Congregational Development-Spring 2014

MIN 5105

Course Syllabus

Dr. Jacob David
Phone: (732)274-1428
Email: revjdavid@yahoo.com

Course Description:

The Course will examine the theological and biblical foundations for the mission of the Church; It is designed to empower new pastors and ministers to assess the capacities and needs of congregations and communities. Five possible models and strategies will be explored; ***revitalization, new church starts, cooperative parishes, mergers and closures.*** Students will be given tools for doing need/capacity assessment, economic development and stewardship, conflict mediation.

Striving to grow and revitalize the church of Jesus Christ encourages those faithful to the Great Commission of our Lord to make disciples and be his witnesses. By equipping and nurturing disciples to grow in Christian discipleship, the kingdom of God is thereby built, expanded, and extended throughout the world.

It is imperative to fully comprehend the teachings of the Scriptures as we consider the subjects of growth, revitalization, and new church development. In Matthew 16:18, Jesus declared, "On this rock I will build my church…." In this article, I will explore how God began the "building program"; that is, the program of building God's church from the very beginning of time and continuing today. That program continues to challenge the church today to be about the task of proclaiming the good news and expanding the kingdom of God.

A. Objectives:

1. To enable students to assess the health and status of local churches and communities.
2. To develop the evangelical understanding of a local church through biblical theological foundations.
3. To teach the students the techniques which will enable the local church to become and effective unit of mission.
4. To enable students to administer a local church toward development or redevelopment.

B. Requirements:

1. **25% of the grade**. Attend all class sessions and participate in class discussions. (If you cannot attend please call me (201) 935-2011 or Seminary Office before class if possible.
2. **25% of your grade**. You will read two books from the assigned texts. You will submit two book reports by mid term.
3. **25% of your grade**. The student will bring a case study of 5 pages on a particular congregation or your own. The Case study will focus on the aspects of the congregation that hinders/facilitates growth with emphasis on stewardship program and other evangelistic activities and outreach.

4. **25% of your grade**: On final research paper of 8-10 pages on **Congregational vitality and effectiveness in mission.**

Learning Themes:

Session 1 -	Introduction/ Learning goals; Leaning theory/Church Development.
Session 2 -	Mission of the Church,-Biblical theological Foundations.
Session 3 -	Developing Mission Statements/ Image statements.
Session 4 -	Sizing up a congregation/ Life Cycle in Congregations Case Study Presentations
Session 5 -	Life Cycle in Congregations/ Evangelism. Case Study Presentations.
Session 6 -	Making Small Groups Effective- Fellowship, Home Cell groups.
Session 7 -	Christian Stewardship & Congregational Development.
Session 8 -	Change, Conflicts Mediation skills
Session 9	Congregational Vitality, Starting new Congregations.
Session 10 -	A Pathway for exploring change and new future in Congregations.
Session 11	Christian Worship and Congregational Growth
Session 12	Mega Churches
Session 13	Evangelism and Church growth
Session 14	Spirituality and Congregational Development
Session 15	Pastors and Congregations.
Session 16	Final Paper presentation

Bibliography:

Ammerman, Nancy T., Carroll, Jackson W, Dudley, Carl S, McKinney,William, Ed. *Studying Congregations – A new Handbook, Abington Press,* 1998 **ISBN-10:** 0687006511 $19.59

Dudley, Carl S, Ammerman, Nacy T. *Congregation in transition- A guide for analyzing, Assessing, and Adapting in Changing Communities*, Jossey Bass 2002. **ASIN:** B001CBAMRC $14.37

Schwarz, Christian A., *Natural Church Development, A Guide to Church Development, essential Qualities of Healthy Churches,* Barcelona, 1996 **ISBN-10:** 1889638005 $19.00

Carrol, Jacksonb W., Roof, Wade Clark, *Bridging Divided Worlds,* San Francisco, Jossey Bass 2002. **ISBN-10:** 0787949906 $17.80

Church Growth

Loren Mead, *More Than Numbers, the Ways Churches Grow*, Alban Institute, ISBN 1566991099 $12.60

Bishop Claude Payne and Hamilton Beazley, *Reclaiming the Great Commission, a Practical Model for Transforming Denominations and Congregations*, Jossey-Bass, 2000, ISBN 0787952680

Change Management in Churches

Rendle, *Leading Change in the Congregation — Spiritual and Organizational Tools for Leaders*, Alban Institute, ISBN 1566991870

Callahan, *Twelve Keys to an Effective Church*, Harper San Francisco, ISBN 0060613041 (a planning workbook)

Furr et al, *Leading Congregational Change (Workbook)*, Jossey-Bass, ISBN 0787948853 (This workbook is the companion to Leading Congregational Change: A Practical Guide for the Transformational Journey.)

Stewardship

Eugene Grimm, *Generous People — How to Encourage Vital Stewardship*, Effective Church Series, Abingdon Press, 1992, ISBN 0687145055