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MS 630 Ministry and Evangelism in the Small Church

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Asbury Theological Seminary
Spring Term, 2005 Tuesday 2:30 – 5:15 p.m.
Professor: Crandall
Credit: Three Hours

Prospectus for the Course
MS 630 / ME 760
MINISTRY AND EVANGELISM IN THE SMALL CHURCH

I. COURSE DESCRIPTION

The course examines historical, theological, sociological and pragmatic dynamics of smaller congregations with special attention to the challenges and opportunities for effective evangelism in such settings.

II. COURSE OBJECTIVES

Smaller congregations and the pastors who serve them frequently find it difficult to function effectively in ministry and outreach using many models and strategies commonly publicized. An abundance of recent research and literature brings encouragement and new challenges. It will be the purpose of this course to acquaint the student both with the heart of this literature and with a field experience in order that a confident, new perspective and commitment might be achieved for evangelistic ministry in the context of smaller congregations.

At the conclusion of this course students should be able to:

1. Articulate important biblical perspectives on “smallness” and smaller congregations;
2. Understand historical and economic developments that have led to the establishment and survival of smaller congregations, particularly in North America;
3. Appreciate and work with the social dynamics inherent in smaller churches;
4. Evaluate and improve their own leadership skills as pastors of smaller churches;
5. Design effective ministry and evangelism for a small church based on recent research;
6. Experience and better utilize the special tensions that exist between relationships and task-accomplishment in smaller churches;
7. Develop a long-term sense of mission and vision owned by the congregation;
8. Anticipate and prepare for conflict over proposed and actual changes;
9. Exercise the basic skills of a consultant for smaller churches using field research; and
10. Prepare a composite consultant’s report addressed to local church leaders.

III. PROCEDURE AND COURSE REQUIREMENTS

This course consists of thirteen class sessions meeting Tuesdays from 2:30 to 5:15 p.m. Instruction will include lectures, guest speakers, videos, discussion, field work, reading and analytical reflection.

A. READING REQUIREMENTS (25%)

MS630 students must read 1200 pages for the course; ME760 students, 1500 pages including at least one of the texts marked with an asterisk*. The required texts account for about 910 pages. The remaining pages should be selected from the recommended texts or material approved by the professor. The reading and the **Reading Reports** constitute 25% of the grade. Failure to complete the reading assigned (see **Completed Reading Form**) and the five **Reading Reports** will affect the final grade.

Required texts:

1. Lyle Schaller, Small Congregation, Big Potential, Abingdon (2003)—190 pages
2. Anthony Pappas, ed. Inside the Small Church, Alban (2002)—230 pages.
3. Steve Bierly, How to Thrive as a Small Church Pastor, Zondervan (1998)—190 pages.
4. Ron Crandall, Turnaround Strategies for the Small Church, Abingdon (1995)—160 pages.
5. Bill Kemp, The Church Transition Workbook: Getting Your Church in Gear, Discipleship Resources (2004)—140 pages.

Reading reports:

Each of the above texts will require a 1-2 page single-spaced reading report (5 points each) using a format attached to your syllabus. Your reports will be due and discussion of each text will take place following the schedule noted below.

First (Schaller) due on **February 22nd**.

Second (Pappas) due on **March 8th**.

Third (Bierly) due on **March 29th**.

Fourth (Crandall) due on **April 12th**.

Fifth (Kemp) due on **April 26th**.

Additional texts recommended include:

1. Steve Bierly, Help for the Small Church Pastor, Zondervan, 1995.
2. Steven Burt, Hazel Roper, The Little Church That Could, Judson Press, 2000.
3. Steven Burt, Activating Leadership in the Small Church, Judson, 1988.
4. Kennon Callahan, Small, Strong Congregations, Jossey-Bass, 2000.
5. Rick Chromey, Youth Ministry in Small Churches, Group, 1990.
6. Cosgrove and Hatfield, Church Conflict, Abingdon, 1994.
7. Robert Coote, ed., Mustard-Seed Churches, Fortress Press, 1990.
8. R. Robert Cueni, What Ministers Can't Learn in Seminary, Abingdon, 1988.
9. Glenn Daman, Shepherding the Small Church, Kregel Publications, 2002.
10. *Carl Dudley, Effective Small Churches in the Twenty-first Century, Abingdon, 2003.
12. *Carl Dudley and Nancy Ammerman, Congregations in Transition, Jossey-Bass, 2002.
13. C. Dudley and D. Walrath, Developing Your Small Church's Potential, Judson, 1988.
14. Gary Exman, Get Ready, Get Set, Grow, C.C.S. Publishing Co., 1987.
15. N. Foltz, Caring for the Small Church: Insights from Women in Ministry, Judson, 1994.
16. Nancy Foltz, ed., Religious Education in the Small Membership Church, R.E.P., 1990.
17. *Beth Ann Gaede, ed., Size Transitions in Congregations, Alban, 2001.
18. Kent Hunter, The Lord's Harvest and the Rural Church, Beacon Hill, 1993.
19. *Jung et.al., Rural Ministry: The Shape of the Renewal to Come, Abingdon, 1998.
20. Ron Klassen & John Koessler, No Little Place, Baker, 1996.
21. Craig Brian Larson, Pastoral Grit: The Strength to Stand and Stay, 1998.
22. *Alice Mann, The In-Between Church: Navigating Size Transitions, Alban, 1998.
23. Doran McCarty, Leading the Small Church, Broadman, 1991.
24. Wayne Oats, The Care of Troublesome People, Alban Publications, 1994.
25. Anthony Pappas, Money, Motivation and Mission in The Small Church, Judson, 1989.
26. Anthony Pappas, Entering the World of the Small Church, Judson, 2000.
27. Jeff Patton, If It Could Happen Here, Abingdon (2002)—115 pages.
28. David Ray, Wonderful Worship in Smaller Churches, Pilgrim Press, 2000.
29. John Rowell, Magnify your vision for the Small Church,
30. *Lyle Schaller, The Small Membership Church: Scenarios for Tomorrow, Abingdon, 1994.
31. Marshall Shelley, Leading your Church through Conflict, Bethany, 1997.
32. Rose Sims, The Dream Lives On or It Can Happen Anywhere, Bristol, 1989.
33. Bill Sullivan, Ten Steps to Breaking the 200 Barrier, Beacon Hill, 1988.
34. Laurence Wagley, Preaching With the Small Congregation, Abingdon, 1989 .
35. E. Glenn Wagner, Escape from CHURCH, Inc, Zondervan, 1999.
36. W. Willimon & R. Wilson, Preaching and Worship in the Small Church, Abingdon, 1980.
37. Robert Wilson, The Multi-Church Parish, Abingdon, 1989.
38. Wayne Zunkel, Growing The Small Church, David C. Cook, 1983.

