

*“The mission of Tyndale Seminary is to provide Christ-centred graduate theological education for leaders in the church and society whose lives are marked by intellectual maturity, spiritual vigour and moral integrity, and whose witness will faithfully engage culture with the Gospel.”*

<b>Course</b>	<b>BUILDING THE CHURCH THROUGH SMALL GROUPS</b> CHED 0663 / PAST 0644 / SPIR 0644
<b>Date, Time, and Delivery Format</b>	JANUARY 3 – 7, 2023 TUESDAY – SATURDAY, 9:00AM – 4:00PM IN-PERSON ONLY
<b>Instructor</b>	<b>W. DEAN BURSEY, EdD &amp; URIAH POND, EdD</b> Email: <a href="mailto:dbursey@tyndale.ca">dbursey@tyndale.ca</a> & <a href="mailto:upond@tyndale.ca">upond@tyndale.ca</a>
<b>Class Information</b>	The classes will be in-person from Tuesday to Saturday from 9:00am to 4:00pm each day. In addition to varied instructional activities, each day will include activities reflecting a small group experience.
<b>Course Material</b>	Access course material at <a href="https://classes.tyndale.ca">classes.tyndale.ca</a> or other services at <a href="#">Tyndale One</a> . Course emails will be sent to your @MyTyndale.ca e-mail account only.

## I. COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course explores the basic principles for building and understanding the dynamics and problems of small groups. Specific attention will focus on leadership.

## II. LEARNING OUTCOMES

At the end of the course, students will be able to:

1. Examine the importance of small groups and of small group leaders to building community within the congregation, including how small groups align with one’s philosophy of ministry, in a reflective paper.
2. Assess the role of small groups and small group leaders on the following, through in-class discussions and reflection:
  - Biblical literacy,

- Spiritual formation,
  - Pastoral care, and
  - Integration of diverse ministries within a congregation
3. Identify and critique the creation and use of small groups, and the development of lay leadership in the local congregation, through readings and discussion.
  4. Co-author a handbook for training small group leaders.

### **III. COURSE REQUIREMENTS**

#### **A. REQUIRED READING**

Bennett, Diana C. *Renewing your Church through Healthy Small Groups*. Lexington: LTI Publications, 2016.

Donahue, Bill and Russ Robinson. *Building a Life-Changing Small Group Ministry*. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 2012.

Hawkins, Greg L. and Cally Parkinson. *Move: What 1000 Churches Reveal about Spiritual Growth*. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 2011.

Webb, Heather. *Small Group Leadership as Spiritual Direction: Practical Ways to Blend an Ancient Art into your Contemporary Community*. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 2005.

#### **B. SUPPLEMENTARY / RECOMMENDED READING AND TOOLS**

Tyndale recommends [www.stepbible.org](http://www.stepbible.org) – a free and reputable online resource developed by Tyndale House (Cambridge, England) – for word searches of original-language texts, as well as for topical searches, interlinear texts, dictionaries, etc. Refer to the library for other [online resources for Biblical Studies](#).

#### **C. GUIDELINES FOR INTERACTIONS**

Tyndale University prides itself in being a trans-denominational community. We anticipate our students to have varied viewpoints which will enrich the discussions in our learning community. Therefore, we ask our students to be charitable and respectful in their interactions with each other, and to remain focused on the topic of discussion, out of respect to others who have committed to being a part of this learning community. Please refer to “Guidelines for Interactions” on your course resource page at [classes.tyndale.ca](http://classes.tyndale.ca).

## D. ASSIGNMENTS AND GRADING

### 1. Book Review: 30%

Read the four required textbooks, and provide a one-page critique of each, focusing particularly on one critical issue as it relates to small groups. This assignment is related to Outcome #3.

**Due:** February 10, 2023

### 2. Reflective Paper: 20%

Write a 3-page paper on your philosophy of ministry and how small groups fit within your philosophy. This assignment is related to Outcome #1.

**Due:** February 17, 2023

### 3. Major Project - Handbook: 50%

With your 'small group', complete **one** section of the 'Handbook for Training Small Group Leaders', reflecting careful thinking and the scholarly literature you have examined. Your group will contribute one section to the handbook, which is to be written in such manner that it could be used as a training workbook without further development. You are encouraged to collaborate with other groups on the overall design of the handbook to reflect good instructional pedagogy, and to be creative and complete in handbook content. This assignment is related to Outcome #4.

(Further details and a Handbook outline will be provided in class.)

**Due:** March 03, 2023

## E. EQUITY OF ACCESS

Students with permanent or temporary disabilities who need academic accommodations must [contact](#) the [Accessibility Services](#) at the [Centre for Academic Excellence](#) to [register](#) and discuss their specific needs. *New students* must self-identify and register with the Accessibility Office at the beginning of the semester or as early as possible to access appropriate services. *Current students* must renew their plans as early as possible to have active accommodations in place.

## F. SUMMARY OF ASSIGNMENTS AND GRADING

Evaluation is based upon the completion of the following assignments:

Required Reading and Book Review	30 %
Reflective Paper	20 %
Major Project - Handbook	50 %
Total Grade	100 %

## G. GENERAL GUIDELINES FOR THE SUBMISSION OF WRITTEN WORK

For proper citation style, consult the [tip sheet, “Documenting Chicago Style”](#) (Tyndale e-resource) or the full edition of the [Chicago Manual of Style Online](#), especially ch. 14. For citing scripture texts, refer to sections 10.44 to 10.48 and 14.238 to 14.241 from the *Chicago Manual of Style* or reference the [tip sheet, “How to Cite Sources in Theology”](#).

