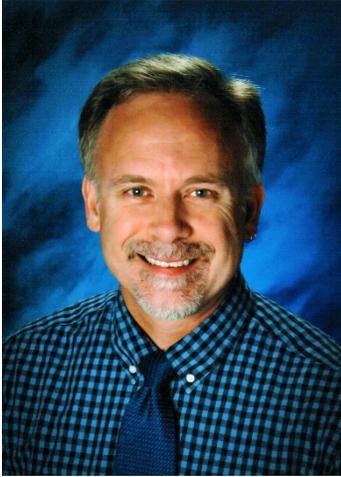


Matt Hilgaertner, MDiv

Adjunct Instructor



Email: mhilgaertner@georgefox.edu

Phone: 503-710-4406 (cell)

I was raised in Thousand Oaks, California, and attended Whitworth University in Spokane, Washington, where I earned a BA in math and a secondary teaching certificate. I taught high school math for three years, two of them as a Peace Corps Volunteer on the island of St. Vincent, West Indies, Eastern Caribbean. Then God led me to attend Princeton Seminary in New Jersey, where I earned an MDiv and eventually became ordained as a Presbyterian pastor in the PC(USA). A few years ago, I transferred my ordination over to the ECO (Evangelical Covenant Order) tribe of Presbyterians. After seminary, I served large churches as an associate pastor (in Peachtree City, Georgia, and Lake Oswego, Oregon), and a small church as a solo pastor (in northeast Portland).

Again following God's lead, I returned to teaching in private secondary schools, and even worked as a commercial carpenter and cabinet maker for a couple of years in between. Currently, I teach math and Bible full-time at Life Christian School in Aloha. My family and I live near Tigard High School, and we attend Cedar Creek Church in Sherwood, Oregon, where I serve as a volunteer parish associate and worship leader. I previously taught courses in spiritual formation, Bible, and leadership at Horizon Christian High School in Tualatin, and secondary level math courses at St. Stephen's Academy in Lake Oswego. Over the past two decades, I have also taught dozens of church courses in Bible, theology, mission, discipleship, and religion, and several leadership training events and seminars at regional church gatherings.

Academic Background

- MDiv, Practical Theology, Princeton Theological Seminary, Princeton, NJ (1996)
- BA, Mathematics, and Secondary Teaching Certificate, Whitworth University, Spokane, WA (1990)

Expertise and Research Interests

I have spent several years completing the coursework for a Doctor of Ministry (DMin) degree at Reformed Theological Seminary in Orlando. However, I still have some work to do on my dissertation project before I can graduate. My emphasis is in Missional Theology & Leadership Development, with a special interest in Alan Hirsch's work on apostolic movements, missional leadership, and church planting. I have a heart for helping churches and followers of Jesus Christ to discover and pursue God's call upon their lives; and I have a passion for cultivating gospel-centered communities of faith and developing missional leaders for the harvest. During the past decade, I have served as a member and occasional chair of my regional Presbytery's Church Planting Team for Oregon and Washington. Concurrently, I have been the secretary on the regional Board of Directors for Hispanic/Latino Ministries (based in Vancouver, Washington) and the Northwest Theological Institute, which offers occasional weekend classes at GFU Tigard for Hispanic/Latino church leaders.

Primary Teaching Responsibilities

- INTL 440 – World Religions

Outside the Classroom

My wife (Kris) and I were married 20 years ago in her hometown of New Orleans, Louisiana. I love to play tennis, and I enjoy watching the professionals play. I hope to attend every grand slam tournament in the world at least once before I die. (So far, I've only been to the U.S. Open in Flushing Meadows, New York.) I'm a lifelong Dodgers fan, and have enjoyed both watching and playing baseball nearly my whole life. I've played piano and guitar since my childhood, and a few years ago started playing the electric bass. Often to the chagrin of those around me, I love '70s & '80s rock music, as well as classic '80s movie comedies. I also enjoy contemporary Christian music and play bass in my church's worship band.

My family and I enjoy spending time together at beaches, lakes, and mountains, and camping in the beautiful Oregon outdoors. We also play a variety of card and board games, and a few sports.

Both of our boys are involved in baseball and taekwondo. Kris and I have a mutual love for science fiction TV and movies, especially Star Trek. I've maintained some decent baseball card and coin collections since I was a kid, and have fun sharing them with others when given the opportunity. I also have a growing interest in ancestry, and have done extensive family tree research with my mom over the last couple of decades. In my spare time, I enjoy reading, carpentry, and exercise.