B. CLASS PROJECT (50%)

Each student will participate in a class project constituting 50% of the final grade: 35% from the written group report, 5% from the group class presentation, and 10% from a personal reflection paper, both **due May 10th**.

1. Participate as part of a team (3-5 persons) interviewing a minimum of 8 members (4 long-term, 4 new) and the pastor of a smaller congregation in the area. The preference is for a church showing greater than 20% growth (or decline) in the last 3 years. Using an interview guide provided (adjustments welcome), consolidate your information, observations, insights and recommendations into a "Report" (35% of grade) to be sent to the pastor (copied to the instructor) with an appropriate cover letter. Samples of such reports will be available on line in the **CLASS ICON MS630/ME760**. In addition each student will separately submit to the professor a 5-page personal reflection paper (10% of grade) of additional observations, lessons, difficulties and values of the team-interview experience. During our last class each "team" will be expected to present a brief summary of their experience and most important discoveries (5% of the final grade).
2. Under **very special** circumstances alternative projects may be approved. Details for how to conduct this assignment apart from the team will be worked out on an individual basis.

C. MS630--MA and M.Div STUDENTS: NOTEBOOK (25%)

Each student will be required to produce a **notebook** (paper or electronic) graded on: (1) class notes (your own notations whether or not you copy the powerpoint slides), (2) reading reports on the required texts and similar notes on additional reading, (3) articles copied from journals, magazines, or off of the web, (4) additional research, correspondence, websites contacted and/or internet conversations, and (5) overall appearance and order (table of contents, notebook tabs, etc. help). The "notebook" will be **due** either on disk (CD or DVD if powerpoint slides, PDF files and/or photos are included), or as a 3-ring notebook **May 17th**.

D. ME760--TH.M., D.MISS, or Ph.D. STUDENTS: ADDITIONAL REQUIREMENTS (25%)

For advanced degree students 25% of the final grade will be based on: (1) a critical book review of 750 words following a guide provided (10%, **due April 19th**), (2) an annotated bibliography of at least 40 entries (5%, **due May 17th**), and 20-30 minutes of class teaching examining a critical issue raised by the text reviewed (10%). Schedule this with the instructor.

IV. PROPOSED TOPICS AND SCHEDULE

Although we may vary slightly from the plan below, our intended course outline is as follows:

TOPIC

Biblical and Theological Issues

Smaller Churches through History

The Sociology of Smaller Churches

Pastors and Small Church Revitalization

Rekindling the Spirit

Overcoming Obstacles

Mission and Evangelism

Developing Leaders and Disciples

Churches in Transition

Group Reports

V. DUE DATES

The Group Projects and Personal Reflection Papers are due by **TUESDAY, MAY 10, 2005.**
The notebook is due by **TUESDAY, MAY 17, 2005**

SAMPLE

Following the outline below, expand on each of the review sections to compose a 1-2 page single-spaced evaluation of the text.

Name _____ Date _____

Book Title _____ Author/Editor _____

Review

1. Evaluation: 1 (low) – 10 (high) ____ Elaborate, citing strengths & weaknesses:

2. Summary of the primary contribution of the text:

3. What new insights have you gained from reading this text? (cite pages or chapters)

1. pp. _____

2. pp. _____

3. pp. _____

4. pp. _____

5. pp. _____

4. What are some ministry applications of these insights?

1.

2.

3.

4.

5.

5. What are some issues, concerns, or questions you would like to see discussed?

1.

2.

3.

MS 630 / ME 760 COMPLETED READING FORM

NAME (PRINT) _____ (Signature below)

I have read all of the following pages for __ MS630, or __ ME760, 2005.

REQUIRED ASSIGNED READING: (Sign below at Bottom of Page)

	Author	Title	Total Pages Read
3.	Lyle Schaller,	<u>Small Congregation, Big Potential</u> (2003)	_____
4.	Anthony Pappas, ed.	<u>Inside the Small Church</u> (2002)	_____
6.	Steve Bierly,	<u>How to Thrive as a Small Church Pastor</u> (1998)	_____
7.	Ron Crandall,	<u>Turnaround Strategies for the Small Church</u> (1995)	_____
8.	Bill Kemp,	<u>The Church Transition Workbook</u> (2004)	_____

TOTAL PAGES OF ASSIGNED READING _____

COLLATERAL AND ELECTIVE READING:

	Author	Title	Total Pages Read
1.	_____	_____	_____
2.	_____	_____	_____
3.	_____	_____	_____
4.	_____	_____	_____
5.	_____	_____	_____
6.	_____	_____	_____

TOTAL PAGES OF COLLATERAL READING _____

Any WEB SITES contacted?

_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____

SIGNED _____ **DATE** / / _____