

# SMALL CHURCHES



are the  
RIGHT SIZE

BY DAVID R. RAY

Foreword by Jackson W. Carroll

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# Small Churches Are The Right Size

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## **Small Churches Are The Right Size:**

Small Churches are the Right Size David R. Ray, 1982      **Indispensable Guide for Smaller Churches** David R. Ray, 2009-06-01 This book complements the author's earlier titles from The Pilgrim Press *The Big Small Church Book* and *Wonderful Worship in Smaller Churches*. Ray expands on the earlier works by treating such subjects as communal theology, theories and tools for understanding smaller churches, worship, education and finance. His vision is to lead even smaller churches toward the year 2030.

**Inside the Small Church** Anthony G. Pappas, 2001-11-01 Even as so-called megachurches capture the attention of many church watchers, small congregations continue to dominate America's religious landscape in both rural and urban settings. Although sometimes obscured by their larger siblings, these small churches play a prominent role and hold a unique place in both local and national cultures. How can leaders help to keep these often at-risk churches alive and to meet their potential for ministry? Small church expert Tony Pappas has gathered a cornucopia of essays into an indispensable book for anyone interested in the rich life of these small but significant congregations. Drawing on classic and updated articles by a variety of writers from his own small church newsletter *The Five Stones*, from *Alban*, *Journals of Action*, *Information and Congregations*, and adding new pieces developed especially for this volume, Pappas provides timeless ideas on learning to value, pastor develop and lead the small church. In addition to time-honored articles by the editor, other contributors to this volume include Sherry and Douglas Alan Walrath, Gary Farley, Lawrence W. Farris, Loren Mead, Caroline Westerhoff, Steven Burt, Carl Dudley, David Ray, James Lowery, and a host of others known for their work and love for the small church. Readers of *Inside the Small Church* will come away with a renewed love and appreciation for these vital congregations as well as with new skills for ministry.

**The Everychurch Guide to Growth** Elmer L. Towns, C. Peter Wagner, Thom S. Rainer, 1998-08-01 Shows churches of every size how to revive and expand their ministries, breaking through barriers and growing into the future.

**Entering the World of the Small Church** Anthony G. Pappas, 2000-11-01 This demonstrates amazingly with unflinching honesty and a wonderfully redeeming sense of humor, a resource especially helpful in motivating change and growth by mobilizing the natural strengths of small churches. For you who have been looking for a reliable guide to interpret the world of the small church, look no further since this provides all the insights you need. Includes images and models and strategies that reflect the profound uniqueness of the small church. It clearly shows leaders how to lead within the dynamics and culture of the small congregation. This is theologically sound and eminently practical. A must reading for anyone who is or plans to be a leader in a small church. Excellent for small group study.

*Introducing Christian Education* Michael J. Anthony, 2001-09 Learn how to successfully integrate biblical studies and theology with education, sociology and psychology in this introductory textbook on Christian education.

**Vital Ministry Issues** Roy Check B. Zuck, 2004-08-26 Vital, pertaining to life, essential of critical importance. Ministry: the giving of service, care or aid; the function of the Christian minister or pastor. Issues: a point or matter the decision of which is of special or

public importance A dictionary can define the terms but the real issues of ministry are faced each day by pastors teachers missionaries and Christian leaders Vital Ministry Issues explores a wide range of concerns and conflicts in contemporary ministry from the nature and responsibilities of the pastoral role to the organization and leadership of the local church Some of the chapters included in this volume are The World's Challenge to the Church by John R W Stott Priorities for the Local Church by Raymond C Ortlund The Place of the Small Church in Today's World by Kenneth O Gangel Court Involvement in Church Discipline by Jay A Quine Everyone involved in ministry from the pastor to the lay church leader to the church staff member will appreciate the insights and focus of Vital Ministry Issues      Small Congregation, Big Potential Lyle E. Schaller, 2003 There are many questions that leaders of small membership congregations ask themselves about their church's future Lyle Schaller suggests that two in particular should rise to the top of the list What is the right size of a church and should these congregations make their plans on the basis of few resources and fewer options If you believe that believes that small membership churches are distinctive places of Christian witness and service then this book is for you      *Christian Education in the Small Membership Church* Karen B. Tye, 2008 Lead your church with imaginative and holistic Christian Education      **Toward the Better Country** L. Gail Irwin, 2014-01-13 At a time when pews are not as full as they used to be many churches are struggling to stay open But no matter how creative or hard working some congregations are unable to revitalize their ministry Is it time to talk about closing your church Are there any other options for your future Toward the Better Country tells the stories of real congregations that have faced a significant downsizing merger or closure and found positive ways to move forward in ministry While no local church is meant to live forever congregations that have chosen to faithfully complete their ministry are finding hope in the new ventures born from passing on their spiritual and material legacies      Middle Class Pentecostalism in Argentina Jens Köhrsen, 2016-04-08 In Middle Class Pentecostalism in Argentina Inappropriate Spirits Jens Köhrsen offers an intriguing account of how the middle class relates to Latin America's most vibrant religious movement Based on pervasive field research this study suggests that Pentecostalism stands in tension with the social imaginary of the middle class and is perceived as an inappropriate lower class practice As such middle class Pentecostals negotiate the appropriateness of their religious belonging by demonstrating distinctive tastes and styles of Pentecostalism Abstaining from the expressiveness emotionality and strong spiritual practice that have marked the movement they create a milder and socially more acceptable form of Pentecostalism Increasingly turning into a middle class movement this style has the potential to embody the future shape of Pentecostalism      **By What Authority Do We Teach?** Robert W. Pazmiño, 2002-04-29 To reject power and its legitimate use is ultimately to reject God's gift and intention for Christians as we live in the world writes Robert W Pazmino He defines what authority is and how it is perceived by and operates in various Christian communities He applies these factors and the need for confident authoritative teachers specifically to the ministry of Christian education By What Authority Do We Teach completes a trilogy covering key elements

