

GORDON CONWELL THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY
Center for Urban Ministerial Education

**The Public Church:
The Church Bearing Witness through Community Organizing**

General Information:

Instructors: Rev. Dr. Ray Hammond, M.D., M.A.
Cheri Andes, M.A.
Sr. Judy Donovan,
Dates: January 14 – 21, 2012
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Course Objectives:

- A. Explore the Biblical mandate for the mission of the church and the kinds of community engagement that most reflect witness;
- B. Develop a deeper understanding of relationships and power as instruments for witness that lead to building church and community;
- C. Gain firsthand exposure to central community organizing practices, including 1:1 relational meetings, and current creative initiatives; and
- D. Develop tools for building leadership in churches.

Course Requirements:

- A. Write a one page paper discussing why your faith and ministry lead you to learn about community organizing. Due: beginning of first class on January 14, 2011
- B. Write three (3) out of five (5) one page reflection papers. Reflection topics included in Course Outline. You can choose the two you will skip. Due at the beginning of class.
- C. Read the following three texts and write three (3) one page papers that respond to the questions listed below. Due: no later than Feb 3rd, 2011

- 1. Linthicum, Robert C. *Building a People of Power: Equipping Churches to Transform Their Communities*. Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press, 2003.

One page paper question: Identify one argument for building power that best appeals to you in this book, and respond to one of the author's examples of power being built in a community.

- 2. Freedman, Samuel G. *Upon This Rock: The Miracles of a Black Church*. New York: HarperCollins, 1993.

One page paper question: What are the key ingredients of Pastor Youngblood's

flourishing ministry?

3. Jacobsen, Dennis A. *Doing Justice: Congregations and Community Organizing*. Minneapolis: Fortress, 2001.

One page paper question: What piece of learning from this book would you most like to build into your ministry and why?

- D. Students can choose one of two options for their final project (see below). Criteria for grading both options will be distributed during the first day of class.
1. Write a 5-7 page paper outlining your plan for implementing, in your church or ministry, the ideas and concepts you have learned during this course. Support each part of your plan with references to specific content from both the readings and class sessions. Due: no later than Feb 3rd, 2011 by 3:00pm in the course mailbox at CUME or by email.
 2. Hold 1 House Meeting at your institution or in your community (church/faith institution, non-profit, among your neighbors, etc.). Incorporate the elements of an effective house meeting as taught during the course. The timing of the meeting is to be coordinated with the Teaching Assistant so that a professor or the TA can be available at the meeting.

Course Evaluation:

Class grades will be calculated as follows:

- 30% class participation
- 30% three (3) one page papers and three (3) one page reflections
- 40% final 5-7 page paper

Course Outline:

**Day 1 - The Call to power and Christian Community through
Saturday, 9 a.m. – 5 p.m.**

- A. Pressures on Family workshop
- B. House Meetings and Debrief
- C. Introductions
- D. Lunch Break
- E. Course Introduction
- F. The Biblical mandate for Christian community (John 15:12-17; 13:34-35)
- G. The Theological Anatomy of Power
- H. God and Power (What's God got to do with it)

Day 2 - Wrestling with the Power Concept

Monday, 6:30 p.m. – 9:30 p.m.

Reflection paper due the following day: What is my experience of power in my church?

- A. Discussion/reflection on the previous day
- B. Dominant Power vs. Relational Power
- C. What is Power Analysis
- D. Power Analysis of Bethel AME
(Homework – Stick – Figure)

Day 3 - The Power of Christian Relationships

Tuesday, 6:30 p.m. – 9:30 p.m.

Reflection paper due the following day: What makes a good relational meeting? How can relational meetings be useful in my ministry?

- A. Reflection on the previous day
- B. Relational Meetings and Contours of a Story
- C. 1-on-1 relational meetings

Day 4 – The Practice of Organizing: Interests, Action and Reflection

Wednesday, 6:30 p.m. – 9:30 p.m.

Reflection paper due the following day: What might be my self-interest in terms of community organizing?

- A. Discussion/reflection on the previous day
- B. The world as it is and the world as it should be
- C. Self-Interests
- D. The Pedagogy of Acting and Reflecting

Day 5 – Broad Based Organizations

Thursday, 6:30 p.m. – 9:30 p.m.

Reflection paper due the following day: What are the opportunities and challenges you would face in your institution organizing in a broad-based organization?

- A. Discussion/reflection on the previous day
- B. Broad Based Organizations
- C. Barriers to Broad Based Organizations
- D. Confronting the Barriers

Day 6 - Congregational Development

Friday, 6:30 p.m. – 9:30 p.m.

Reflection paper due the following day: What are the opportunities and challenges you would face in your institution organizing in a broad-based organization?

- A. Discussion/reflection on the previous day
- B. How to Build a deeper lever of community inside the church
- C. Case study – Congregational Development

Day 7 – Walking the Talk

Saturday, 9:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.

- A. Discussion/reflection on the previous day
- B. Nehemiah exercise
- C. Qualities of a Leader
- D. Action as Drama
- E. Reflection and Scheduling
- F. Elements of Evaluation

Bibliographic Recommendations

Alinsky, Saul D. *Reveille for Radicals*. New York: Vintage, 1989.

_____. *Rules for Radicals: A Pragmatic Primer for Realistic Radicals*. New York: Vintage, 1989.

Betten, Neil, and Michael J. Austin. *The Roots of Community Organizing, 1917-1939*. Philadelphia: Temple University Press, 1990.

Billingsley, Andrew. *Mighty Like a River: The Black Church and Social Reform*. New York: Oxford University Press, 1999.

Branch, Taylor. *Parting the Waters: America in the King Years 1954-63*. New York: Simon and Schuster, 1989.

Chambers, Edward T., with Michael A. Cowan. *Roots for Radicals: Organizing for Power, Action, and Justice*. New York: Continuum, 2003.

Christians Supporting Community Organizing. <<http://www.cscoweb.org>>

Cisneros, Henry G., ed. *Interwoven Destinies: Cities and the Nation*. New York: Norton and Company, 1993.

Day, Katie. *Prelude to Struggle: African American Clergy and Community Organizing for Economic Development in the 1990s*. New York: University Press of America, 2002.

Diani, Mario, and Doug McAdam, eds. *Social Movements and Networks: Relational Approaches to Collective Action*. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2003.

Fisher, Robert. *Let the People Decide: Neighborhood Organizing in America*. New York: Twayne, 1994.

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Fortress, 2001.

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Metaxas, Eric. *Amazing Grace: William Wilberforce and the Heroic Campaign to End Slavery*. HarperOne, 2007.

Milofsky, Carl. "Organization from the Community: A Case Study of Congregational Renewal." *Nonprofit and Voluntary Sector Quarterly* 26: 139-160.

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Rogers, Mary Beth. *Cold Anger: A Story of Faith and Power Relations*. Denton, TX: University of North Texas, 1990.

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Sider, Ronald J. *Rich Christians in an Age of Hunger: Moving from Affluence to Generosity*. Nashville: Thomas Nelson, 2005.

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Rest of the World? Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Books, 2005.

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