

ASSEMBLIES OF GOD THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY
Continuing Education Credit Option Obtainable in Conjunction with the
2002 Ministerial Enhancement Conference
Southern Missouri District Office
Springfield, MO
Tuesday, September 10, 2002

P THE 640 MINISTRY IN THE SMALLER OR RURAL CHURCH
(2 Credits)

Ralph V. Adcock, D.Min.

Spring, 2002

COURSE SYLLABUS

COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course will provide participants the opportunity to engage in and reflect on the issues involved in pastoring the small rural church. Participation in this course will broaden the scope and assist in the development of knowledge, skills, and attitudes necessary for effective ministry in such areas.

COURSE OBJECTIVES

1. To identify challenges that exist in small rural church ministry.
2. To assist in identifying special characteristics peculiar to small rural church ministry.
3. To assist the student in analyzing key aspects of ministry relevant to conflict and culture in small rural churches
4. To explore the call of God as it relates to servant/leadership in the small rural church.

TEXTBOOKS*

Choose one text from each of the following lists and one additional text from either list.

***NOTE: It is a violation of academic policy to claim credit for books read in prior college courses. If you have previously read any book on the list for credit, you must substitute another book from the bibliography.**

Small Rural Church

Bierly, Steve R.. *How To Thrive As A Small Church Pastor; A Guide To Spiritual and Emotional Well-Being*. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 1998.

Callahan, Kennon L.. *Small Strong Congregations*. San Francisco: Jossey-Bass, 2000.

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Crandall, Ronald K.. *Turn Around Strategies For The Small Church*. Nashville: Abingdon Press, 1995.

Hunter, Kent R.. *The Lord's Harvest and The Rural Church: A New Look At Ministry in the Agri-Culture*. Kansas City, Mo.: Beacon Hill Press, 1993.

Klassen, Ron, and John Koessler. *No Little Places: The Untapped Potential of the Small Town Church*. Grand Rapids: Baker, 1998.

Servant Leadership

Beausay II, William. *The Leadership Genius of Jesus*, Nashville; Thomas Nelson Publishers, 1997.

Blanchard, Ken. *The Heart of a Leader: Insights on the Art of Influence*. Tulsa: Honor Books, 1999.

McNeal, Reggie. *A Work of Heart: Understanding How God Shapes Spiritual Leaders*. San Francisco: Jossie-Bass, 2000.

Miller, Calvin. *The Empowered Leader: 10 Keys to Servant Leadership*. Nashville: Broadman & Holman, 1995.

Rinehart, Stacy T. *Upside Down: The Paradox of Servant Leadership*. Colorado Springs: NavPress, 1998.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

1. Read the three textbooks and write a two to three page reflection paper on each noting the elements that you found most significant for your current ministry.
2. Write a five to eight page reflection paper on the sectional council leadership-training seminar. Include the key elements from the seminar and reflect on whether you are/aren't integrating some or all of these leadership qualities and strategies in your current ministry.
3. Provide an outline of your research paper.
4. Write a ten to twelve page research paper on a topic of interest related to the content of the seminar or your additional reading assignment. The paper should demonstrate an

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adequate understanding of ministry in the small rural church with regard to God's call, the characteristics of the small rural church, culture as it relates to the small rural church, and conflict in the small rural church. A documented bibliography with a minimum of 1000 pages (including texts) is required. It should also focus on an aspect of your current ministry setting in which you need improvement. Use the Turabian 6th edition handbook for the style and format of the paper.

Due Date: All course work must be completed (postmarked) no later than 90 days from the conclusion of the seminar.

NOTE: A \$15 change of grade fee will be required of all participants who fail to turn in their work on the due date, even if an extension on submission is granted.

Submit all course work to:

**Dr. Ralph Adcock
PO Box 319
Buffalo, Ok 73834**

COURSE EVALUATION

Each assignment will be weighted as follows in figuring the final course grade:

Reading/Reflection papers	30%
Seminar Reflection paper	25%
Research paper	45%

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Bierly, Steve R. *Help for the Small Church Pastor: Unlocking the Potential of Your Congregation*. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 1995.

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_____. "Evangelism for the Ordinary Church." *Leadership* (summer 1997): 43.

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_____. *How to Thrive as a Small-Church Pastor: A Guide to Spiritual and Emotional Well-Being*. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 1998.

Bowman, Tim. "What's a Significant Ministry?" *Leadership* (summer 1999): 99.

Brown, Carolyn C. *Developing Christian Education in the Smaller Church*. Nashville: Abingdon Press, 1982.

Bubna, Donald L. "Building People." *Leadership* 14, no. 1 (winter 1993): 69-72.

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Chromey, Rick. *Youth Ministry in Small Churches*. Loveland, Colo: Group Books, 1990.

Coote, Robert B., ed. *Mustard-Seed Churches: Ministries in Small Churches*. Minneapolis: Fortress Press, 1990.

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Damon, Glenn. "Fellowship: The Benchmark of Health." *Mikros* 4, no. 6 (1998): 2.

Doebler, Richard. "Staying Sharp in a Small Town." *Leadership* (summer 1999): 53.

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Dudley, Carl S. *Unique Dynamics of the Small Church*. Washington, D.C.: The Alban Institute, 1977.

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Hayford, Jack. "How Many Did You Have Last Sunday?" *Leadership* (winter 1998): 39.

Hazelton, Paul N. *Seven Steps to Revitalizing the Small Town Church*. Kansas City, Mo.: Nazarene Publishing House, 1994.

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SPECIFIC DATA

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