

Rural church members lacking in self-esteem

It's not money and it's not members. You'll think a long time before you come up with what rural pastors consider to be the gravest problem of the town and country church.

Lack of self-esteem and self-confidence on the part of church members is the problem, according to most clergymen and church leaders participating in a seminar on "Rural Dynamics" in the recent Great Lakes Leadership School at Michigan State University.

Rex Stern, pastor, St. John Lutheran Church, Calumet, Ill., voiced the problem for his conferees. "This results in the lack of leadership in the church and lack of Christian leadership in the community," he added.

"There are a lot of capable people out there in town and country congregations," explained Jim Merkel, pastor of Hope Lutheran Church, Hamlet, Ohio. "But a man with a 100-thousand farming operation—one of the largest businesses in the community—may decline church and community responsibility saying, 'I'm just a common old dirt farmer.'"

"This isn't the singular problem," Jonathan Jacobs, bearded, youthful pastor of Peace Lutheran Church, Charlotte, Mich., averred. He saw a "lot of skill in leadership and commu-

nity involvement" in his "suburban fringe" community church, but he added that "people are spread too thin...that time becomes a very important factor, when asking people from a mobile, busy community to contribute to planning and to leadership."

"Rural areas of America are not as homogenous as many people suppose," Merkel interjected. "They differ just as cities do."

RALPH LOGES, pastor of the United Lutheran Church in Walters, Minnesota, said a small farm village where people are moving out, in contrast to the in-migration of Eaton County (Charlotte), said that his village which once housed 1,000 row houses about \$90. "Farms are larger. Many houses are being abandoned. There are fewer people to support as well as handle church affairs," he noted.

Jacobs saw some tension between the liberalism of his "more cosmopolitan," city-reared congregation and the conservatism predominant in other churches of his area.

"There is a communication gap between rural and urban people in America," Merkel pointed out.

"People in the city lack an understanding of the risks the farmer must take, the problems he encounters. And they don't know how difficult it is for the son of a farmer to continue farming when the high cost of land,

machinery and labor must be measured against the price he can get for farm products."

MERKEL'S HOPE for the town and country church is that it "may become a force in the growing producer-consumer interdependence of rural and urban America."

"The gospel which speaks to all of life, deals with issues such as land-use, energy and consumption," he reasoned. "The church needs to speak relevantly to these issues and to bring these issues to bear in all areas of the country."

Carle Mathre, wife of the pastor of Salem Lutheran Church, Lake Mills, Iowa, underscored that the hope for the town and country church lies in "making religious values play a more significant part in the decisions of everyday life in the community."

And the discussions had come full circle...to matters of leadership, self-confidence and self-esteem.

Victor Pavlenko, director of Cenaco, a three-state community development and church training center in Sioux Falls, S.D., taught the course in rural dynamics in the 32nd annual church leadership conference, but when it came to visiting concerns for the future of the town and country church, he asked his pupils to speak for themselves.

"They are pretty much agreed on the real problem," he declared.



St. Mary inducts athletes

Three athletes of Polish heritage faced in football, baseball and bowling were inducted recently into the National Polish-American Hall of Fame at St. Mary College, Orchard Lake. They included Johnny Lujack (left), All-American quarterback at Notre Dame and all-pro with the Chicago Bears of the National Football League, Eddie Lopat (center), New York Yankee pitching star, and Ed Lubanski (right), an all-time great in bowling. All received plaques denoting their induction. Honored with them was Jim Paciorek of St. Mary, who was voted the outstanding Polish-American athlete for 1978. Welcoming the all-stars to the campus was the Rev. Stanley Milewski, chancellor of Orchard Lake Schools.

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RELIGION CALENDAR

EMERSON UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST FELLOWSHIP, 4230 Livernois, Troy, will put out the welcome mat for new members, old members and friends when it stages a brunch cocktail at 9:30 a.m. Sunday.

Ham and eggs are on the menu and there will be a tennis court available for those who want to play. To make a reservation, call the church at 524-8339.

ST. ANDREW CATHOLIC CHURCH, 1400 Inglewood, Rochester, will sponsor a special baptism at 5 p.m. Saturday, Aug. 19, for parents who wish the sacrament for their children during the month of August.

Those interested are asked to attend a meeting at 7:30 p.m. Thursday, Aug. 17, in the parish center, as well as calling the church, 651-7408, to announce their intentions.

Administrators sought

The state of Michigan is looking for Women's Commission Administrators, State Rep. W.V. "Sandy" Brotherton (R-Farmington) has announced.

"Employees in this particular position will administer the activities of the office, including the budgeting, staffing, correspondence and daily operations," he said.

"They will also be responsible for providing background information to the Women's Commission for their consideration in establishing programs and priorities in areas of women's problems in education, employment, health, family relations, law enforcement and civil and political rights."

"In addition, these employees will coordinate the activities of commission task forces, represent the commission at meetings and conferences, present testimony at public hearings and before the legislature, and will

work with women's problems," he added.

