

# LEADING REVITALIZATION THROUGH SMALL GROUP MINISTRIES

INSTRUCTOR: DR. CLINTON W. LOWIN, DRE USAG WIESBADEN





# ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION

**SAFETY REQUIREMENTS:** No food or drink is allowed near or around electrical equipment (CPU, file servers, printers, projectors, etc.) due to possible electrical shock or damage to equipment. Exercise care in personal movement in and through such areas. Avoid all electrical cords and associated wiring. In the event of an electrical storm, you will be instructed to power down equipment. Everyone is responsible for safety.

**RISK ASSESSMENT LEVEL:** LOW

**ENVIRONMENTAL CONSIDERATIONS:** Environmental protection is not just the law but the right thing to do. It is a continual process and starts with deliberate planning. Always be alert to ways to protect our environment during training and missions. In doing so, you will contribute to the sustainment of our training resources while protecting people and the environment from harmful effects.

**EVALUATION:** The student is required to fully engage in lesson by applying critical and creative<sub>2</sub> thinking throughout the lesson as well as completing all assignments.



# TERMINAL LEARNING OBJECTIVE

**ACTION:** Create a strategy to cultivate small group gatherings leading to individual and community spiritual readiness and revitalization.

**CONDITIONS:** In an online environment, observe the central practice of spiritual readiness as regular meetings to receive instruction, observe tenets of belief, and gather with people of similar values.

**STANDARD:**

- Discuss purpose of small group gatherings within Army chapel communities.
- Review six ingredients to enhance small group gatherings towards spiritual readiness of individuals and the community.
- Develop a strategy for small groups in the context you serve.

# CONTACTS



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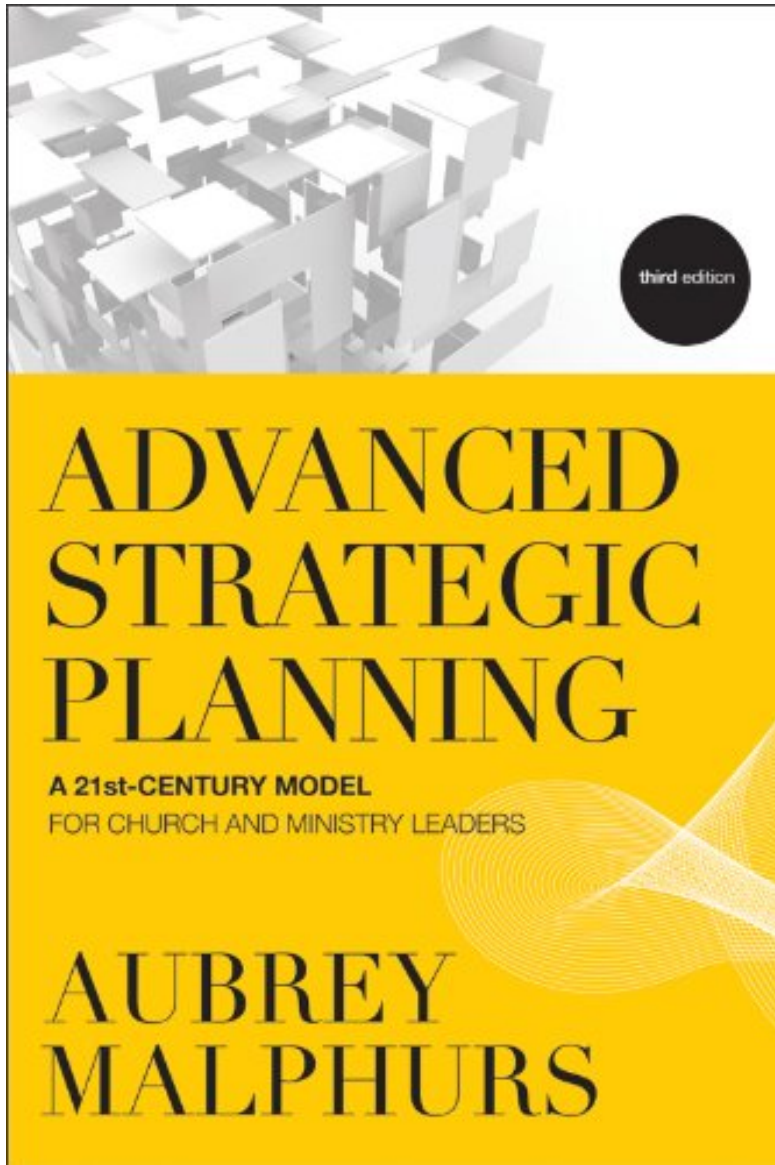
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Strategic planning using three organizational questions:

