

**CHURCH MINISTRIES READINGS for Week 2**  
**Evangelism: The Pastor and the Church**

- Kennedy. *Evangelism Explosion*, chpt 1: “Training Laymen...”
- Miller. *Evangelism and Your Church*, chpts. 6-8,13
- Turnbull. *Dictionary of Practical Theology*, “Pastor as Evangelist,” pp. 164-167
- Greenway, ed. *The Pastor-Evangelist*, chpts. 1 & 14

**Greenway**

- I 1. What is Greenway’s three-fold summary task of church leadership?
2. What is the leader’s three-fold means of leading his people in evangelism?
- XIV) 3. Note the traits of a growing evangelistic church.
4. Where can the pastor be very active in evangelism?

**Kennedy**

1. Witnessing proficiency for Kennedy is dependent upon “on-the-job-training.” What measures can be taken to get our members to the OJT level?
2. Who are some of the best prospects for evangelism and/or membership?

**[Miller]**

- VI - What 2 obstacles does Miller see for a congregation’s witness?
- VII - What 2 elements encourage a witnessing congregation?
- VIII - Note the several elements of preparing for an evangelistic outreach.
- XIII - How does the significance of baptism influence evangelism and its fruits?

**Thought Questions**

1. How much should church services be used for evangelization?
2. What aids can be used in evangelism, e.g., medical missions, church day care, family counseling, etc.
3. What are some elements of community canvassing? Is it useful, and how often might it be desirable?
  - Is it incumbent upon us?
  - Is it practical?
4. How effective has door-to-door visitation been for the cults?
  - Note the cultist’s personal motivation
  - Note our response to the abuse of their popular canvassing method
5. What about “para-church” organizations in evangelism? Can they work with the church? Should the local church pick up more of the responsibility.
6. What kind of background and/or training did the early witnessing Christians of Acts 8:1,4 have?

## CHURCH MINISTRIES STUDY QUESTIONS FOR **Week 3** MISSIONS (AND THE HOME CHURCH)

Thiessen. *Pastoring the Smaller Church*, XIV, pp. 111-116

[Wagner. *The Pastor: His Life and Work*, XVI, pp. 221-228]

[Glover. *The Bible Basis of Missions*, III, pp. 43-54]

[Lindsell. *Missionary Principles and Practice*, XVI, pp. 293-313]

Berkley. *Leadership Handbook of Practical Theology*, Vol. II: pp.91-100;102-03;110-13;119-26

For the ambitious and missionary-minded, Nevius, *Planting and Developing of Missionary Churches* may be read in place of Lindsell.

### **Thiessen**

1. How should the size of the missions budget compare with that of the church's local expenses? Are there mitigating factors which might lower or eliminate missions budgeting?
2. Should a pastor preach a "missionary sermon" regularly or simply refer to missions as he has occasion in his preaching?
3. Is it better for a church to support one missionary entirely or several missionaries partially? (see Wagner, p. 224).
4. How can the pastor recruit missionaries from his congregation?

### **Wagner**

1. Should churches and individuals pledge a specific amount for their missionaries? Note the pledge of promised prayer in I Sam. 12:23.
2. Note the role of church libraries.

### **[Glover]**

1. What stress should be placed in the local church upon the work of foreign (and home) missions?
2. Should every pastor have considered whether he should have become a foreign missionary? . . . every Christian? Is it accurate to say that a "missionary conviction and passion are just as necessary to the home pastor as the foreign missionary?"
3. Does the communication of the pastor's sympathy for missions contribute anything to the sanctification of his own flock?
4. What are some key elements in a local church's missionary program?

### **[Lindsell]**

1. What are Lindsell's three distinguishing characteristics of a truly indigenous church?
2. It seems Paul's missionary strategy determined the location of establishing a new work. What are some of the criteria and how important is the choosing of a new site?
3. Any counsel on how to handle polygamy among new believers in a mission church? Is monogamy only incumbent upon officers?
4. What are some advantages, especially for the indigenous church, of attaining its speedy independence of the missionary and his support agencies? Generally, how long should missionaries keep some oversight over their mission churches?

### **Berkley, ed., Vol. II**

Purpose of Missions, 91-100

- 1 Intro: What are some indications from creation design and covenantal development that God desires all mankind to know Him and the message of His grace?
- 2 As the gospel message was extended beyond national Israel to the Gentiles, what was the benefit to unbelieving Israel? (Rom. 11:11-12,25-26) Should modern believing Jew maintain a Jewish church identity apart from Gentile believers?
- 3 If the saving of souls from hell is not the end of missions, then what is?

