



Nipawin Bible College
CM2112 - Church Dynamics (Deacon's Track)
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)**]

NOTE: It is recommended that the above book be purchased in audio book format, which is available on audible.ca, ChristianAudio.com, and audiobooks.com. Students may also choose to follow along with the written text for increased retention.

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/Listening - 25%

- The student must read, and/or listen to:

McCracken, Brett. *Uncomfortable: The Awkward and Essential Challenge of Christian Community*. Wheaton, IL: Crossway, 2017. **pp15-27(13); 123-191(68) (total = 81 pages)**

DUE: January 6th, 2023

Writing - 50%

- Based on reading/listening to the book Uncomfortable by McCracken, write a page each on 3 insights you gained about church life (1 page/insight). What is your experience with these insights and how has McCracken helped you understand them better?

DUE: January 6th, 2023

Video Outlines - 15%

- An outline accompanies each video presentation and you will show your attention to the videos by your interaction with the outline.

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

Class Participation - 10%

NOTE: Unless stated otherwise, 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: 81 pages

Writing: 3 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.