of evangelical education Also in print are Foundational Issues in Christian Education an agenda of theological sociological psychological curricular and other concerns and Principles and Practices of Christian Education which integrates conversion and connection into the teaching task     *Church Building* Ralph Adams Cram,1924     One Size Doesn't Fit All Gary L. McIntosh,1999-08 Different churches grow in different ways This book will help you figure out your church s orientation and show the way to healthy growth     **How to Hit the Ground Running** Neal O. Michell,2024-09-03 The definitive guide to changes in congregational leadership revised to reflect the needs of today s church Designed for the clergy and lay leadership of congregations in the midst of transitions this volume offers a quick start guide to help clergy and lay leadership with topics from defining mission to developing effective decision making processes How to Hit the Ground Running contains a program for an effective leadership change that begins one month before a transition and continues for the first eighteen months of a new pastor priest or rector s tenure With this revision author Neal Michell has updated the text throughout to reflect current concerns of church leaders including more coverage of leadership in small congregations and approaches to empowering lay leaders Designed in a user friendly format the volume includes step by step guidance and exercises to ensure that rather than being stalled and directionless a period of transition is dynamic and purposeful     Big Lessons from Little Places Kay Collier McLaughlin,2015-03-01 Churchwide discussions on structure and growth tend to focus on the importance of increasing butts in the pews and bucks in the plates Suggestions have been made on merging smaller dioceses to create larger ones and closing the doors of congregations which do not have Sunday attendance of at least 200 This is a model of scarcity without consideration of the value and abundance to be found in small churches Discover the roles possibilities promise and potential of being a small church Travel with Kay Collier McLaughlin as she takes the back roads and byways of the United States visiting small churches that are making a difference in their community Each chapter tells a story about an example of faithfulness in the life of a small congregation and relates that story to the essentials of faithful living and being church The book challenges the decision makers in the Episcopal Church to think beyond traditional measures and shortterm economic fixes to discover the life giving opportunities and models presented by the smallest congregations     *Church Planting for a Greater Harvest* C. Peter Wagner,2010-03-01 For the past four decades this highly effective method of evangelism has been vastly overlooked As a result large segments of the population have remained unreached No single church can meet every person s needs that s why planting new churches ones that will meet the needs of speci c groups is so necessary Now after ten years of research and teaching on the subject C Peter Wagner shares his knowledge and insight in this comprehensive guide on how to plant a church It s an up to date textbook on church planting and a helpful summary of church growth principles in general Church Planting for a Greater Harvest contains everything Wagner taught in his highly successful How to Plant a Church seminar a presentation that was offered sixteen times and drew 5 000 participants Today as we see a renewed interest in church planting the Lord is blessing the efforts of church planters everywhere The future can

be an exciting time of growth for churches Get ready to be carried into what could be the greatest era of harvest the world has ever seen      De-sizing the Church Karl Vaters,2024-04-02 2024 Outreach Magazine Church Resource of the Year Big churches didn't create the problems facing today's congregations But our obsession with size has come at a great cost We're obsessed with bigness Supersized meals and TV screens Square footage And big churches What's the size of your church That question has stirred insecurities or stroked the ego of too many pastors For a long time we thought bigger was better Church growth and numbers dominated our thoughts and conversations But more than ever people are feeling disconnected Trust in the church is dwindling In De-sizing the Church pastor Karl Vaters takes us on a multi-faceted journey through our centuries-long obsession with size both in and outside the church and how it has negatively affected those who serve and worship in big and small congregations alike He also dispels some prevailing myths and affirms what was good and true about the Church Growth Movement And he invites us to consider how removing church size from the equation can be an essential element in rebuilding trust restoring relationships and renewing our spiritual lives This book reframes the way we see the size of our churches and helps us see health and fruitfulness through de-sized lenses The result Renewed congregations that reach surrounding communities and faithfully engage culture      The Living Church ,1959      Life and Labour of the People in London Charles Booth,1902

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