



Nipawin Bible College
CM2112 - Church Dynamics
Winter 2023
2 Credit Hours
Dr. Wes Dobson
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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.

COURSE TEXTBOOKS

McCracken, Brett. *Uncomfortable: The Awkward and Essential Challenge of Christian Community*. Wheaton, IL: Crossway, 2017. [**Pp. 15-27 (13); 123-191 (68)**]

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 in the context of the local church.

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 a vocational or volunteer level.
2. The student should become an encouragement to his/her local congregation and its leadership.

COURSE ASSIGNMENTS

Reading - 25%

- The student must read:

McCracken, Brett. *Uncomfortable: The Awkward and Essential Challenge of Christian Community*. Wheaton, IL: Crossway, 2017. **pp15-27(13); 123-191(68)**

Bonhoeffer, Dietrich. *Life Together*. San Francisco, CA: Harper & Row Publishers, 1954. **pp 7-122 (115)**

- 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, 1-page summaries (2 pages total), **and your textbooks.**

DUE: January 6th, 2023

Writing - 50%

- Write an 8 page paper responding to one of the following:
 - a. Reflect on your personal experience of church over the past 3 years of Covid. Masks and mandates, churches gathering or not gathering created major challenges for church leaders. Based on specific Bible texts and your studies here at NBC describe how you think the church should have responded to the pandemic crisis.

OR

- b. “And now these three remain: faith, hope and love. But the greatest of these is love.” I Corinthians 13:13 (NIV)

Why is love so important to the church? How does a congregation build love among its participants? How have you seen love in action or not in action in your church community? What would you do to encourage your church to love each other more deeply?

OR

- c. Select a question/topic relating to the life of the church that interests you. Research it in Scripture and in library/Galaxie journals.

Your question/topic must be approved by your instructor before you start.

DUE: January 30th, 2023

Video Outlines - 15%

- An outline will accompany 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.

Class Participation - 10%

NOTE: All written assignments are to be typed in accordance with the guidelines in Kate L. Turabian's *A Manual for Writers of Research Papers, Theses, and Dissertations*, 9th ed. (Chicago, IL: The University of Chicago Press, 2018) for papers. **(See NBC Sample Paper - 2022.)** Assignments will be graded on the basis of content, clarity, grammar, and spelling.

Assignments will be due at the **beginning of class** on the date assigned.

ATTENDANCE POLICY

- Refer to the NBC Handbook 2022-2023

LATE ASSIGNMENT POLICY

- Refer to the NBC Handbook 2022-2023

Reading: 196 pages

Writing: 10 pages (plus video outlines)

COURSE 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. Canadian church dynamics in 2023.

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.