



The University of Manchester



**School of Arts, Languages & Cultures, Faculty of Humanities
Course Unit Descriptor**

23.02.2016

GENERAL INFORMATION

Credit Rating	10
Course Unit Title	Transforming Congregations
Unit Code	274 (8274 for distance learning version)
Unit Level	2
Contact Hours	22 (n/a for distance learning version)
FHEQ Level	5
Teaching Period	Flexible delivery
Teaching Staff	Rev. Simon M. Jones
ECTS	5

EXTERNAL FACING COURSE UNIT OVERVIEW

The unit explores the cycle of renewal and decline in Scripture and in church history, taking note of the characteristics of renewal movements. By exploring the dynamics of congregational life it identifies factors which make for the renewal of churches in spirituality, worship, order and mission and considers their application in today's context. In particular it focuses on the place of preaching, pastoral care and the sacraments as the means by which those in pastoral leadership may manage change and nurture healthy congregations. Students are enabled to apply a variety of tools of review to their own placements and contexts.

COURSE UNIT OVERVIEW

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AIMS

To identify and explore the factors which contribute to the renewal of congregations in spirituality, order and mission and to equip participants to be agents of constructive change.

LEARNING OUTCOMES

Knowledge and Understanding

By the end of this unit students will be able to:

- Give an informed account of the nature, content and purpose of congregational studies

Intellectual Skills

By the end of this unit students will be able to:

- Evaluate critically recent approaches to the dynamics of congregational life

Practical Skills

By the end of this unit students will be able to:

- Analyse contexts and show critical awareness of their impact on their ministries
- Appraise their own church contexts and propose appropriate and pastorally responsible strategies for their development

Transferable Skills and Personal Qualities

By the end of this course students will be able to:

- Demonstrate ability to use relevant information to engender change
- Identify challenges and obstacles to successful adaptation to new ideas

Employability Skills

The ability to analyse, identify and engage in effective change management are skills developed within this unit, and are crucial in a variety of graduate employment contexts

SYLLABUS

1. Introduction to congregational studies
2. Trends in congregational life
3. Social change and religious belief
4. Models of congregational transformation 1
5. Congregations and place
6. Models of congregational transformation 2
7. Renewal movements and paradigm shifts
8. Models of congregational transformation 3
9. Storytelling and congregational change
10. Models of congregational transformation 4
11. Vision and inclusion

TEACHING AND LEARNING METHODS

274: Interactive lectures

8274: Distance learning

ASSESSMENT METHODS

Assessment task	Length	Weighting within unit
Formative:		
• 274: Audit document plan	750 words	n/a
• 8274: Audit document plan	750 words	n/a
Summative:		
• 274: An audit and strategy document	2500 words	100%
• 8274: An essay or an audit and strategy document	2500 words	100%

<i>and a learning journal*</i>	Pass/fail*
<p>* Distance learning students are required to pass this element. So long as this element has been passed, they will be eligible for compensation if the overall unit mark is within the compensation zone (30-39%), and the compensatable credit allowance as set out in the Degree Regulations has not been exceeded.</p>	

FEEDBACK METHODS

- Oral feedback in class (274 Only)
- Written feedback on formative and summative written submissions within 15 working days

REQUISITES

Available on which programme(s)?	BA in Theology
Available as Free Choice (UG) or to other programmes (PG)?	Available as free choice (UG)
Pre-requisite units	n/a
Co-requisite units	n/a

RECOMMENDED READING

Material posted with each session on Moodle

Reading list on Perlego: [274 reading curated by Perlego | Perlego](#)

Sparks, Paul, Tim Soerens, and Dwight J Friesen *The New Parish: How Neighbourhood Churches are Transforming Mission, Discipleship and Community* (Downers Grove IL: IVP Praxis, 2014) available on EBSCO books via the library tab on Moodle

See the course outline on Moodle for full information

SCHEDULED ACTIVITY HOURS

22 contact hours (N/A for distance learning version)

PLACEMENT HOURS

N/A

INDEPENDENT STUDY HOURS

78 (100 for distance learning version)

ADDITIONAL NOTES

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APPROVAL

Date approved by UGC	
Valid from Date (Publishing Date)	