ASSEMBLIES OF GOD THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY

PTH 633 Leading the Smaller Church

Jay S. Lee Fall 2003

COURSE SYLLABUS

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

This course is designed to deal with the concerns of ministering effectively to a smaller congregation. An emphasis is upon the development of lay resources and the adaptation of departmental ministries to smaller group situations. This course is offered either for three credits or for two credits.

COURSE OBJECTIVES:

Upon completion of the course, the student should be able to:
1. Understand the importance of the small church.
2. Understand the unique culture and dynamics of the small church.
3. Develop necessary pastoral leadership.
4. Deal with problems of the small church.
5. Overcome depression and negative self-image.
6. Maintain wellness.
7. Become a joyful, successful pastor.
8. Mobilize and empower lay resources for church growth.
9. Strategize the turnaround of the church.

TEXTBOOKS:

Required

Bierly, Steve. Help for the Small-Church Pastor. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 1995.

_____. How to Thrive as a Small-Church Pastor. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 1998.

Crandall, Ronald and Herb Miller. Turnaround Strategies for the Small Church Nashville: Abingdon Press, 1995.

Schaller, Lyle. The Small Membership Church: Scenarios for Tomorrow. Nashville: Abingdon Press, 1995.

TEXTBOOKS (Continued):

Recommended

Rowell, John. Magnify Your Vision for the Small Church. Atlanta: Northside Community Church, 1999. (Out of print; 2-hour reserve in the library)

BASIC OUTLINE:

I. Defining the small church
II. Understanding the importance of the small church
    A. Biblical perspective: Theology of smallness
    B. Ministerial perspective: A major pastoral paradigm now and in the future
III. Understanding the culture and dynamics of the small church
    A. Understanding the distinctives of the small church (people, culture, philosophy)
    B. Understanding strengths and weaknesses
IV. Developing pastoral leadership
V. Dealing with problems of the small church
VI. Maintaining pastor's wellness
    A. Pastoring yourself back to health
    B. Forming a network of pastoral support
    C. Caring for physical fitness
VII. Pastoring the small church joyfully and successfully
VIII. Small church can change: Turnaround strategy
    A. Healing the past
    B. Catching the vision
    C. Training and empowering the laity
    D. Staffing the programs
    E. Evangelizing

METHODOLOGY:

1. Lectures
2. Discussion

3. Written assignments
4. Examinations

COURSE REQUIREMENTS:

1. Attendance as required in the Student Handbook
2. Active class participation
3. Reading of required textbooks and suggested reference materials
4. Completion of mid-term and final examinations as scheduled
5. Assignments:
   1) Biblical model of the church (3 p.)
   2) Four book reports (3-4 pages for 3 credits); Two book reports (3-4 pages for 2 credits)
   3) Term project on a small church (15-20 pages for 3-credit students; 10-15 pages for 2-credit students). Due Nov. 25.

GRADING PROCEDURE:

The final grade will be based on the following:

1. Attendance and class participation	05%
2. Reading assignments/papers	15%
3. Mid-term/Final	25% each
4. Term project	30%

Note: Deduction of one letter grade per class period for late papers.

SELECTED BIBLIOGRAPHY:

Amberson, Talmadge R. The Birth of Churches: A Biblical Basis for Church Planting. Nashville: Broadman Press, 1979.

Anglican Theological Review 78:4 (Fall 1996): 546-651. [A collection of articles on the small church].

Bassett, William and Peter Huizing, eds. The Finances of the Church. New York: Seabury Press, 1979.

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

Burt, Steven E. Activating Leadership in the Small Church: Clergy and Laity Working Together. 1988.

Burt, Steven E. and Hazel Ann Roper. The Little Church that Could. Valley Forge: Judson Press, 2000.

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

Carroll, Jackson W. Small Churches are Beautiful. San Francisco: Harper & Row, 1977.

Christensen, Michael J. City Streets, City People: A Call for Compassion. Nashville: Abingdon Press, 1988.

The Christian Ministry 14:3 (May 1983): 5-18. [A collection of articles on the small church].

Claerbaut, David. Urban Ministry. Grand Rapids: Zondervan Publishing House, 1983.

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

Dudley, Carl S. Making the Small Church Effective. Nashville: Abingdon Press, 1978.

Dudley, Carl S. and Douglas Alan Walrath. Developing Your Small Church's Potential. Valley Forge: Judson Press, 1988.

Elliston, Edgar J. and J. Timothy Kauffman. Developing Leaders for Urban Ministries. New York: Peter Lang, 1993.

