

**INTITUTING A SMALL GROUP MINISTRY
AT WHEATLAND HARVEST CHURCH,
WHEATLAND, CALIFORNIA**
Reverend Grady C. Windham

ABSTRACT

The goal of this project was to institute a small group ministry at Wheatland Harvest Church (WHC), Wheatland, California, for the purpose of building up the local church. The project focused on the research and development of a small group ministry model which would have a positive evangelistic and church growth impact.

The project consisted of the following elements: (1) introducing a theological, historical, and practical small group ministry; (2) identifying, recruiting, and training small group ministry leadership; (3) researching and identifying demographic and geographic locations for small group implementation; (4) establishing a monthly meeting of three small groups in the three demographically diverse locations of Wheatland, Olivehurst, and Beale Air Force Base, to meet participant needs; and (5) instituting a monthly training session for group leaders.

The project elements were effective in bringing a renewed sense of community in the church. The project's impact was a nominal increase in Sunday morning service attendance, and a renewed commitment by group participants to the local church. Members assumed church leadership positions, and nonmembers joined the church. The major implication of the research is that WHC could experience measurable growth through evangelism and assimilation by developing an intentional small group ministry. Due to this positive small group ministry impact, WHC will consider permanently implementing such a ministry into its overall ministry strategy.