



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	<b>Transforming Congregations</b>
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. Congregational pathology and health
2. Natural church development
3. Building healthy churches
4. Purpose-driven churches
5. The nature of renewal movements
6. Vision and its realisation
7. Two case studies
8. Two case studies
9. Two case studies
10. The dynamics and ethics of change
11. Towards an agenda for renewal

## TEACHING AND LEARNING METHODS

274: Interactive lectures  
8274: Distance learning

## ASSESSMENT METHODS

Assessment task	Length	Weighting within unit
<b>Formative:</b>		
• 274: Audit document plan	750 words	n/a
• 8274: Audit document plan	750 words	n/a
<b>Summative:</b>		
• 274: An audit and strategy document	2500 words	100%
• 8274: An essay or an audit and strategy document <i>and a learning journal*</i>	2500 words	100%
		Pass/fail*

\* 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.

## 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

- Avis, P., *A Church Drawing Near; Spirituality and Mission in a Post-Christian Culture* (Edinburgh: T and T Clark, 2003)
- Beasley-Murray, P., *Transform your Church: 50 very practical steps* (Leicester: IVP, 2005)
- Beer, D., *50 Ways to Help your Church Grow* (Eastbourne: Kingsway, 2000)
- Croft, S., *Transforming Communities: Re-imagining the Church for the 21<sup>st</sup> Century* (London: DLT, 2002)\*\*
- Breen, Mike, *Leading Missional Communities* (Pawley's Island: 3 Dimension Ministries, 2013)
- Breen, Mike and Absolom, Alex, *Launching Missional Communities – a field guide* (Pawleys Island, SC: 3DM Publications, 2010)
- Cameron, H., Richter, P., Davies, D., and Ward, F., eds, *Studying Local Churches: A Handbook* (London: SCM Press, 2005)\*\*
- Cameron, Helen, *Resourcing Mission: Practical Skills for Changing Churches* (London: SCM, 2011)
- Dadswell, David, *Consultancy Skills for Mission and Ministry* (London: SCM, 2011)
- Finney, J. *Fading Splendour? A New Model of Renewal* (London: DLT, 2000)
- Guest, M., Tusting, K. and Woodhead, L., eds., *Congregational Studies in the UK* (Aldershot: Ashgate, 2004)\*\*
- Hocken, P., *The Strategy of the Spirit? Worldwide renewal and revival in the established Church and modern movements* (Guildford: Eagle, 1996)
- Hopewell, J. F.. *Congregation: Stories and Structures* (London: SCM, 1987)
- Hopkins, Bob and Breen, Mike, *Clusters: creative mid-sized missional communities* (Pawleys Island, SC: 3DM Publications, 2007)
- McNeal, Reggie, *Missional Communities: The Rise of the Post-Congregational Church* Jossey-Bass Leadership Network Series[55] [e-book] (San Francisco: Jossey-Bass, 2011)
- Percy, M. and Markham, I., *Why Liberal Churches are Growing* (London: Continuum, 2006)\*\*

Schwarz, C. A., *Natural Church Development: A Practical Guide to a New Approach* (Bedordh: BCGA, 1996)

Snyder, H., *Signs of the Spirit: How God Reshapes the Church* (Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 1989)

Snyder, H., *Liberating the Church: The Ecology of Church and Kingdom* (London: Marshalls, 1983)

Snyder, H., *The Community of the King* (Downers Grove; IVP, 1977)\*\*

Stackhouse, I., *The Gospel-Driven Church: Retrieving classical ministries for contemporary revivalism* (Carlisle: Paternoster, 2004)\*\*

Warren, Rick, *The Purpose Driven Church* (Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 1995)

Warren, R., *The Healthy Churches' Handbook* (London: Church House Press, 2004)\*\*

Wraight, H., and Wraight, P., *Back from the Brink: Stories of Churches which Refused to Die* (London: CRA, 2006)

Wright, N. G., *Challenge to Change: A Radical Agenda for Baptists* (Eastbourne: Kingsway, 1991)\*\*

**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**

**APPROVAL**

Date approved by UGC	
Valid from Date (Publishing Date)	