

## **CL 7532 (October 2009 – April 2010)**

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### **READING LIST:**

- Nancy Ammerman, et. al., *Studying Congregations: A New Handbook*, Ch. 4 (posted online Oct. 20)
- Lon Kvanli, “Transforming Stewardship: From Functional to Missional,” DMin thesis (complete thesis available on the Luther Seminary Stewardship Resources website)
- Robert Webber, *Journey to Jesus*
- Thomas Schattauer, *Inside Out: Worship in an Age of Mission*
- Alan Roxburgh, *The Missional Leader*
- Gil Rendle, *Leading Change in the Congregation: Spiritual and Organizational Tools*

Come to the seminar week prepared to engage your these three readings: Gerben Heitink, *Practical Theology: History, Theory, Action Domains*; Patrick Keifert, *We Are Here Now*; and John Creswell, *Research Design*, 3<sup>rd</sup> edition.

## **MODULE ONE:**

### **PRELIMINARY ETHNOGRAPHIC STUDY OF YOUR CONGREGATION/MINISTRY AREA**

- Read Ch. 4 in *Studying Congregations: A New Handbook* by Nancy Ammerman, et. al. (posted on MyLutherNet by Oct. 20).
- Gather data and interpret this congregation/ministry in terms of elements chosen from the eight sources of information (below).
- In your ethnographic study, focus on these questions:

*What is God up to in this congregation?*

*How does this congregation presently understand its participation in God's mission in its context? What is its missional identity? What are the missional SWOCs (strengths, weaknesses, opportunities, and challenges) related to what God wants to do in this congregation?*

- Post a 5-page (at least 1500 words) ethnographic study of your congregation. DUE: NOV 13.
- Convene the congregational conversation team to review the ethnographic study. DUE: Nov. 20.
- Post responses to cohort ethnographic studies. DUE: Nov. 20.

### **Eight Sources of Information**

#### **1. Introduction to the Congregation/Ministry**

*Provide a brief introduction to the congregation/ministry by describing the **geographical location** of the congregation in the context that it serves. Include a street map of the congregation/ministry's location from MapQuest, Google Maps or another source.*

#### **2. Analyze the Congregation/Ministry's History**

*Focus on important events, persons etc. which clearly shaped the congregation/ministry's identity and its understanding of ministry. In particular, note the different styles of pastor(s)/leadership and their primary influence on the identity and work of the congregation/ministry. **Develop a brief interpretive historical summary of the key events/passages of life/crises of the congregation or ministry using written and oral resources.***

#### **3. Identify and Analyze Membership, Attendance, and Demographic Patterns**

*Gather and report data on membership, Sunday attendance, and the congregation or ministry's demographic makeup for the past ten years (more if possible). Membership data may be found in denominational websites (for the ELCA, use the Full Trend Reports for Congregations), yearbooks or congregational records. **Provide a descriptive explanation and interpretation of the data including the demographic trends, patterns, and variations that are observed.***

#### **4. Identify and Analyze Financial Data**

Gather data on the congregation/ministry's financial trends (income, giving by members, expenses, etc.). Report data for the past ten years (again, more if possible). This data may be found on denominational websites or in congregational reports. *Provide a written descriptive explanation and interpretation of the data including the **financial trends, patterns, and variations** that are observed.*

#### **5. Identify and Analyze Values, Mission, and Vision**

Does the congregation/ministry have stated (formal) mission and/or vision statements? *Interpret the relationship of these statements to **congregational self-perception** and current implementation.* If they are not available, suggest what appears to be the functional mission and vision of the congregation/ministry at present.

Does the congregation/ministry have a formal list of preferred values that are currently shaping its identity and ministry? *Analyze the relationship between these values and actual congregation/ministry mission and vision. How do these ministries/programs reflect the congregation/ministry's mission and vision.*

#### **6. Identify and Analyze the Congregation/Ministry's Images**

Identify and analyze at least one of the primary symbols, rituals, or metaphors that shape the congregation/ministry's self-understanding for ministry. *Analyze how this **image** influences the life and ministry of the congregation/ministry, especially in relation to the congregation/ministry's missional identity.*

#### **7. Analyze the Congregation/Ministry's Web presence**

Does the congregation/ministry have a website? What impressions does this site give you of your congregation/ministry? Is it easy to use? Is it current? Does it have the information that a newcomer/prospective visitor might need? *Provide an analysis of the congregation's overall **web presence**.*

#### **8. Identify and Analyze the Use of Space**

Review the congregation/ministry's building and its use of space. How "functional" is this building for serving the ministry needs of this congregation/ministry? What does it say about this congregation/ministry's identity, values, and priorities? *Provide a brief evaluation of how the **use of space** impacts the congregation/ministry's mission.*

## **MODULE TWO:** **Missional Ecclesiology in Congregational Practices**

Module 2 explores the missional character of specific inner practices which contribute to congregational vitalization. These modules provide opportunities for individual reading, personal reflection, and cohort conversation.

### **REQUIRED READING**

#### Worship

- Inside Out: Worship in an Age of Mission by Thomas H. Schattauer, ed. Augsburg Fortress, 1999. (also Journey to Jesus, see below)

#### Stewardship

- “Transforming Stewardship: From Functional to Missional,” DMin thesis by Lon Kvanli. (complete thesis available on the Luther Seminary Stewardship Resources website)

#### Discipleship

- Journey to Jesus: The Worship, Evangelism, and Nurture Mission of the Church by Robert E. Webber, Abingdon, 2001.

#### Leadership

- The Missional Leader: Equipping Your Church to Reach a Changing World by Alan Roxburgh, Jossey-Bass, 2006.

### **ASSIGNMENTS AND DATES**

- 1) Online conversation will be conducted regarding missional ecclesiology in light of the specific practices of worship, stewardship, discipleship, and leadership with an overall view toward congregational/ministry vitalization. Rather than writing/responding to papers in each of these areas, you will participate in an open-ended conversation as follows:
  - a) Read the books in any order.
  - b) Participate in an online cohort conversation in each of the topic areas as you engage the readings and your own context. Post your theological reflections/thoughts/questions on “worship in an age of mission,” “stewardship in an age of mission,” etc.
  - c) Enter the conversation at any time during your reading, post thoughts of any word limit. Add a new thread or respond to cohort members’ thoughts as appropriate.
  - d) Requirement: Provide at least two substantive posts under each of the four (worship, stewardship, discipleship, leadership) topic areas (i.e., something more than, “I agree with Ray!”). DUE: Finish your readings and postings by January 4, 2010.

2) Provide a working summary of the missional character of the inner life of your congregation/ministry as explored in this seminar through the four areas: worship, stewardship, discipleship, and leadership. Reflect critically on the integration of missional ecclesiology in your context, applying missional hermeneutics to the diverse practices of congregational life with an eye for congregational/ministry vitalization. Identify potential changes that may be indicated.

a) Post a 5-page essay (at least 1500 words). DUE: January 11, 2010.

b) Convene the congregational conversation team to review the missional summary. DUE: January 18, 2010.