- Who are we? (values and purpose)
- Where are we going? (vision and mission)
- How will we get there? (strategy)

The envisioning process using a collaborative approach to think and act, so as to design and/or redesign a specific ministry model within the ministry context.



## CLARIFY THE ROLE/PURPOSE OF SMALL GROUPS

- Is your chapel a community with groups, of groups or one that is groups?
- Does the small group organize around content, experiences (affinity), or mission (service)?
- How will the small group assimilate new people into the community?
- How does a regular small group gathering fit with the overarching revitalization of chapel community?



## SMALL GROUP SETTINGS CAN PROVIDE AN ENVIRONMENT TO PROMOTE THE DEVELOPMENT OF SPIRITUAL READINESS

**10-10. Spiritual readiness development involves improving one's spiritual posture to sustaining one's self through all aspects of life.** The improvement process is generally self-directed and informed by religious, philosophical, or human values forming the basis for **character, disposition, decision-making and integrity.** While individuals approach spiritual readiness from both non-religious and religious perspectives, both categories creates similar comparative practices.

FM 7-22 Chapter 10-10, 8 October 2020



## SPIRITUAL READINESS ASSESSMENT

10-29. Spiritual readiness assessments can come across as artificial, judgmental, rigid, and subjective. For this reason, each Soldier creates an assessment based on personal aspect and perception of spirituality.

FM 7-22, CHI0, 8 OCT 2020

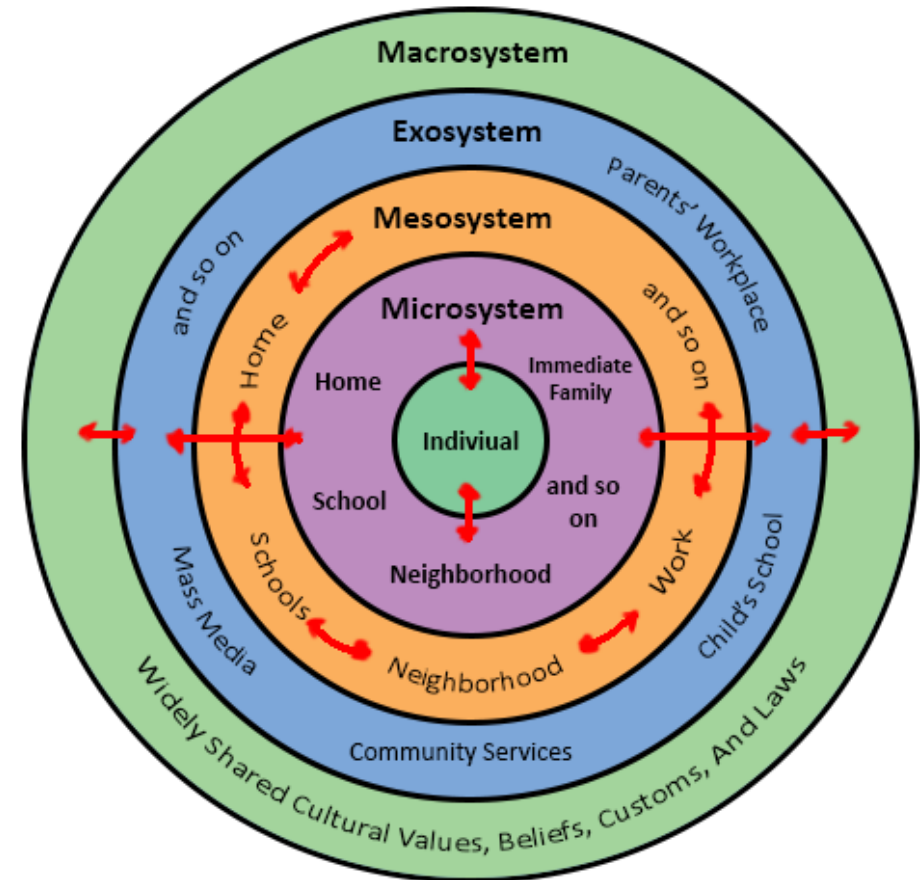
10-31. Unit leaders foster spiritual readiness by providing space in schedules, battle rhythms, and training plans for individual self-development to include the spiritual dimension.



