



CM255 CHURCH DYNAMICS

Instructor: Dr Wes Dobson

Fall 2017

2 Credits

Course Description

This course explores the various issues that the pastor of a small church may face. A number of topics will be addressed as they relate to effectively dealing with the daily functions and problems confronting pastors of small churches.

Text Books

Dever, Mark and Jamie Dunlop, *The Compelling Community: Where God's Power Makes a Church Attractive*, Wheaton, Ill. Crossway, 2015.

Bonhoeffer, Dietrich, *Life Together*, San Francisco, Ca: Harper & Row, Publishers, 1954.

Course Objectives

Cognitive

1. The student will be introduced to various facets of church life
2. The student will have opportunity to consider the call to the pastoral life
3. The student should understand what it means to be a leader in a congregation
4. The student should gain knowledge developing strategy in church ministry
5. The student will be challenged to consider what it means to be a disciple of Jesus.

Affective

1. The student should gain a deeper appreciation for the church of Jesus Christ
2. The student should be motivated to serve the body of Christ
3. The student should have a greater love for his/her brothers and sisters in their congregation

Volitional

1. The student should choose to be actively engaged in congregational ministry at either vocational or volunteer level
2. The student should become an encouragement to his/her local congregation

Course Assignments

All written assignments are to be typed in accordance with the NBC Study Guide for papers. Assignments will be graded on the basis of content, clarity, grammar, and spelling.

1. Reading

Text Books:

Read and interact with *both* textbooks. Your interaction with the writers will include underlining and/or highlighting the text along with written comments in the margins (you may use “post it” notes if you do not like to write in your book). Your written comments need to be legible and written in **pen only**. Summarize your comments/questions at the end of each chapter and write a one-page summary of key “takeaways” from each book. Your books will be evaluated as evidence of your careful reading.

Hand in 2 pages + your textbooks (Equivalent 2pp = 40pp reading)

The Compelling Community – 200pp

Life Together - 115pp

Total – 355pp

(Due: November 13th, 2017, Value: 25%)

2. Individual Project

Part 1

Choose an issue that is stimulating positive dynamics in local churches **or** creating conflict in the church today **or** an issue you feel passionate about in church. Research what the Bible says about the issue and how the church has/is responding to it. Interview two church leaders (from different churches) as find out how they have or would deal with it. Assimilate all your findings into a **10-page** paper. You must include a bibliography for this project. Include at least three (3) entries from Galaxie Journals (NBC website)

Part 2

You will make a 10-minute class presentation describing the issue and presenting your conclusions about how the church should address your chosen topic. Be prepared to respond to questions from the class after your presentation. (Provide outline for classmates)

OR

Group Project

In a group of 3 students, develop and describe a model of Christian community (Church) that is gospel centered and culturally inclusive. This should be a place where you would not hesitate for a moment to invite your grade 12 high school classmates to attend.

The project should include

- a. Philosophy of community – who belongs and who does not?
- b. What happens when the community gathers for corporate worship?
- c. How would you make people welcome and encourage fellowship to happen?
- d. What ministry/service would you expect from the participants
- e. What makes your community unique?

There is no limit to the length of this project (Minimum of 20 pages).

I will be looking for your thoughtful consideration of how you have experienced community in church as well as your awareness of contemporary culture and how the church can welcome people and include them in the community. This will require integration of ideas you have gleaned from other classes you have taken at NBC as well as your diligent research.

Part 2

Your team will make a presentation of your community to the class, inviting them to join it. Be prepared to address questions the class might have about how your community functions and how they would be able to participate. Provide outline for classmates. (Presentation and questions 30 minutes in total)

Your group will hand in one paper and each member of the group will get the same grade. You will give yourself a grade on your contribution to the group. You must include a bibliography for this project. Include at least three (3) entries from Galaxie Journals (NBC website)

Due: Day of Presentation in class

Presentation days – December 11, 12 (TBC depending on number registered in class)

(Value for Paper - 35%,

Value for Presentation 15%

Personal Contribution 10%)

3. Video Outlines

An outline accompanies each video presentation and you will show your attention to the video by how you interact with the outline.

Due: Outlines must be handed in at the end of each class where video is used.

Value 15%

ATTENDANCE POLICY:

Refer to the NBC Handbook 2017/2018

LATE ASSIGNMENT POLICY:

Refer to the NBC Handbook 2017/2018.

Class Outline

1. Introduction – What dynamics?
2. People and presuppositions in church
3. The theology and nature of church
4. The importance of unity in the church
5. The church as community of belonging
6. The church as community of reconciliation
 - a. Confrontation and conflict
 - b. Forgiveness and restoration
7. Strategic ministry dynamics (including staff dynamics)
8. Cultural dynamics in the church (uniquely Canadian)
9. Generational dynamics
10. Lightning rod dynamics

This class will utilize lecture, seminar and a number of video presentations to help the student get an introductory grasp of a number of dynamics that are active in church and other Christian ministries.

Bibliography

See Library Sections 253 – 253.2
Library Section 262

Helpful internet sites will be provided in class.

Reading – 315pp
Writing – 12pp