COURSE DESCRIPTION: A study of the rewards and challenges of ministering in a small church. Attention is given to time management, spiritual discipline, administrative tasks, preaching, financial management, and other tasks found in leading a small church. Emphasis will be given to ministry characteristics which result in greater satisfaction by both church and pastor.

COURSE OBJECTIVES:
1. Become knowledgeable of resources for ministering in a small church.
2. Develop skills and understandings of the special qualities of a small church.
3. Be able to apply leadership principles in a small church setting.
4. Develop an appreciation for those who serve in small churches.
5. Develop an appreciation for contributions of small churches to the Kingdom of God.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS:
1. Read the text as assigned.
2. Participate in class discussion.
3. Read a minimum two books from the list of resources in those suggested for further study.
4. Write a book report on the two additional books you have read.
5. Write a paper in which you identify ministry skills especially needed in a small church.

TEXTS: SHEPHERDING THE SMALL CHURCH, Glen Daman.
The following resources contribute to a better understanding of a small church ministry and are suggested for students’ further study: DEVELOPING YOUR SMALL CHURCH’S POTENTIAL, MAKING IT WORK, EFFECTIVE ADMINISTRATION IN THE SMALL CHURCH, Walrath; CHRISTIAN EDUCATION IN THE SMALL CHURCH, Walrath and Griggs; MONEY, MOTIVATION, AND MISSION IN THE SMALL CHURCH, Pappas and Walrath; PASTORING THE SINGLE-STAFF CHURCH, UNDERSTANDING THE SINGLE-STAFF CHURCH, and GUIDING THE SINGLE-STAFF CHURCH, D. G. McCoury; THE FIRST TWO YEARS, Bruce Grubbs; LEADING THE SMALL CHURCH, Doran McCarty. ATTENDING GOD’S BUSINESS, Gerald Keller, THE LIFE OF A RICH MAN, Mrs. W.N. Paschal

GRADING: A grade will be given for each class session. The grade may be based upon any class activity including written assignments. A student absent without excuse will receive “0” for that day. The final test will count for 1/3 of the semester grade. Attendance and all other work will count for 2/3 of the final grade. An assigned project turned in late will result in one letter grade reduction for each day past due. Five absences will result in a course grade of “F.” (If a student cannot attend the class, he should arrange with the Dean’s office to drop).

Note: All writing is to be prepared for grading using the grading rubric adopted by the faculty. All written work should be kept in a notebook to be turned in the last regular class period. This Syllabus is dated 5/23/11. It may be changed to better meet the needs of the class.