### **Thought Questions**

1. Do native leaders really need to come to Western schools for further education, or can they be trained at home? What are the dangers of training in western schools nationals from other countries?
2. Would you take a cash gift to visit a foreign mission field to become better acquainted with missions, or would you recommend the gift be given directly to a mission work?

## CHURCH MINISTRIES STUDY QUESTIONS FOR Week 4

### Church Planting and Growth

Thiessen. *Pastoring the Smaller Church*, chpts. 21 & 22 = pp. 154-163

Heuer handout: "Tools and Principles for Growth in the Church"

Kirby. "Church Planting: Sow, Cultivate & Harvest" in *Fundamentalist Journal*

Douglass. "Eight Ways of Starting New Churches" in *Presbyterian Journal*

[PMU Church Builder's Resource Guide: skim as a resource]

#### Thiessen XXI

1. Why must a church planter have the conviction that God wants him in that calling?
2. How large should a congregation be before it establishes a daughter church?
  - a. Why don't some large churches (say 600+) want to divide and multiply?
  - b. Realistically, would 10 vibrant churches of 50 members be more effective than one vibrant church of 500?
3. What are Thiessen's recommended steps in establishing a branch church?  
[Others like Davies in *Local Church Practice* see these four stages: 1) missionary outreach; 2) official, stated meetings; 3) cohesive fellowship; 4) recognized leaders and doctrinal position to constitute a church].
4. What elements should come out of a constituting meeting?

#### Thiessen XXII

1. Is there a standard peak capacity for most churches? What percentage of seating?
2. What might a building committee investigate?
3. Note fund raising methods.

#### Heuer

1. What steps may be taken to retain visitors as members?
2. How essential is it to end the morning worship service punctually at 12:05?

#### Kirby

1. What are the merits of Kirby's suggested financial support plan?
2. What can the church planter do to gain contacts in the community?

#### Douglass

1. On average, what is the distance between the PCA's daughter and mother church?
2. Why is it imperative to give home missions a high priority in the long term?

#### Thought Questions

1. What are the pros and cons of non-local church leadership in a young church? (viz., leaders from a parent church directing a remotely distant daughter church.)
2. Is there really a biblical pattern that gives priority to church planting in urban/populated areas as opposed to rural areas?
3. Why should a new church have a designated meeting place? Should it be outside of a member's home?

PMU Church Planting Resource Guide

For exposure to tools such as this, take notes on pages 17,21,23,28,46,47 for possible discussion

CHURCH MINISTRIES STUDY QUESTIONS FOR **Week 5**  
Religious Education; Christian Schools

- Sugden & Wiersbe. *Confident Pastoral Leadership*, VIII, pp. 77-89
- Thiessen, XII pp. 99-103
- Berkley, ed., *Leadership Handbook of Practical Theology*, Vol 2.
  - Habermas, “The Purpose of Christian Edc,” pp. 345-350 only
- Baker’s *Dictionary of Practical Theology*
  - “Bible Class and S.S.,” pp. 421-25
  - “Church Organization for Teaching,” pp. 432-36
  - “The Christian School,” pp. 443-49

**Sugden & Wiersbe**

1. Should the pastor teach a S.S. class? The S.S. Superintendent?
2. What are some pros and cons of adult S.S. elective classes?

**Thiessen**

1. Note some duties of the S.S. Supt.

**(Berkley, ed.) – Habermas**

- 1 According to Habermas and Isler, the purpose of Christian edc. may be summarized by what four Cs?
- 2 Paraphrase Acts 2:37 for the three elements of effective learning.

**(Turnbull, ed.) - Leypoldt**

1. What are the three basic aspects of teaching and how does each one apply to Christian education?  
Note pp. 422, 24, 25 as valuable guides for giving tools and tips to teachers.
2. Is there a place for “factual” Bible teaching alongside the “functional” approach?
3. Name one key advantage of “unit” teaching in Christian education.

**(Turnbull, ed.) Bower**

1. How may potential Christian Education teachers be recruited and trained?  
A Resource here is **The Evangelical Teacher Training Association**  
Box 327  
Wheaton, IL 60189 312-668-6400
2. Note the 3 S.S. objectives of early S.S. pioneers.
3. What are the best seasons for holding a V.B.S.?
4. Note the recommended times of day.
5. Note V.B.S. in conjunction with day camp.

