

## **MN 294 LEADERSHIP IN MULTI-POINT PARISHES**

**Instructor:** Mark Yackel-Juleen

**Fall Semester 2021**

**Fulfills:** Rural Requirement, Mission Development & Redevelopment Concentration

Open to all students, 1 Credit Hour, Credit/No Credit only

This course studies the changing patterns of Small Town and Rural (STaR) ministry and the formation of multi-point parishes. In many regions, STaR congregations cooperating with other congregations in various types of configurations are the norm rather than the exception. The area parish, a configuration of multiple congregations with a staff of pastors is a cutting edge and growing model for STaR mission. This course addresses the challenges, the art, and the opportunities for ministry in these settings. Development, leadership, administration, and planning aspects of this type of ministry will be explored.

### ***Course Objectives:***

- Participants will explore some of the biblical and theological foundations that inform cooperative ministry endeavors [Practice of Biblical and Theological Wisdom];
- Participants will explore the contextual socio-economic triggers that lead to the development of cooperative models as well as processes for developing them [Practice of Immersion in Context];
- Participants will gain insight into the practical, logistical realities of pastoral leadership in multi-point parishes [Practice of Missio Dei in Word and Sacrament]; and,
- Participants will be able to assess congregational realities and formulate strategies for cooperative ministry that address the challenges and take advantages of the opportunities in a particular ministry context [Practice of Complex Analysis, Practice of Immersion in Context].

### ***Procedure:***

The class will meet for one hour synchronously on Friday morning. The class times will be devoted to discussion. Content will take the form of the assigned readings, recorded lectures, videos, and interviews to be viewed prior to class time. The discussions will address the content presented the prior week or the expected readings. Please inform the instructor if you need to be absent from class in any given week.

For *Writing Style Guidelines & Plagiarism* and *Accommodations Policy* see course syllabus.

### ***Required Reading:***

#### ***Books:***

*Cooperating Congregations: Portraits of Mission Strategies.* Gilson A.C. Waldkoenig and William O. Avery. Herndon, VA: The Alban Institute, 1999. ISBN: 1566992257

*Dynamics of Small Town Ministry.* Lawrence W. Farris. Bethesda, MD: Alban Institute, Inc., 2000. ISBN: 1566992281

*Size Transitions in Congregations,* Beth Ann Gaede, ed. Herndon, VA: The Alban Institute, 2001. ISBN: 156699246X

#### ***Articles:***

“Multiple Point Parish Report,” Kenneth W. Inskeep and Jacqueline Skrypek, ELCA Department for Research and Evaluation, November 21, 2002.

“Rural Churches Band Together”, Marcia Hahn, Northeastern Iowa Synod, 2010

”Building Healthy Communities Together: A Framework for Area Ministry Strategy in the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America”, Dave Daubert and Amy Walter-Peterson, Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, 2014.

“The Supply of and Demand for Clergy in the ELCA” Adam DeHoek and Kenneth Inskeep, ELCA Department for Research and Evaluation, Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, March 2016

### ***Evaluation:***

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| Attendance         | 20% |
| Participation      | 20% |
| Midterm Assignment | 20% |
| Final Assignment   | 40% |