

Knox College
Small Church: Strong, Healthy, Effective Ministry
Basis Degree KNP3665HF
Advanced Degree KNP6665HF
Winter 2017

Instructor: Andrew R. Irvine

Course Description:

This course will explore the nature of the small church and its place within the context of society, the ecclesiastical world, the local community and the lives of individuals. How health in the small church is determined will be considered. Participants will bring their experience and issues as a partial basis for examining the uniqueness of ministry in and through the small church. Consideration will be given to theological, sociological, psychological, cultural and demographic factors which affect the small church. Special emphasis will be placed on issues of leadership for renewal.

Course Objectives:

The small church has often been viewed as a church that has failed to grow or a church which at one time was larger and now has, for various reasons, diminished in size. Both of these perspectives tend to deny the reality of the current presence of the church and to (re)build on the intent God has for ministry in that place through His faithful people.

The objectives of this course are that participants will be able to:

1. Articulate a theological rationale for the ministry and place of the healthy small church in both secular culture and the ecclesiastical world.
2. Be able to utilize an analysis process that identifies the nature of faith community and provides the basis for future sustainable ministry.
3. Identify the factors that determine a healthy small church and the means to nurture and advance these in the congregation and community.
4. Determine the nature of leadership required to advance the work and ministry of the small church and to explore the establishment of effective congregational leadership which will assure the church of an ongoing future.

Required Readings:

Ammerman, Nancy, Jackson W. Carroll, Carl S. Dudley and William McKinney. *Studying Congregations: a New Handbook*. Nashville: Abingdon Press. 1998 Chapter 1 (This will be provided on line)

Carroll, Jackson, Carl S. Dudley and William McKinney. *Handbook for Congregational Studies*. Nashville: Abingdon Press. 1986 Chapter 2 p 21 – 47 (This will be provided on line)

Pappas, Anthony G. *Entering the World Of The Small Church*. 2st ed. Washington, D.C.: Alban Institute, 2000

Ray David, *The Indispensible Guide For Smaller Churches*. New York Pilgrim Press 2003

Course Work:

- 1] Students are expected to reader the course material, respond to the weekly assignment on line and interact with the posting of two other students in a substantive manner. 40%
- 2] Each student will chose a book from the attached reading list and review the book Write an interactive paper on the book. (see guidelines for an interactive paper) 20%
- 3] A final research paper (8 – 10 pages) will be presented on a topic of small church ministry. This paper will demonstrate an understanding of the small church, the role of leadership and the cultural dynamics of small church ministry 40%
- 4] Advanced degree students will be assigned additional reading and a advanced final assignment

Unit Schedule:

Unit Schedule

- Unit 1: **Introduction** --- experience of Small Church
 The Small Church in today's culture.
 Video MATE
- Unit 2 Sociological structures of group:
 A sociology of Small Church

- Unit 3 Theology of the Church. What is the church?
Small Church as an Ecclesiological reality
- Unit 4 Assessing the Health of the Church
- Unit 5 Analysis: Church and Context
- Unit 6 Small Church and its Governance (Administration and Leadership)
- Unit 7 A look at power, control and invisible forces
- Unit 8 Developing sustainable leadership
- Unit 9 Worship and the Small Church
- Unit 10 Empowering the laity
- Unit 11 Reaching Out
- Unit 12 The Missional Small Church

Small Church
Supplementary Bibliography
2014

Bakke, Ray and Sam Roberts. *The Expanding Mission of the City Centre Church*. Chicago. International Urban Associated. 1998

Bickers, Dennis. *Thee Healthy Small Church: Diagnosis and Treatment for the Big Issue*. Kansas City. Beacon Hill Press. 2005

Bierly, Steve. R., *Help for the Small- Church Pastor*. Grand Rapids, Michigan, Zondervan Publishing House. 1995

Bush, Peter, *In Dying We are Born: The Challenge and The Hope for Congregations*. Herndon, Virginia: The Alban Institute Publications. 2008

Bush, Peter and Christine O'Reilly. *Where 20 or 30 are Gathered: Leading Worship in the Small Church*. Herndon, Virginia. The Alban Institute Publications. 2006

Callahan, Kennon L. *Small, Strong Congregations: Creating Strengths and Health in Your Congregations*. San Francisco. Jossey-Bass 2000

Canada, David. *Spiritual Leadership in the Small Membership Church*. Nashville, Abingdon Press, 2005

Chromey, Rick. *Youth Ministry in Small Churches*. Loveland, Colorado. 1990

Daman, Glenn. *Shepherding the Small Church: Leadership for the Majority of Today's Churches*. Grand Rapids Michigan. Kregel 2002

Daman, Glenn. *Leading the Small Church: How to Develop Transformational Ministry..* Grand Rapids Michigan. Kregel 2006

Farris, Lawrence W. *Dynamics of Small Town Ministry*. Washington DC: The Alban Institute Publications. 2000

Gaeda, Beth Ann ed., *Size Transitions in Congregations*. Washington DC: The Alban Institute Publications. 2001

Jung, Shannon. Ed *Rural Ministry: The Shape of the Renewal to Come*. Nashville, Abingdon Press, 1998

Killen, James L. Jr. *Pastoral Care in the Small Membership Church*. Nashville, Abingdon Press, 2005

Lyle, Schaller E. *Small Congregation Big Potential*. Nashville, Abingdon Press, 2003

Mulder, Karen and Ginger Jurries. *The Compassionate Congregation: a handbook for the people who care*. New York: Reform Press. 2002

Risley, Jean F. *A Place Where Everyone Matters: Life and Ministry in a Small Church* Eugene and Stock, 2010

Robinson, Anthony. *Transforming Congregational Culture*. Grand Rapids Michigan. Wm B Eerdmans Publishing Company. 2003

Speidel, Royal. *Evangelism in the Small Membership Church*. . Nashville, Abingdon Press, 2007

Tye, Karen B. *Christian Education in the Small Membership Church*. . Nashville, Abingdon Press, 2008

Tyson, John H.. *Administration in the Small Membership Church*. Nashville, Abingdon Press, 2007

White, Christopher and Donna Sinclair. *Emmaus Road: Churches making Their Way Forward*. BC. Wood Lakes Book 2003.

White, Christopher. *Seismic Shifts: Leading in Changing Times*. Toronto. United Church Publishing House. 2006