**John F. Blanchard (Turnbull, ed.)**

1. Who benefits from church-run day schools? How?
2. From a biblical perspective, how urgent is the need to provide a “Christian education for Christian children?”
  - a. Is there a God-given responsibility to educate children in the truth?
  - b. Ultimately, whose responsibility is it?
3. Should unchurched and non-Christian pupils be admitted to a Christian school?
4. Note the 4 objectives in educating a child.
5. Be familiar with the 6 general disciplines of a school curriculum and the essence of each. Is any study missing in these categories?
6. In a church day school, of whom should the governing board be comprised?
7. How involved should parents be in determining policy and curriculum?
8. How much should the non-member teacher participate in the life of the church?

CHURCH MINISTRIES STUDY QUESTIONS FOR **Week 6**  
Young People; Camp

- Thiessen. XVI, pp. 124-30
- [Mackay. *Creative Camping*, VII, pp. 70-84]
- Sugden & Wiersbe Summary, pp. 77-79
- Berkley, ed. *Leadership Handbook...*, Vol. 2, pp. 403-424 only

**Thiessen XVI**

1. How can more young people be drawn into the life of the young people's group?
2. What are some topics of interest to youth that they might not get in S.S.?
3. What about a church role in the sex education of adolescents?
4. If the young people meet every week, how often should there be a social activity or recreation event?

**Berkley II**, pp. 403-424

1. The most effective youth ministries have been led by adults rather than solely by youths. What is the suggested ideal number of youth per adult leader? Why?
2. At what point in the youth-adult relationship does personal work and discipling of youth take place? What sets the stage for this relationship?
3. List three discussion topics for Junior High youth groups.
4. What kind of lesson is more life changing for Sr. High students than a video or Bible lesson?
  - Camps & Conferences
5. Five benefits of Christian camping are listed. Cite what you think are the three most significant.
6. What is the "out of the pulpit and into the softball diamond" phenomenon? How does it help build up the church family?
7. Should there be a policy regulating "drop-in attendees" at a local camp site?
8. Why is much lost "if the last time campers see their counselors is on the last day of camp"?
9. How can we ensure getting more of our young people to camp?

**Thought Questions**

Camp

1. How early should camp be planned out?
2. What kind of personnel might be needed at camp?
3. What contingencies should be prepared for?
4. What kind of follow-up should take place after camp?

FUTURE CAMP RESOURCES

CHRISTIAN CAMPING INTL  
<https://www.cciworldwide.org/resources>

CHRISTIAN CAMP & CONFERENCE ASSOC  
405 W Rockrimmon Blvd  
Colorado Springs, CO 80919  
[www.ccca.org](http://www.ccca.org)

General

1. In what ways should teen parents be involved with youth group functions?
2. What areas of ministry can you begin training your teens in?
3. Would you allow your youth group to conduct an annual worship service for your church?
4. Bring three topics of your own for discussion of youth ministry.

CHURCH MINISTRIES STUDY QUESTIONS for **Week 7**  
Leadership Training and Lay Involvement  
The Church and Society

- Mostert. “Preparing Laity” in Turnbull, pp. 437-43
- Thiessen. “New Members Class” XX, pp. 148-153
- Berkley, ed. *Leadership Handbook*, Vol. 2, pp. 141-157; 177-186
- Berkley, ed. *Leadership Handbook*, Vol. 2: choose one community ministry described on pp.157-176 and prepare a short synopsis to report

**Mostert (Turnbull) Pp. 437 ff.**

1. How can more of our members be put to work in the local ministry?
2. Name some areas of delegated service.
3. How essential is specialized training for any of the above?
4. To what extent should the church be willing to underwrite the expense of training its extra-professional servants?

**Thiessen XX Pp. 148ff.**

1. Why don't some Christians want to join the local church?
2. Should Christians belong to the visible church as members instead of just as faithful adherents? Note reasons.
3. Should non-members be allowed to participate in special music, or teach, or lead young people's, or etc.?
4. How about church transferees? Should they be asked to give a reaffirmation of faith before their new session/board?
5. Note the contents of membership class teaching. What else might be added? Also, see Bower's Appendix 15, *Administering Christian Education*.

**Berkley, pp. 141-157; 177-186**

1. What is the essential difference between “social work” and Christian relief work in society?
  2. Paraphrase Aristides' observation of early Christians' charity to strangers.
  3. What does it mean to “let outreach programs trickle up”?
  4. Have you ever “been taken” by a con artist transient?
  5. List several concerns in giving benevolences to church members.
- If a pastor and church legally cannot be critical of candidates and political campaigns while promoting others, what can churches do to promote righteousness during and after the political season?