# SAMPLE SPIRITUAL READINESS ASSESSMENT FACTORS

- Personhood (Identity)
- Identity (Worldview)
- Growth Orientation (Mindset)
- Personal Agency (Awareness, Control, EQ)
- Coping Strategies (Experience hardship)
- Connection (Relationship and Fellowship)

FM 7-22, Ch 10, table 10-1, 8 October 2020



Urie Bronfenbrenner, Ecological Systems Theory

## The How and So What

### Guiding Values

1. We **BLESS** people, both inside and outside the chapel Communities.
2. We **EAT** together, sharing meals with believers and nonbelievers alike.
3. We **LISTEN** to the guidance and direction of the God through Scripture as we engage with those around us.
4. We intimately **LEARN** Christ as our leader and model for making disciples.
5. We see ourselves as **SENT** by God to everywhere life takes us.

### Desired Outcome

#### **RELATIONAL**

-Assimilate newcomers into the chapel fellowships

-Create larger, welcoming chapel Community for the Garrison community.

#### **RELIGIOUS EDUCATION AND SPIRITUAL FORMATION**

-For participants to grow in their faith through inductive dialogical Bible Study and apply deeper truths of Scripture to daily living.

#### **SPIRITUAL RESILIENCE and SERVICE TO OTHERS**

-Increased interaction within and between chapel Communities through living and sharing faith experiences.

-Increased extension of service from chapel Communities to the broader Army Community.

## The WHAT

A systematic approach that ties the congregations' religious education program to the pastoral message as expressed by the chaplain during the service, allowing the knowledge and experience gained in that encounter to be built upon throughout the week, and increase the likelihood of it being lived in the work place and home.

This allows for the life to flow from the scripture/sermon, through the congregation, and into the force, and perhaps result in the growth of the congregation and an increase in the overall spiritual resilience of Soldiers and Family members.

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**THRIVE**

## THRIVE ELEMENTS



**GATHER** – small group communities (8-10 people) from each of the Chapel congregations.



**GROW** – building community by sharing scripture, fellowship/hospitality, experiences, and serving together.



**GO** – faith into action and application of Truth into daily life. Sent to serve others.

Each group led by a facilitator. Gatherings held when and where the participants decide (first, second, and third places).

## How to become part of a Thrive Group:

1. **Participate** in the initial Thrive Group orientation.
2. **Participate** in the Foundations Class.
3. **Join** a Thrive Group or start one.
4. **Decide** on the **frequency** of meeting together (once a week, twice a month).
5. **Decide where** to meet (home, work, informal gathering space).
6. **Decide what** to gather around -- content, experiences, and/or mission.
7. **Coordinate** with DRE and Chapel pastors.



**GATHER** – Bless  
and Eat



**GROW** – Listen  
and Learn



**GO** – Bless and  
Send

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# Missional Habits

*Bless – Generous*

*Eat – Hospitality*

*Listen – Spirit and Gospel-Led*

*Learn – Christlike*

*Send – Missional*



**THRIVE**



Join **RightNow Media**. Scan the QR code with phone camera to gain free access to RNM or use the following link:

<https://www.rightnowmedia.org/Account/Invite/USAGWiesbaden>



# Overflow Thrive Group Event

(once a quarter)

Fellowship Gathering for ALL Thrive Groups to gather and share what the group is doing.  
Food and Fellowship



Worship Gatherings



## New Member – Initial Thrive Group Orientation

(twice a month)

1. New to the CHAPEL COMMUNITY Orientation (2 sessions offered twice a month)
2. Foundations for the CHAPEL COMMUNITY led by Chaplains (cover essential biblical and theological tenants, membership, service) (2 session offered twice a month)

