

Studying Congregations

Nancy Ammerman, et al

Introduction

Voluntary groupings

Frames for study

1. Ecology—churches, other organizations, history, technology, community, denom.

2. Culture—rituals, assimilation, work & play, artifacts, stories and accounts

3. Resources or capital—money, people, buildings, shared exp., commitments

4. Process—how we do things here—power and authority

5. Leadership

a. Get a realistic picture

b. Vision

c. Embody vision in its corporate life

(System or AGIL model)

Theological (and) Biblical Base

God, man, creation, sin, providence, redemption, ecclesiology, end of time

Draw upon ones memory and imagination

Why is the church here. What is it to do. How. To whom?

Ecology

Timeline

Space—community, other churches

Network maps—individuals and families

Demographics

Cultural worlds

Organizations/power relations

Culture and Identity

Size, place, ethnicity, ecclesiology, history, role, ses

Activities—ritual, SS, Fellowship, Tasks, ministry, assimilation

Artifacts—buildings, bible, baptistry

Accounts—see theology, often truth shines through

(Missing—standard roles)

Process

Formal and informal

Place of conflict

Resources

members, commitment, (reputation) money, space

Leadership

pix, vision, implement

Assn. family of appropriately diverse Baptist churches inviting people to come into the Kingdom of God, disciple believes and provide ministry with others.