

CHARACTERISTICS OF A PASTORAL CHURCH

50-150 ACTIVE MEMBERS

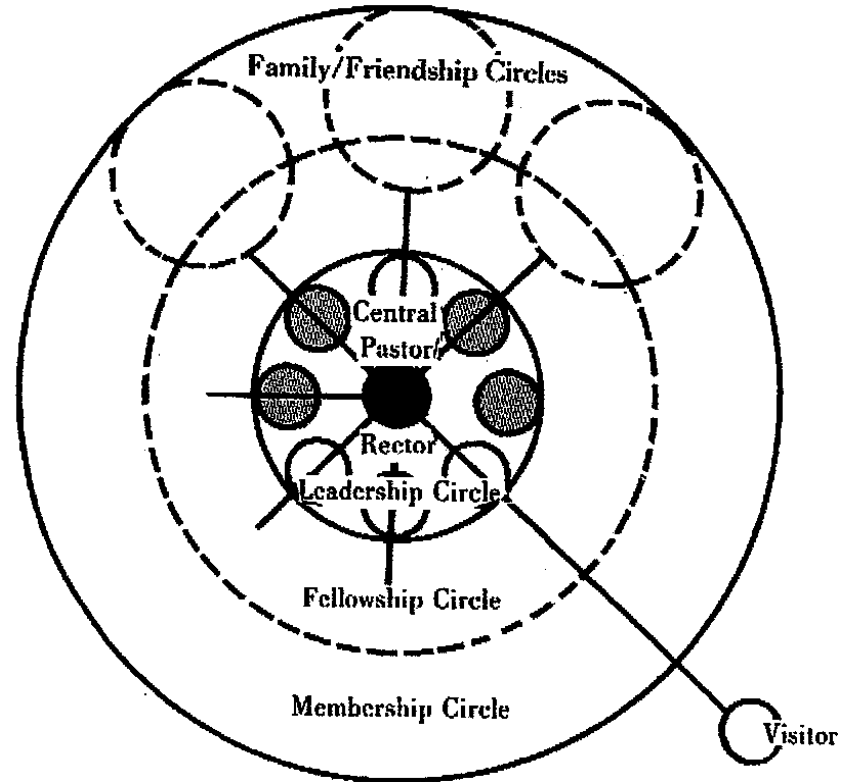
THE PASTORAL CHURCH

50-150

ACTIVE MEMBERS

Usual Context: Towns and Suburbia

1. The Structure of the Pastoral Church



DYNAMICS

- Two to three “circles” of involvement, revolving around a pastoral care model
- Priest replaces patriarch/matriarch in the center
- “Leadership circle” dependent on good communication and the ability of the central leader to delegate authority
- Central leader must be skillful in acquiring and using power, giving direction, being inspiring and pastoral care
- Conflict management means survival. If this congregation grows, it will no longer be possible to operate smoothly

CLERGY

- New member ministry usually pastor's responsibility
- People join/stay depending on how they feel about the clergy
- Maximum number of people pastor can effectively pastor = 150

MEMBERS

- Enter into the life of the congregation for different reasons
- Seek to find people with similar interests or values
- A few selected leaders should be given training, supervision and review
- Highly invested in relationship with the pastor
- Expect pastor to be present in moments of “life transition”

OTHER CHARACTERISTICS

- Need membership-wide responsibility for inviting and incorporating members
- Strong family ties and effective pastoral leadership are more vital than organizational structure
- Major attention is given to building trust between key leaders and priest.
- Lacking that trust there follows dysfunction generally marked by “kingdom-building”, warring groups, growth of cliques, and Vestry/Rector strife