Foundations

New Member

## Ongoing Thrive Groups (weekly)

**Gather, Grow, Go:**

Fellowship and Experiences  
Spiritual Formation and Religious Education  
Service to others

(short-term mission on-post/off-post to demonstrate/proclaim the Gospel)



## **Thrive Foundations Course: RE Taught by Chaplains**

- Session 1 – We Glorify God (Worship),
- Session 2 – We Glorify God (Worship),
- Session 3 – By Making Disciples and Multiplying Communities, (Discipleship)
- Session 4 – Of All Nations (Mission)
- Session 5 – Do we really believe? (Expectations of Believers from God's Word)
- Session 6 – The Story of Scripture (Overview of the Bible and its Purpose)
- Session 7 – Spiritual Disciplines (Prayer, Fasting, Meditating and Memorize God's Word)
- Session 8 – Transformed Mind, Heart, Will, and Purpose (Now What)



**10 weeks from \_\_\_\_\_, Wednesday or Sunday nights, 7:30-8:30 pm**

Whether you are a new follower of Jesus or a seasoned leader in the chapel community, this class will explore essential foundations for who we are and how God has called us to live and lead as His church.

***This class will be offered online.*** If you would like to attend online, there is no need to register. Simply come to this page at 7:30 on Wednesday nights (and if you miss a night, check back later and each night's teaching will be linked to on this page).

***(Direction contingent upon Chaplain's desire)***

# INGREDIENT ONE: HOSPITALITY (GIVE AND TAKE)

Investing in  
PEOPLE,  
Connecting  
them in  
SPIRIT,  
Cultivating  
COMMUNITY



Cadence International USAG WI

# INGREDIENT TWO: CONNECT IN NATURAL RHYTHMS AND RELATIONSHIPS



Investing in  
**PEOPLE,**  
Connecting them  
in **SPIRIT,**  
Cultivating  
**COMMUNITY**



# INGREDIENT THREE: INCLUSION, EQUITY, AND AUTHENTICITY WITHIN BROKENNESS



# INGREDIENT FOUR: MEDITATION AND REFLECTION ON SACRED OR RELIGIOUS TEXT

Wednesday Night Thrive Group walking through the book of Acts



**Who:** Those seeking to develop a deeper understanding of God's word.

**What:** Studying the Book of Acts

**Where:** In person at the Hainerberg Chapel

**When:** Wednesday evenings  
1830-1930

**Why:** For the unity of the church and the development of disciples



Investing in PEOPLE, Connecting them in SPIRIT, Cultivating COMMUNITY



# INGREDIENT FIVE: EQUIPPING AND EMPOWERING PEOPLE TO CREATE, CARE, CONTRIBUTE, SERVE WITHIN THE STORY

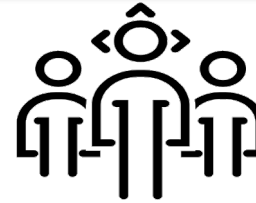


*Making something beautiful in a broken world can be harrowing work, and it can't be done alone.*

# INGREDIENT SIX: RECOGNIZE GAPS AND CREATE SOMETHING NEW



**The Summit Haus Friday Fellowship**  
Community around music, Biblical teaching and fellowship. Food is provided potluck style prior to the worship service. Messages are geared for ages 16 to adult.



- **Mentoring in Biblical Leadership (MBL)** A three-phased mentoring experience designed to respond to the urgent need of developing disciple-making leaders of integrity who are influencing others to fulfill their God-given purposes in life.



**Base Camp Men's Bible Study**  
The Men's Bible Study meets every other Thursday to dig deeper into God's word as men and pray together as brothers.

*Sisterhood*



- **Brotherhood & Sisterhood Social Groups** An outreach ministry that encourages our local believing community to invite nonbelieving friends for social events, dinners out, special events and annual retreats.



**Women's Bible Study**  
Tuesday night studies for working ladies – Service Members and Civilians.

**Thrive Singles Home Group**

- Doing life together as part of the Chapel Next congregation. A Thrive Group is where the “metal hits the meat” in deeper connection, friendship and living out God's Word as we fellowship and grow as active members of Christ's body. Your Thrive Group family will be the ones who are there for you! SINGLES ONLY



**Women's Bible Study and Mass**  
Thursday morning for working ladies – Service Members and Civilians.



# Wednesday Night Alive (WNA)

Wednesdays, 1730-1915; Hainerberg Chapel (Building 7779 and 7781)

The mission of Wednesday Night Alive is to provide religious education that equips and empowers all participants for spiritual formation and service for the cultivation of vibrant, revitalized communities.