### Academic Integrity

Integrity in academic work is required of all our students. Academic dishonesty is any breach of this integrity, and includes such practices as cheating (the use of unauthorized material on tests and examinations), submitting the same work for different classes without permission of the instructors; using false information (including false references to secondary sources) in an assignment; improper or unacknowledged collaboration with other students, and plagiarism. Tyndale University takes seriously its responsibility to uphold academic integrity, and to penalize academic dishonesty.

Students are encouraged to consult [Writing Services](#). Citation and other [tip sheets](#).

Students should also consult the current [Academic Calendar](#) for academic policies on Academic Honesty, Gender Inclusive Language in Written Assignments, Late Papers and Extensions, Return of Assignments, and Grading System.

### Research Ethics

All course-based assignments involving human participants requires ethical review and may require approval by the [Tyndale Research Ethics Board \(REB\)](#). Check with the Seminary Dean’s Office ([aau@tyndale.ca](mailto:aau@tyndale.ca)) before proceeding.

## H. COURSE EVALUATION

Tyndale Seminary values quality in the courses it offers its students. End-of-course evaluations provide valuable student feedback and are one of the ways that Tyndale Seminary works

towards maintaining and improving the quality of courses and the student's learning experience. Student involvement in this process is critical to enhance the general quality of teaching and learning.

Before the end of the course, students will receive a MyTyndale email with a link to the online course evaluation. The link can also be found in the left column on the course page. The evaluation period is 2 weeks; after the evaluation period has ended, it cannot be reopened.

Course Evaluation results will not be disclosed to the instructor before final grades in the course have been submitted and processed. Student names will be kept confidential and the instructor will only see the aggregated results of the class.

#### **IV. COURSE SCHEDULE, CONTENT AND REQUIRED READINGS**

The tentative course schedule is provided below. However, adjustments may be made to accommodate in-class discussions and activities.

##### **Day 1**

- Purpose of small groups, including their role in discipleship through Christian education, pastoral care, and building community
- Design and administration of a small group ministry within a congregation

##### **Day 2**

- Curriculum for small group ministry, including worship, prayer, teaching, pastoral care, and service

##### **Day 3**

- The nature of groups, including life-cycle, group dynamics, etc.
- Discipleship and evangelism through small groups

##### **Day 4**

- Facilitating small group meetings, including conflict resolution

##### **Day 5**

- Small group leader training
- Coaching

## V. SELECTED BIBLIOGRAPHY

([Tyndale Library](#) supports this course with [e-journals](#), [e-books](#), and the [mail delivery of books](#) and circulating materials. See the [Library FAQ page](#).)

- Arnold, Jeffrey. *The Big Book on Small Groups*. Downers Grove: InterVarsity Press, 2004.
- Astley, Jeff. *Ordinary Theology: Looking, Listening and Learning in Theology*. London: Routledge, 2002.
- Bennett, Diana C. *Renewing your Church through Healthy Small Groups*. Lexington: LTI Publications, 2016.
- Bonhoeffer, Dietrich. *Life Together: The Classic Exploration of Christian Community*. New York: HarperCollins, 1978.
- Cloud, Henry and John Townsend. *Making Small Groups Work: What Every Small Group Leader Needs to Know*. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 2003.
- Donahue, Bill and Russ Robinson. *Building a Life-Changing Small Group Ministry*. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 2012.
- Donahue, Bill. *Leading Life-Changing Small Groups*. Grand Rapids: Zondervan Publishing House, 1996.
- Donahue, Bill and Greg Bowman. *Coaching Life-Changing Small Group Leaders*. Grand Rapids: Zondervan Publishing House, 2012.
- Estep, James R. and Jonathan H. Kim. *Christian Formation: Integrating Theology and Human Development*. Nashville: B&H Academic, 2010.
- Everist, Norma Cook. *The Church as Learning Community: A Comprehensive Guide to Christian Education*. Nashville, TN: Abingdon Press, 2002.
- Fisher, Roger and William Ury. *Getting to Yes: Negotiating Agreement without Giving In*, 2nd ed. Toronto: Penguin Books, 1991.
- Ford, David G., Joshua L Mann and Peter M. Phillips. *The Bible and Digital Millennials*. London: Routledge, 2019.
- Gladden, Steve. *Leading Small Groups with Purpose: Everything You Need to Lead a Healthy Group*. Grand Rapids: Baker Books, 2012.
- George, Carl F. *Nine Keys to Effective Small Group Leadership*. Mansfield: Kingdom Publishing, 1997.
- Illeris, Knud. *How We Learn: Learning and Non-learning in School and Beyond*, 2nd ed. London: Routledge, 2017.

- Oliver, Eddie, *Inspiring Connection: Small Groups where Everyone Matters*. Life-Giving Conversations Press, 2019.
- Search, Bill. *The Essential Guide for Small Group Leaders*. Carol Stream: Christianity Today, 2017.
- Stone, Douglas, Bruce Patton, and Sheila Heen. *Difficult Conversations: How to Discuss What Matters Most*. Toronto: Viking, 1999.
- Webb, Heather. *Small Group Leadership as Spiritual Direction: Practical Ways to Blend an Ancient Art into your Contemporary Community*. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 2005.
- White, Allen. *Leading Healthy Groups: A Guide for Small Group Leaders*. Allen White Consulting, Inc, 2018.