



ASSEMBLIES *of* GOD

THEOLOGICAL
SEMINARY

**Field
Education
Research
Project
Manual**

General Guidelines

This manual is intended to assist students in completing the course requirements for PTH/MCS 556 Field Education Research Project, a course designed for those pursuing the M.A. in Christian Ministries. It requires significant research in biblical and contemporary literature in relation to ministry praxis in a local church or parachurch context. It leads to the production of an integrative, field-based writing project.

Course Purpose

The purpose of this course is to provide students with an opportunity to combine significant academic research and “hands-on” ministry. A graduate student should be honing her/his critical reflection skills not only in the classroom of academic inquiry, but also in the laboratory of ministry implementation. In this regard, the project serves as a prototype for all current and future ministry activity, providing a template for ministry preparation and implementation.

Project Topic

Since the project is to be developed within a ministry context, students should be careful in selecting both the field of research and the arena of application. If the chosen local church or parachurch setting does not provide the proper environment for applying the potential knowledge and skills gained in the research phase of the project, the students should either revise the focus of the research or choose another ministry setting more conducive to the desired field of research. The students are also encouraged to narrow the focus of their research and application so as to maximize the learning dynamics and outcomes within the time frame allotted (one semester) for completing the project.

Project Format

The project will be comprised of three major sections, 1) a 10-12 page biblical-theological treatise on the research topic, 2) a 10-12 page review of the professional literature on the research topic, and 3) a 15-18 page application of the biblical-theological and professional materials to the local ministry context. These sections answer, respectively, the following questions:

- What did the Bible and contemporary theologians have to say about my research topic?
- What did contemporary authors/professionals have to say about my research topic?
- How did I implement this research into my local ministry context?

Project Proposal

The student will submit a proposal for the project comprised of the following (see Appendix A for sample):

- A description of the ministry need or problem to be addressed in the research.

- A description of the context in which the research will be applied.
- A basic bibliography of contemporary biblical, theological, and professional literature that addresses the research topic.

Evaluation Criteria

The following criteria will be used to evaluate the successful completion of the project:

- A project which incorporates a thorough review of the biblical text.
- A project which integrates both biblical and practical theology.
- A project which surveys and integrates noted authors and specialists in the particular field of study.
- A project of not less than 30, nor more than 50 pages in length, excluding bibliography and appendices.
- A project whose style and format follow the standardized model set forth in the Turabian 7th edition style manual.

Note: The project must be carefully edited for grammar and punctuation. Projects submitted with excessive errors (as determined by the grader) will be returned for rewriting.

The student will receive a letter grade for the project commensurate to the quality of research and application therein.

ASSEMBLIES OF GOD THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY

**Proposal for a Field Education Research Project
Submitted by Ima Student**

Ministry Need/Problem

The pastoral staff of First Community Church in Anytown, USA has been discussing an evangelism strategy that effectively reaches out to the diverse ethnic groups in the low income housing of the urban center of our community. Since the demographics of this area are significantly different from those of FCC, the pastor needs to prepare the congregation for the transition toward becoming a multi-ethnic, culturally diverse church. As a graduate student attending FCC, I have been asked to prepare an adult level study curriculum addressing the biblical-theological foundations of the culturally diverse church.

Ministry Context

Anytown, USA is a midwestern metropolitan area with a population of about 180,000. This is comprised of a central city of 80,000 people and five suburban communities of approximately 20,000 each. The area is representative of a cross-section of second and third generation ethnic groupings, predominantly Caucasian. The African American, Hispanic, and Asian American communities, who comprise about 12% of the population of the total metropolitan area, are located in the central urban center of the area in low income housing most of which is government subsidized. First Community Church (FCC) is a church of 400 people located in the northeastern suburban community. The pastoral staff is comprised of a Senior Pastor and three Associate Pastors. The adult members of the congregation are predominantly middle class, white collar, and well educated (several with graduate degrees) baby boomers. The worship style of the Church is contemporary. The senior pastor, who is in his 50's, is a graduate of the Assemblies of God Theological Seminary, with an MDiv degree. He has been the pastor of FCC for 12 years and has developed a strong purpose driven ministry model. Thirty eight percent of the regular adherents to FCC were either unchurched or dechurched prior to their attendance. The church is well versed in the Bible and in Christian doctrine, and is very generous in giving to support US and World missions. The general fund of the church is very healthy with adequate resources to maintain current ministry programs as well as to implement new ministry efforts.

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