Investing in **People**,  
Connecting them in **Spirit**,  
and Cultivating **Community**

## FALL 2021 Wednesday Night Alive Courses and Groups



Relational discipleship through small group settings, specifically using chapel sermons for even further **exploration** of interpersonal life application.

### THRIVE ELEMENTS

**GATHER** – small group communities (8-10 people) from each of the Chapel congregations.

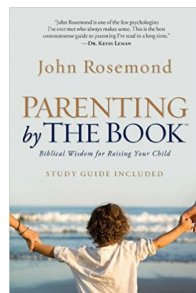
**GROW** – building community by sharing God's word and fellowship with a meal.

**THRIVE** – faith into action and application of Truth into daily life.

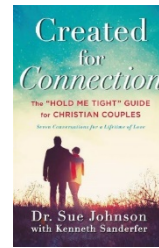
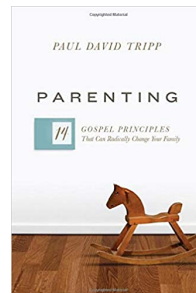


## Catholic Study

Journey around the world and deep into the Faith. In breathtaking, high-definition cinematography, the beauty, goodness and truth of the Catholic Faith are illustrated in a rich, multimedia experience.



**Family Faith Formation** – Biblically based approach to raising children and facilitated by a certified Rosemond Parent Institute Parent Leadership Coach.



**Marriage Enrichment**  
**Created For Connection: Building Strong Marriages** includes eleven classroom lessons provide the right tools to build better marriages.

**After the Boxes are Unpacked** helps recent movers focus on letting go of their past, starting over, and moving ahead.



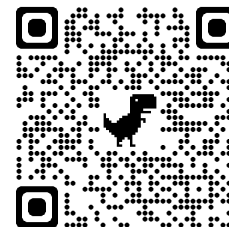
**Developing Spiritual Calling and Community**  
– Discover your spiritual gifts, passion, and how to utilize these to serve the community.



**Kids of the Chapel** – Come join us for crafts, Bible stories, and games.  
1<sup>st</sup> – 5<sup>th</sup> Grade

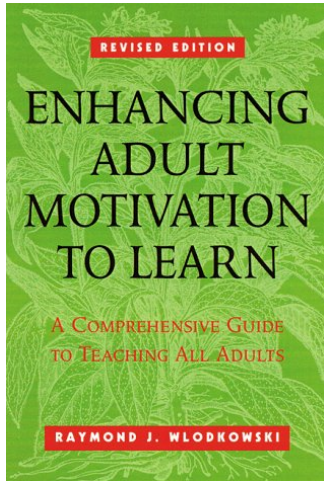
**Youth of the Chapel** – Gather to grow closer with friends and dig deeper into scripture.  
Middle and High School

**TEEN BIBLE STUDY**



Register with QR Code or  
<https://einvitations.afil.edu/inv/anim.cfm?i=615541&k=0460470C7F56>  
**6**

# CONSIDER ADULT LEARNING



**-Learning is what occurs within the program.** It is the completion of the achievement-based objectives, visible in the products and projects. Involves the degree to which the learner gains new knowledge, skills, or attitudes (KSAs) that result from a program.

**-Transfer is using this learning:** concepts, skills, and attitudes in another setting, at work or at home. Measures how participants apply learning to their work and daily life.

**-Impact is the measurable change in the organization as a result of the learning and transfer.** Measures the broad, long-term effect of the project or program on an organization or an individual.

