

SYLLABUS

MSS570 The Urban Community

Nazarene Theological Seminary and Bresee Institute for Metro Ministries
Summer Module, 2005

Class Location: Shepherd Community,
1645 E Washington St, Indianapolis, 46201: phone 317-636-3838

Class Time: June 22-29, daily from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

(Wednesday, 22nd, the seminar begins at 8:30).

There is no session on Sunday, June 26.

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COURSE DESCRIPTION:

This seminar, done as a parallel course with “The Church of the Nazarene and Compassionate Ministries”, will examine the Church of the Nazarene as a case study of the development of community especially within the urban core, looking at community analysis in theoretical perspective and practical application. It will also study the development of Christian community and how it interfaces with other communities, both religious and secular. It will especially address the question as to whether “need-based” services enhance or destroy community and contrast that with “asset-based” community-building techniques and programs.

COURSE SETTING:

The seminar will meet initially and daily at Shepherd Community (address: 1645 E Washington St, Indianapolis, 46201: phone 317-636-3838) each morning at 9:00 a.m. (8:30 on Wednesday, the 22nd) and then will proceed to a variety of venues throughout Indianapolis that will include participation in One Heart-Many Hands, various compassionate ministry sites, related General Assembly workshops, and committee sessions, CM exhibit areas, etc. Lunch will be provided.

Each seminar participant will be required to contribute \$100 for lab fee expenses that will include transportation, lunches, organizational and resource expenses.

The seminar will include the participation of not only NTS students, but also students registered directly with BIMM.

OBJECTIVES:

1. To understand the human need for community.
2. To understand the dynamics of community
3. To understand how cities are formed to meet this need
4. To understand how the pathologies or the dysfunctionality of cities destroys community.
5. To understand how a sense of community can be repaired in the city
6. To acknowledge and affirm experiences of community within the city
7. To understand the role of the Church in creating/restoring community
8. To observe where religious community is or is not occurring in the city
9. To seek means by which religious community may interact and engage the city in community-affirming ways
10. To experience community within the seminar context
11. To offer a positive critique to the Church of the Nazarene in ways to build meaningful, transformative community for this day and age.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS:

1. Attendance at six full day sessions. The day that the participant chooses to not attend should be indicated in advance.
2. Reading of all required texts, handouts and supplementary materials and the reporting of such reading, giving the name, the pages read, and the total read.
3. Writing a review of one of the suggested books: The review should be from 3-4 pages using the following outline: 1. Overview; 2. Critique; 3. Application.
4. An interview project with persons engaged in formal community-building ministry activity. Each project will have four facets: formal descriptive written documentation of the ministry (i.e. brochures; advertising pieces, bulletins, formal documents, i.e. constitution, web page materials); a staff interview giving an overview of the ministry; a recipient's view of the ministry; and a synthesis summary statement of the coherency or lack of coherency of these three separate reports.
5. A journal of the activities of the seminar with the right side narrating the information and nature of the experience and the left side offering personal reflections, questions, and desire for more information, especially from a community-building perspective.
6. A written "theological" discussion of the rationale of some aspect of community service, community development or community transformation such as "How did Jesus develop community?" "To what degree should community be inclusive?" "Personal salvation versus community transformation", etc. This should be 5-8 pages long.
7. A narrative about your own community involvement. What communities are you, or have you been a part of? What are their strengths and weaknesses? How should they be informed or molded by a Christian view of community? Where do you see genuine community happening? This report will be 3-5 pages long.

These assignments will be due in the Kansas City office by **July 31st** and may be sent hard copy or by e-mail attachment to Flectht@aol.com. Please keep personal copies of each of these assignments as backup should sent copies be lost.

REQUIRED TEXTS:

1. The "Reader" distributed in CD form at the time of the initial class.
2. Compassionate Ministry articles and curriculum on the CD
3. The Careless Society: Community and Its Counterfeits, by John McKnight
Or
4. Building Communities from the Inside Out: A Path Toward Finding and Mobilizing a Community's Assets, by John P. Kretzmann, John L. McKnight
5. A Public Charity: Religion and Social Welfare in Indianapolis: 1929-2002, by Mary L. Mapes
6. Making Room: Recovering Hospitality as a Christian Tradition by Christine D. Pohl