All applicants for the Women's Commission Administrator 15 classification must meet the minimum qualifications of possession of a bachelor's degree, as preference in the social sciences, as well as five years experience on a paid or volunteer basis, in the development or administration of programs, policies or legislation dealing with women's rights.

"Applicants will be qualitatively evaluated on their experience with women's issues, rights, programs, legislation, organizations and the organization of state government," Brotherton said.

"This job needs the kind of person who can speak and write effectively, do independent research and analysis and meet and deal well with people."

Brotherton said a detailed and current resume that includes all relevant experience and education should be attached to the application. All applications will be evaluated and ranked by a qualified and impartial panel.

"Those candidates who receive the highest ranking will be asked for an interview," Brotherton said. "And the names of all qualified applicants will be kept on file for consideration for other appropriate classifications."

The salary for the position is \$21,610.80 to \$27,561.60. Application forms are available at the offices of most county clerks, all MESC offices, several area Civil Service offices, and the Lansing office of the Department of Civil Service, Lewis Cass Building, 320 South Walnut, Box 300002, Lansing, 48909.

Former chaplain heads alumni

The Rev. Michael S. Filip, pastor of St. Thomas the Apostle Parish of Detroit, Michigan is the new elected president of the Orchard Lake Schools' alumni association. A former army chaplain who retired from active duty with the rank of colonel, he succeeds Father Anthony Iwuc of Central Falls, R.I. Other officers include the Rev. Theodore Blaszyk of Hamtramck, first vice president, and Frank Padzieski of Dearborn, third vice president.