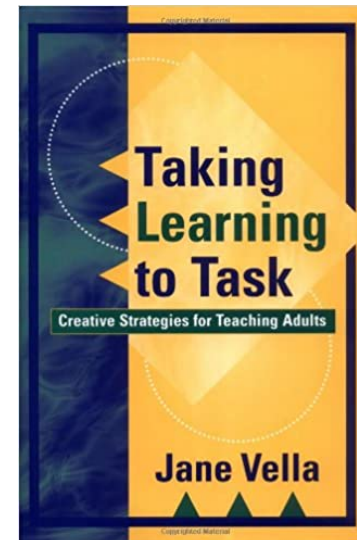
**Small Group Experience:** A gentle sequence to encourage learning for the group

**Inductive Work** – (Current understanding) **How does \_\_\_\_\_ relate to your life?**

**Input** – (New content) Educational transactions which enable Learning, Transfer, Impact within the learning environment. Inputs “add to” or “challenge” our current KSAs about the subject.

**Implementation** – (Doing something with the input) Describe the distinctions you now see among learning, transfer, and impact in relation to your knowledge and skill. Critical Thinking.

**Integration** – (Moving new learning into life) Name ways in which these distinctions among learning, transfer, and impact can help you in your work within service to the community.





# Questions?

<https://usachcstraining.army.mil/religious-education>



# TERMINAL LEARNING OBJECTIVE

**ACTION:** Create a strategy to cultivate small group gatherings leading to individual and community spiritual readiness and revitalization.

**CONDITIONS:** In an online environment, observe the central practice of spiritual readiness as regular meetings to receive instruction, observe tenets of belief, and gather with people of similar values.

**STANDARD:**

- Discuss purpose of small group gatherings within Army chapel communities.
- Review six ingredients to enhance small group gatherings towards spiritual readiness of individuals and the community.
- Develop a strategy for small groups in the context you serve.





## ACTIVITY CHOICES FOR ADDITIONAL 0.5CLP

- Conduct a ministry analysis of your context using the Advanced Strategic Planning Method.
- Coordinate with ministry leaders considering creative ways to utilize small group gatherings to foster the values, mission and vision, and strategy for revitalization of the chapel community.
- Design a strategy for small group ministry.
- Outline steps for implementation of the strategy.
- Evaluate and adjust.

DUE OUT: Create a two slide powerpoint outlining the following:

- Values
- Objectives
- Strategy for implementation
- Send to [Clinton.w.lowin.civ@army.mil](mailto:Clinton.w.lowin.civ@army.mil)

# REFERENCES

- FM 7-22 HOLISTIC HEALTH AND FITNESS, 8 OCTOBER 2020. Headquarters, Department of Army. Washington, D.C.
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- Peterson, Andrew. 2019. *Adorning the Dark: Thoughts on Community, Calling and the Mystery of Making*. B and H Books.
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- Vella, Jane. 2001. *Taking Learning to Task: Creative Strategies for Teaching Adults*. Jossey-Bass.
- Wlodkowski, Raymond J. 1999. *Enhancing Adult Motivation to Learn: A Comprehensive Guide for Teaching All Adults*. Jossey-Bass.
- Other great resources for small group ministry and bible study can be found at:
  - RightNow Media
  - Formed

END BRIEF

BACK UP SLIDES



# Pre-setting **Learning Environment**

# THE PARTICIPANT (LEARNER)

- Sponge
- Blank Slate
- Wet Cement
- Sheep
- Plants
- Seeds
- Pilgrims
- Empty Cup
- Clay
- Disciple

## Passive Metaphor

Sponge  
Blank Slate  
Empty cup  
Clay  
Wet Cement

## Active Metaphor

Sheep  
Seed or plant  
Pilgrims  
Disciples

**How do our assumptions of the learner change the way we lead the small group?**

# THE FACILITATOR (TEACHER)

- Expert
- Shepherd
- Farmer or Gardener
- Boss
- Authority
- Evaluator
- Funnel holder
- Fellow Pilgrim
- Guide
- Friend

