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### Dr. Don L. Davis and Urban Ministry: Establishing the Urban Ministry Institute (TUMI)

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# Dr. Don L. Davis and Urban Ministry Establishing The Urban Ministry Institute (TUMI)

Dr. Hank Voss and Simeon Ploeger  
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## Core Values of TUMI

1. The Calling of God: Calling people in the city to advance the Kingdom of God there.
2. The Kingdom of God: See reality of the Kingdom of God embodied in the Church.
3. The Centrality of the Church: Effective ministry takes place within the body of Christ.
4. The Power of Community: Create quality education across training centers in urban areas for urban ministry education.
5. God's Election of the Humble: God has chosen the poor to be rich in faith and inherit the Kingdom (James 2:5).
6. The Standard of Excellence: All quality leadership development requires formal, disciplined excellence.
7. The Explosiveness of Multiplication: Passionate for urban church planting to transform cities.

## Focus on the Urban Poor

Dr. Don L. Davis created this institute to serve urban church leaders due to these common factors they face:

- Many are already in ministry and bivocational.
- Urban church leaders have varying levels of literacy.
- Affordable, so that poverty does not prevent urban church leaders from receiving training.
- Differences in culture, class, and ethnicity require proper contextualization
- Acceptance to theological education based on living out of God's call, rather than financial means and academic prowess.
- Taking place in context of mission and outreach, emphasis on evangelism.
- Taking place in context of human need, holistic ministry.



## Reasons for Institute Creation

1. Enables church to be strategic in equipping and empowering leadership among urban poor.
2. Helps support lay and pastoral leadership development in urban communities.
3. Multiplies laborers for urban mission.
4. Enhances ability to network with other Christians, churches, and organizations in the city.
5. Greatly expands the impact of the ministry of the church.
6. Expresses in concrete fashion greater unity of the Church to advance God's Kingdom and proclaim the gospel.
7. Edifies the life and outreach of local congregations in urban communities.

## Capstone Curriculum

The Capstone Curriculum is TUMI's main course, broken up into four sections: Biblical Studies, Theology and Ethics, Christian Ministry, and Urban Mission.

Each Lesson includes:

Devotion, Contacts (dialogue starters), Lesson Objectives, Lesson Content, Student Questions, Summary of Key Concepts, Student Application/Implications, Case Studies, Resources and Bibliographies, Ministry Connections

See below for the sections broken up into their modules:



## Satellites:

Satellite Locations, or Church Based Seminaries, make up the core of how TUMI trains leaders for ministry.

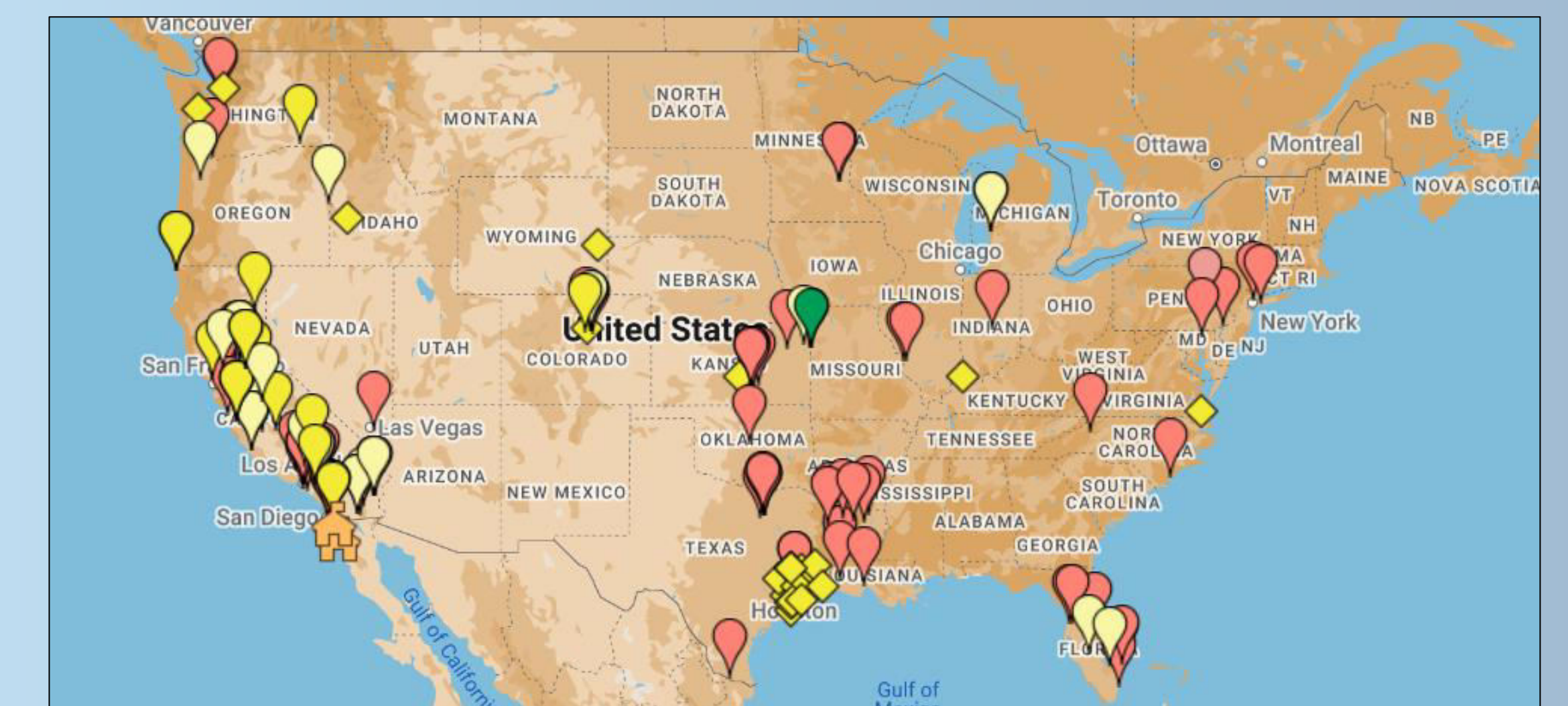
What a Satellite is: A sister ministry that meets requirements to equip leaders for the urban church, especially among the poor, to advance Kingdom of God.

Relationship between Satellites and TUMI: TUMI provides satellites with affordable, excellent theological resources, enabling them to create a unique training program that fits their specific context.

Statistics:

- Over 355 Satellite locations, in 20 countries
- Currently over 3,500 students in courses.

See below for satellite locations in the continental U.S.:



## CONCLUSION

Dr. Don L. Davis founded TUMI in the summer of 1995 and has been committed to equipping and empowering urban church leaders ever since. His emphasis on the poor sets him and his ministry apart from most seminaries. Churches among the urban poor that require theological education would do well to reach out to TUMI to start a satellite.

## BIBLIOGRAPHY

Davis, Don. *Multiplying Laborers for the Urban Harvest: Shifting the Paradigm for Servant Leadership Education*. 15th ed. Wichita, KS: The Urban Ministry Institute, 2013.

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