Farris, Lawrence W. Dynamics of Small Town Ministry. Bethesda, MD: The Alban Institute, 2000.

_____. Caring for the Small Church: Insights from Women in Ministry. Valley Forge, PA: Judson Press, 1994.

Foltz, Nancy T., ed. Religious Education in the Small Membership Church. Birmingham, AL: Religious Education Press, 1990.

Goreham Gary. The Rural Church in America: A Century of Writings, A Bibliography. New York: Garland Publishing, 1990.

Griggs, Donald L., and Judy McKay Walther. Christian Education in the Small Church. Valley Forge, PA: Judson Press, 1988.

Hansen, David. "Upon Taking a Small Church (Pastoral Advice)." Leadership 11 (Spring 1990): 78-79.

Harrison, Gary. "The Making of a Good Little Church." Leadership 7 (Summer 1990): 92-96.

Hassinger, Edward W., John S. Holik, and Kenneth J. Benson. The Rural Church: Learning from Three Decades of Change. Nashville: Abingdon Press, 1988.

Hazelton, Paul N. 7 Steps to Revitalizing the Small-Town Church. Kansas City, MO: Nazarene Publishing House, 1993.

Hunter, Kent. The Lord's Harvest and the Rural Church. Kansas City, MO: Beacon Hill Press, 1993.

Insights: A Journal of the Faculty of Austin Seminary 107:2 (Spring 1992): 7-51. [A collection of articles on the small church]

Jacobsen, Wayne. "The Numbers Game: A Treat to Churches Large and Small." Leadership 4 (Winter 1983): 49-53.

Johnston, Jon., and Bill M. Sullivan, eds. The Smaller Church in a Super Church Era. Kansas City: Beacon Hill Press of Kansas City, 1983.

Judy, Marvin T. The Parish Development Process. Nashville: Abingdon Press, c1973.

Klassen, Ron and John Koessler. No Little Places: The Untapped Potential of the Small-Town Church. Grand Rapids: Baker Books, 1996.

Lewis, G. Douglas. Resolving Church Conflicts. San Francisco: Harper & Row, 1981.

Longenecker, Harold L. Building Town and Country Churches. Chicago: Moody Press,

1973.

Madsen, Paul O. The Small Church--Valid, Vital, Victorious. Valley Forge: Judson Press, 1975.

McCarty, Doran. Leading the Small Church. Nashville: Broadman Press, 1991.

Pappas, Anthony. Entering the World of the Small Church: A Guide for Leaders. Washington, DC: The Alban Institute, 1988.

Pappas, Anthony, and Scott Planting. Mission: The Small Church Reaches Out. Valley Forge, PA: Judson Press, 1993.

"Pastoring with Integrity in a Market-Driven Age: A Leadership Forum with Brian Larson, Lyle Schaller, and Kent Hughes." Leadership 18:3 (Summer 1997): 108-115.

Ray, David R. The Big Small Church Book. Cleveland, OH: Pilgrim Press, c1992.

_____. Small Churches are the Right Size. New York: Pilgrim Press, 1982.

Schaller, Lyle E. The Small Church is Different. Nashville: Abingdon Press, 1982.

Simpson, James D. How to Lead Your Church Beyond 100: Strengthening the Smaller Church.. Cleveland, TN: Pathway Press, 1991.

Surrey, Peter J. The Small Town Church. Nashville: Abingdon Press, 1981.

Taylor, Nick. Ordinary Miracles: Life in a Small Church. New York: Simon & Schuster, 1993.

Walrath, Douglas Alan, ed. New Possibilities for Small Churches. New York: Pilgrim Press, 1983.

Willimon, William H. and Robert L. Wilson. Preaching and Worship in the Small Church. Nashville: Abingdon Press, 1980.

Wilson, Robert L. The Multi-Church Parish. Creative Leadership Series, Lyle Schaller, ed. Nashville: Abingdon Press, 1989.

Zunkel, C. Wayne. Growing the Small Church: A Guide for Church Leaders. Elgin, IL: David C. Cook, 1982.

SPECIFIC DATA:

Prepared by Jay Lee, August 2003.

Sept.
3 Introduction

10 Schaller

17

24

Oct.
1 Bierly

8 Book Review Due (on Schaller)

15

22 Bierly; Mid-Term Exam

29

Nov.
5 Crandall

12 Book Review Due (on Bierly)

19

26 Book Review Due (on Crandall)

Dec.
3 Major Project Due

10 Last day of class

17 Final Exam