## Passive Metaphor

Expert  
Authority  
Boss  
Evaluator  
Funnel Holder

## Active Metaphor

Shepherd  
Farmer or gardner  
Fellow Pilgrim  
Guide  
Friend

**How do our assumptions of the  
teacher change the way we  
facilitate?**

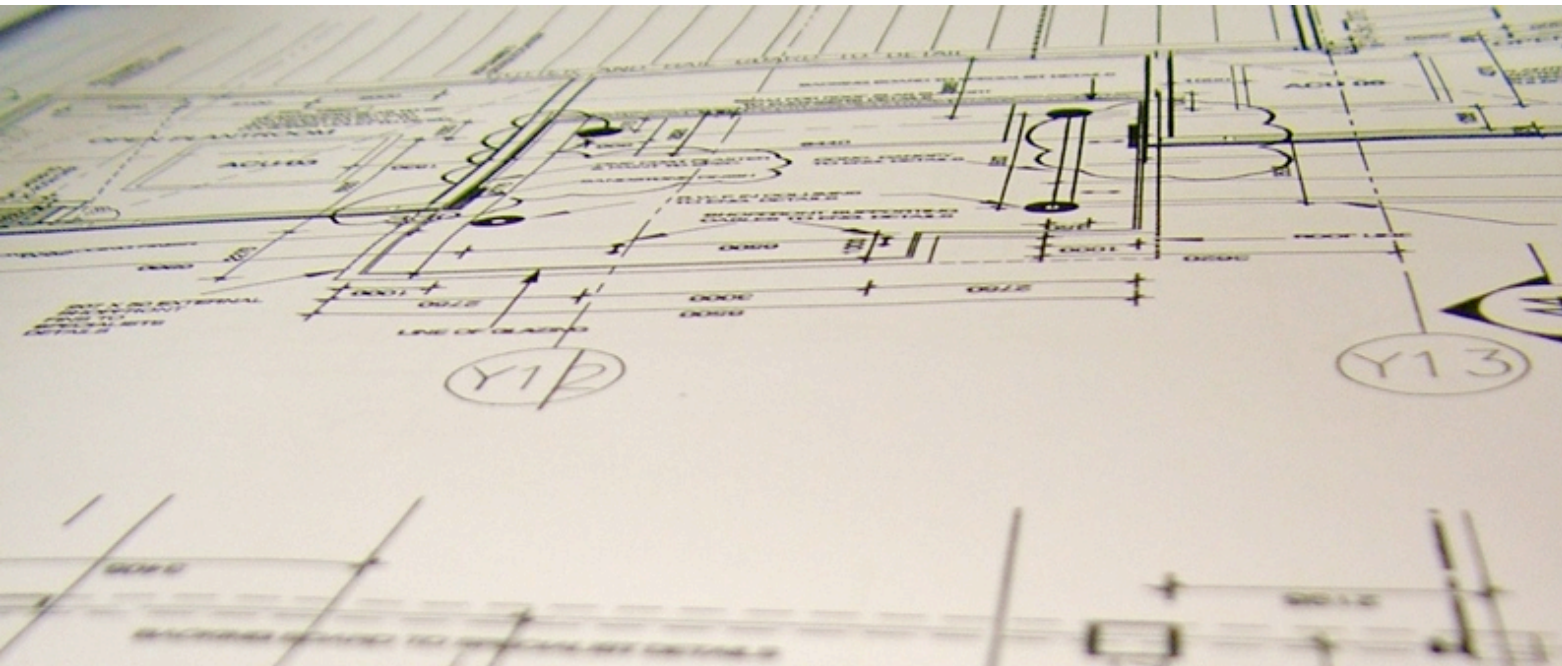
# THE CURRICULUM

## Passive Metaphor    Active Metaphor

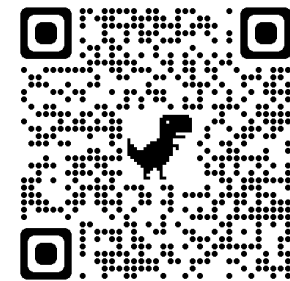
- Blueprint
- Roadmap

Blueprint

Roadmap







## Chaplaincy Academy for Religious Education

. targetted learning for Chapel Staff and Volunteers .

### Fall 2021 Schedule of Classes

SEP 14: Chapel Volunteers as Pastoral Care Providers

OCT 12: Orientation to Chapel Volunteer Service

NOV 9: Leading Revitalization Through Small Group Ministries

DEC 14: Teaching for Resilient Faith



**Earn: Certificate, Volunteer Hours, + 1 CLP**

For more information contact your garrison Director of Religious Education

Join on Zoom at <https://www.zoomgov.com/j/1617538241?pwd=MTIrWmlWOVBIWmdXV1JjSIA4ZzE2Zz09>