

Seminar Outline: Ministry and/or Missions—Principles, Stages, Methods

By Bob Young

[Note: this seminar is especially helpful for churches in transition, between ministers, or churches that are considering becoming more actively involved in mission work. The basic outline presented below is usually covered in either three or six sessions. Where the word ministry appears in the outline, the word mission may be substituted for a missions focus.]

PRINCIPLES of ministry: integrating theory and dynamics

Biblical foundations for ministry. What is biblical ministry? What is the role of the minister?

Most ministry systems can be understood in terms of leadership approaches or styles.

- Biblical leadership models, as reflected in both the OT and NT
- Individual leaders, patriarchal/pastor, built on foundation of priest or bishop (episcopal models)
- Shared leadership, presbyterian models

The tasks of ministry.

The context of ministry. [Congregations come in different sizes, types, and situations]

The cultural context of ministry.

STAGES of ministry and/or missions

Stages of ministry. The stages of ministry may be variously described. Helpful resources include church life cycles and ministry transition materials.

George Gurganus outlined four historical stages of mission work: patriarchalism, indigenous focus, church growth focus, controlling dynamics.

METHODS of ministry and/or missions

What is to be done, in what context, by what activities and events, using what methods? The easy answer is “edification and evangelism” but it is much more complex than that.

The goal of effective ministry or missions is the development and growth of healthy churches, considering dynamics by which growth and health may be measured

Six factors to be considered:

- Developing an identity or image
- Developing relationships or bridges, ministry and missions are personal
- Feeding, typical church activities of worship and education programs, internal and external focus
- Fellowship, community building (body life, small groups)
- Caring, both internal and external
- Evangelism, both local and missions
 - Evangelistic campaigns, efforts
 - Body life as an evangelistic method
 - Personal evangelism, one on one, or small groups, Neighborhood Bible Studies
 - Missions
 - Church planting