

MTW254.7 Effective Community Engagement

Name of Unit 1 (Unit Code 1)

Effective Community Engagement (MTW254.7)

SECTION 1 – GENERAL INFORMATION

Administrative details

Associated higher education awards	Duration	Level	Unit Coordinators
Bachelor	One semester	Advanced	Mark Riessen

Core or elective unit

Indicate if the unit is a

- core unit
 elective unit
 other (please specify below):

Core: Bachelor of Ministry and Bachelor of Intercultural Studies Core / Elective: Bachelor of Theology

Unit weighting

Using the table below, indicate the credit point weighting of this unit and the credit point total for the course of study (for example, 10 credit points for the unit and 320 credit points for the course of study).

Unit credit points	Total course credit points
6 credit points	144 credit points

Student workload

Using the table below, indicate the expected student workload per week for this unit.

No. timetabled hours per week*	No. personal study hours per week**	Total workload hours per week***
3	6	9

For those students requiring additional English language support, how many additional hours per week is it expected that they will undertake?

Additional English language support: ___0___ hours per week

Pre-requisites and co-requisites

Are students required have undertaken a prerequisite or co-requisite unit for this unit?

- Yes No

If **YES**, provide details of the prerequisite or co-requisite requirements below.

Pre-requisite: MTO140.5 Formation and Vocation
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SECTION 2 – ACADEMIC DETAILS

Brief description of the content of the unit (key topics):

This unit provides students with an opportunity to explore how the Church is called to serve God's mission in the world, to incarnate Christ and bring foretastes of His Kingdom where it appears to be absent, transforming communities on every level: spiritual, physical, economic, and socio-political. It connects strongly with the MTC formation domain *Engaging the World & Others' Stories* in Tabor MTC's curriculum paradigm. Ultimately, this unit aims to deepen students' capacity to undertake community engagement in an informed and effective fashion. The key content of the unit includes: a theology of community engagement; the challenges, costs and opportunities of community engagement; community engagement methodologies and models; and asset-based community development.

Learning outcomes for unit:

- (1) Explain contemporary community engagement methodologies that can be used in the Australian context, in light of historical Christian practice and contemporary scholarship
- (2) Analyse the theological dimensions of Christian community engagement, drawing on the biblical text, church tradition and contemporary scholarship
- (3) Conduct effective community engagement within specific contexts and their issues, recognising needs, limitations, challenges, and assets presented by that context

Assessment tasks

Type	Learning Outcome/s assessed	When assessed	Weighting
1) Discussion Paper Students explain the various community engagement models and methodologies presented in class, identifying the strengths and weaknesses of each. (2,000 words)	1	Week 13	40%
2) Theology of Community Engagement Paper Students draw on the Biblical text, Christian tradition and contemporary scholarship to outline key facets of their theology of effective community engagement. (1,500 words)	1, 2	Week 6	30%
3) Personal Reflection Students reflect upon their own participation in a community engagement initiative, discussing identified strengths and weaknesses of the model employed by that initiative, in the light of scholarship. (1,500 words)	1, 3	Week 12	30%

2.1 Prescribed and recommended readings

Provide below, in formal reference format, a list of the prescribed and recommended readings for the unit.

- Born, P. *Deepening Community: Finding Joy Together in Chaotic Times*, San Francisco, CA: Berrett-Koehler Publishers, 2014.
- Corbett, S. and B. Fikkert. *When Helping Hurts: How to Alleviate Poverty Without Hurting the Poor . . . and Yourself*. Chicago, IL: Moody Publishers, 2014.
- Dzubinski, Leanne M., and Anneke H. Stasson. *Women in the Mission of the Church: Their Opportunities and Obstacles throughout Christian History*. Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Academic, 2021.
- Fitch, D. *Faithful Presence: Seven Disciplines that Shape the Church for Mission*. Downers Grove, IL: IVP, 2016.
- Fitch, David. *What is the Church and Why Does It Exist?* Harvey, ND: Herald, 2021.
- Gordon, W. and J. Perkins. *Making Neighborhoods Whole: A Handbook for Christian Community Development*. Downers Grove, IL: IVP Books, 2013.
- Hjalmarson, L. *No Home Like Place: A Christian Theology of Place*. Portland, OR: Urban Loft Publishers, 2014.
- Lupton, R. *Toxic Charity: How Churches and Charities Hurt Those They Help (and How to Reverse It)*. New York, NY: HarperOne, 2011.
- Mavis, B. and R. Rusaw. *The Neighbouring Church: Getting Better at What Jesus Says Matters Most*. New York, NY: HarperCollins, 2016.
- Monsma, Nicholas W. *Worship, Mission, and the Church Year: How Union with Christ Forms Worshippers for Mission in Every Season*. Eugen, OR: Cascade, 2019.
- Myers, B. *Walking with the Poor: Principles and Practices of Transformational Development*. Maryknoll, NY: Orbis Books, 2011.
- Nelson, T. *The Economics of Neighborly Love: Investing in Your Community's Compassion and Capacity*. Downers Grove, IL: IVP, 2017.
- Roxburgh, A. *Missional: Joining God in the Neighborhood*. Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Books, 2011.
- Smith, C. *Slow Church: Cultivating Community in the Patient Way of Jesus*. Downers Grove, IL: IVP Books, 2014.
- Sparks, P. *The New Parish: How Neighborhood Churches Are Transforming Mission, Discipleship and Community*, Downers Grove, IL: IVP Books, 2014.