

IN 254W What Every Pastor Should Know About the Business of Church: A Mini MBA for Clergy
Instructor: Dennis L. Monroe
Fall 2021

Elective; Open to all.
One credit.
Credit/No Credit grade.

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

The course provides a Mini-Masters of Business Administration or what is sometimes known as an Executive MBA. The course surveys necessary components of the financial and business world associated with nonprofits and specifically church/parishes with particular focus on themes relevant to a Lutheran church. The course covers areas from financial and accounting principles; business structure; fund raising techniques; understanding tax and estate planning considerations; bank borrowing; basics of employment law; working with advisors, lawyers, accountants, insurance agents, and financial advisors; creative approaches to stewardship; legal liability issues; and hiring support staff.

COURSE OBJECTIVES:

1. To provide the student background and foundations for dealing with the business and financial issues of the congregation.
2. To provide clear understanding of planning and selected topics that will make the church successful from a business standpoint.

PROCEDURE:

Introduction to various topics, case studies related to these topics, discussion of real-life situations, and review of actual documents.

EVALUATION:

The students will be provided various fact-based situations/case studies and will be asked to write 3 papers on the way they would address these situations by providing a clear understanding of the central issues. If a given paper requires more work, the student will be asked to redo it.

BIBLIOGRAPHY:

There will be specific reading materials provided by the professor that will be posted online.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

Networking with other pastors and potential business leaders as it relates to these issues.