General Information:

Instructors: Rev. Dr. Ray Hammond, M.D., M.A.
Cheri Andes, M.A.
Dates: January 11 – 18, 2014
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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 12, 2013
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 4th, 2013

   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
One page paper question: What are the key ingredients of Pastor Youngblood’s flourishing ministry?


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 4th, 2013 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

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, 6:00 p.m. – 9:00 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, 6:00 p.m. – 9:00 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, 6:00 p.m. – 9:00 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, 6:00 p.m. – 9:00 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, 6:00 p.m. – 9:00 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. – 3:00 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


Jacobsen, Dennis A. Doing Justice: Congregations and Community Organizing. Minneapolis:

_______. Where Do We Go From Here: Chaos or Community? Harper and Row, 1967.


_______, The Scandal of the Evangelical Conscience: Why Are Christians Living Just Like the


“Twelve Reasons to Organize.” <http://www.cscoweb.org/12reas.html>


“What is Congregation-Based Community Organizing?” <http://www.cscoweb.org/dart.html>