Your Invitation to Worship

<p>For Church Directory Information Please Call: Debbie 644-1100 Ext. 217</p> <p>CLARENCEVILLE UNITED METHODIST 20300 Middlebelt, Livonia 474-2444 Pastor: Gerald Fisher 9 a.m. First Worship Service 10:15 a.m. The Church School 11:15 a.m. Second Service of Worship</p>	<p>ANTIOCH LUTHERAN CHURCH 13 Mile & Farmington Rd. Service 10 AM Sunday School Nursery Provided Pastor: Bertl Anderson LCA 626-7706</p>	<p>"I AM THAT I AM" TEACHINGS OF THE ASCENDED MASTERS • SCIENCE OF THE SPOKEN WORD • STUDIES IN ALCHEMY • MANIFESTING CHRIST • TRANSMUTING KARMA (SIN) • KEEPERS OF THE FLAME • STUDIES IN DECEITS & SINGING NEW STUDENTS</p> <p>7:30-9:30 MON. Morning Workshop 7:30-9:30 TUE. Church School 10 AM KEEPER OF THE FLAME SAT. 9:30-9:30 SUN. 6:00-9:30 10:00-12:00</p>	<p>BEAUTIFUL SAVIOR LUTHERAN CHURCH ALC 5631 North Adams Road • Holy Spirit of L. Long Lake Rd. SUMMER SERVICES Sunday 9 AM Family Worship Service Communion—first Sunday of each month Monday 8 PM Weeknight Service Fred W. MacLean, Pastor Duane F. Schuler, Pastor MI 6-5021 MI 6-5124</p>	<p>ST. PAUL UNITED METHODIST CHURCH 165 E. Square Lake Road Bloomfield Hills 338-8223 Minister: Dr. Roger Ireson Worship Service 10:00 AM</p>	<p>EMMANUEL LUTHERAN CHURCH 23225 Lumber Road (Just N. of 8 Mile) Phone: 257-1448 9:30 AM The Service The Rev. & Alden Strandberg</p>	<p>COVENANT BAPTIST Covenant is a church where Christian Education is important. There is a place for you and your family to study and grow. 5600 W. Maple Rd. Westland, MI 48190 855-8191</p>
<p>HOPE LUTHERAN CHURCH English/Swedish 26715 Farmington Rd. Farm. Hills (across from Orchard Ridge Campus) SERVICES Sun. 9:30 AM Mon. 8:00 PM V.H. Messenbring 474-1136</p>	<p>NORTHBROOK PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH 14 Mile and Lumber Roads Morning Workshop and Church School Pastors: L. J. Peterson E. W. Dunn Phone: 642-0200</p>	<p>THE SUNNIT LIGHTHOUSE 23647 WOODWARD AVE. AT 99th MILE 345-6769</p>	<p>Birk in the Hills PRESBYTERIAN 13401 V. L. (at 99th St.) MINISTERS James F. Anderson Robert L. Lindsey Rev. H. Gooch Worship Services and Child Care Sundays at 9:30 and 11:00 AM Church School through Grade 8 at 9:30 AM only</p>	<p>St. John American Lutheran Church 32725 GILBERT Farmington Pastor: Charles Franke 474-0584 or 474-0585 Service 9:30 AM No Sunday School Nursery Provided</p>	<p>Bethlehem Lutheran Church 35300 Eight Mile Road Farmington Hills ENO M. TUORI, PASTOR Worship 10:30 AM Sunday School 10:30 AM</p>	<p>HOLY CROSS Greek Orthodox Church 29225 Middlebelt Rd. Farmington Hills 477-1677 Rev. S.J. Anthony, Th.D., Priest 9:30 AM Mt. Orlino 10:30 AM Divine Liturgy English Service Visitors Always Welcome</p>
<p>First United Methodist Church 1589 West Maple at Pleasant Ministers: James W. Wright, G. Bryn Evans John H. Bunce, Thomas H. Beaven Harold E. Weemhoff Summer Service 8:30 & 10:00 Church School 10:00 Nursery Care Provided</p>	<p>Bloomfield Hills Christian Church The Community House 380 South Bates, Birmingham Sunday 10:10 A.M. Bible School 11:30 A.M. Worship 6:00 P.M. Prayers Service Wednesday 7:15 P.M. Bible Study 851-8516</p>	<p>The Orchard United Methodist Church 30450 Fernbrook Rd. (between 11 and 12 Miles) Morning Worship 8:30 a.m. Nursery & Pre-School Ministers: Robert L. B. Brown James F. Thomas 826-8820</p>	<p>The Congregational Church of Birmingham, U.C.C. Woodward at Cranbrook Bloomfield Hills MI 6-4511 Worship and Church School 10 AM Minister: Rev. Charles C. Erickson</p>	<p>Franklin Community Church David Methodist 25 Franklin & Village Green 10 A.M. Nursery Care 10 A.M. Lawn Reception following Service Senior Minister Frank B. Cowie Associate Minister J. Chester Stubbs</p>	<p>United Methodist Church 7000 W. 12 Mile at Farmington 477-1777 Worship 10:30 AM Church School 10:30 AM Nursery through High School (Please Admire Service)</p>	<p>FARMINGTON HILLS BAPTIST CHURCH 28301 Middlebelt Rd., 1/2 Mile N. of 12 Mile A FULL-SERVICE CHURCH SUNDAY GRADED BIBLE SCHOOL 9:45 AM WORSHIP SERVICES 11 AM and 6 PM CHILDREN'S SERVICES 11 AM WEDNESDAY FAMILY NIGHT 7:30 PM Douglas B. Brown, Pastor 881-6310 Nursery Provided at All Services C.B.A. Approved 7:30 Steps</p>
<p>First Baptist Church Bates and Wilson, Birmingham, Mich. Robert G. Macdonald, Minister David W. Smith Gloria H. Aspinall Jr. Homer J. Armstrong, Executive Church School 9 AM Worship Service 10 AM</p>	<p>WARD UNITED PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF LIVONIA Farmington Road & Six Mile Road 422-1150 Worship & Sunday School 9:30 & 11:00 a.m. 9:30 "Even God's Prophets Get Depressed" Reg. L. Edward Davis 11:00 "God's Presence and Our Prayer Life" Rev. William C. Moore 7:00 p.m. "The Early Christians Ate a Lot" Rev. Douglas L. Thompson Wednesday 7:30 p.m. HOUR OF POWER Psalm 11 Nursery Provided at All Services</p>	<p>First Baptist Church of Farmington Richard Duncan, Pastor - Phone 474-0350</p>	<p>First Baptist Church of Farmington Richard Duncan, Pastor - Phone 474-0350</p>	<p>First Baptist Church of Farmington Richard Duncan, Pastor - Phone 474-0350</p>	<p>Christian Science Churches FIRST CHURCH OF CHRIST, SCIENTIST BIRMINGHAM 191 Chester at Willis SUNDAY SERVICES 10:30 A.M. SUNDAY SCHOOL 10:30 A.M. WEDNESDAY TESTIMONY MEETING 10:30 A.M. CHILD CARE ROOM Sunday 10:15 A.M. - Wed. 7:45 P.M. READING ROOMS • Non-Liturgical • 11:15-1:15 Open Mon. & Tues. 9:30-11:30 A.M. & 7-9 P.M. Wed. & Sat. 9:30-5:30 Thurs. & Fri. 9:30-9:00 except Sunday and holidays</p>	<p>Christian Science Churches FIRST CHURCH OF CHRIST, SCIENTIST FRANKLIN-MEADOWLAKE Maple at Inkster SUNDAY SERVICES 10:30 A.M. SUNDAY SCHOOL 10:30 A.M. WEDNESDAY TESTIMONY MEETING 10:30 A.M. CHILD CARE ROOM Sunday 10:15 A.M. - Wed. 8:00 P.M. READING ROOMS in Pine Lake-Mt. 8:15-11:30 Orchard Lake Rd. at Lumber-Rd. 7-9 P.M. Open Mon. - Tues. Wed. Sat. 10:00-11:30 Thurs. & Fri. 10:00-9:00 All are welcome at our Church Services and the Reading Rooms</p>