

IN 252W BASIC BUSINESS PRACTICES FOR PASTORS

Instructor: Ann Fritschel

Open to: Continuing and final year students

1 credit hour, credit/no credit only

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

Not every pastor is expected to be an accountant, but there are basic financial and business practices about which a pastor needs to be aware in order to enhance God's mission in their place of ministry. This course will help students begin to learn to read financial reports, plan and develop different types of budgets, explore endowments, memorial funds, capital campaigns, as well as questions about insurance, liability and transparency. This course works from an understanding that many pastors are mathematically disinclined.

COURSE OBJECTIVES:

Using the ELCA's competencies in a well-formed stewardship leader upon completion of this course, the student will be able to:

Assess a congregation's money/finance/stewardship culture (ethics, transparency, etc.)

Comprehend how the basics of congregational finance (budgeting, balance sheets, risk management, etc.) impact the mission of a congregation

Read a congregational budget sheet and offer a plan to guide a congregation's budgeting process

Develop familiarity with legal, tax and insurance matters

PROCEDURE:

Lectures and discussion will focus on readings from Jamieson's *Ministry and Money*, actual examples of congregational financial reports and policies, explorations of best practices and case studies. As students receive information from interviewing congregations they are invited to bring them to class for discussion and insight.

EVALUATION:

Regular class attendance and participation (40%) and a presentation on a topic of their choice (60%).

BIBLIOGRAPHY:

Required: Janet Jamieson and Phillip Jamieson, *Ministry and Money: A Practical Guide for Pastors*