**Thought Questions** (based on Woods, *Where in the World Are God's People?* pp. 77ff.)

1. Is civil disobedience ever excusable for the Christian? Note Ex. 1, Dan. 6; 3:17; Acts 5:29
2. How active should the minister be in patriotic/civic organizations?
3. Is there a place in the pulpit for encouraging Christian participation in civic responsibilities?

CHURCH MINISTRIES QUESTIONS for **Week 8-9**  
**Visitation**

—Robertson. *The Christian Minister*, V, pp., 126-155

—Turnbull. “Pastor as Comforter,” pp. 297-301

—Thiessen. Pp. 91-98

**Robertson** Pp. 126-155

1. Name some benefits accruing from pastoral visitation.
2. Note Robertson’s description of the tenor of the visit.
3. a) Ideally, how often should a church family be visited? b) Should visits be scheduled with the family, or just spontaneous?
4. What can be said to the sick on their bed of affliction?
5. Do you agree with Robertson on the use of hymns being read in the sick room?
6. How may a recovery of health be capitalized upon by a pastoral visit?
7. Note: visit the sick while in the land of the living!
8. How should you counsel families if they or their doctor feel the patient should be kept in ignorance about his terminal illness?

**Nelson in Turnbull** pp. 297ff.

1. Note: Be aware that physical/health conditions may affect personality and temperament. Any examples?
2. Note Nelson’s emphasis on commiseration, viz., being “called along side.”
3. Note the symptoms of grief.
4. For how long after the funeral should the pastor keep up visitation (grief counseling) of the survivors?

**Thiessen, pp. 91-98**

1. Note the balance that afternoon visitation gives to a.m. study.
2. How involved in prison ministries should the pastor be?
3. Any other comments?

**Berkley II, pp. 215-229**

- 1 Summarize the Jowett citation on the difficult work of personal visitation.
- 2 Regarding shut-in calling, what does the statement mean: “Even a little pastoral care...brings blessings in both directions”?

**Thought Questions**

1. Who else besides the pastoral staff should be involved in visitation of the congregation and/or prospective members, etc?
2. List some pros and cons of sick room communion services.

CHURCH MINISTRIES QUESTIONS for **Week 8-9**  
**Visitation and Pastor's Life**

—Adams. *Shepherding God's Flock* "Pastoral Life," chpts. XI-XVII

- 11.1 Note two OT proof texts for visitation by God's messengers. Give a NT reference.
- 11.2 How may Adam's interpretation of visitation be accomplished in places other than members' homes?
- 11.3 Note the a) need and b) content of visitation record keeping.
- 11.4 What are some advantages of making appointments before visiting?

12

- 12.1 Note: ministers in a new congregation should visit every family of the congregation.
- 12.2 What should the visiting elder (pastor) have done before knocking on the door?
- 12.3 What should be said to avoid a merely social visit?
- 12.4 Generally, what is better: a two hour visit or three 40 minute visits?
- 12.5 Note the type of chart at the end of chpt 12.

13

- 13.1 Any comments on a ladies' society/ministry where mature Christian gentlewomen may teach the younger women? (I Tim. 5; Titus 2).

14

- 14.1 "...Be ready in season and out of season; reprove, rebuke, and exhort with great patience..." but remember that intensive counseling is best done in the controlled situation of your office and at a scheduled time.

15

- 15.1 How much priority should be placed upon consideration of a church-based [deaconal] health insurance policy for needy or chronically ill church members/families? (See Adams' *Journal of Pastoral Practice*, V:1, p. 7.)
- 15.2 Why and what can church members do in visiting the ill and shut-ins?
- 15.3 Note: Don't ignore convalescing strangers in a hospital ward or semi-private room.

16

- 16.1 What are two good hours for hospital visitation? What are the bad times?
- 16.2 How long should the hospital visit be?
- 16.3 Why check at the nurses station before entering the hospital room?
- 16.4 In emergency situations, what role may the pastor play at the hospital?

17

- 17.1 What encouragement may be given to shut-ins?
- 17.2 Outline the do's and don'ts of visiting those on their death bed.

CHURCH MINISTRIES for **Week 10**  
**Pastoral Counseling**

—Adams. *Shepherding God's Flock* "Pastoral Counseling," chpts. Intro–XIV

- 2.1 What is Adams' biblical basis for involving ruling elders in formal, church-based counseling? Name some benefits of involving elders.
- 2.2 How may elders be trained to counsel? In what initial areas of counseling should elders be involved? (Also reference chpt. 3 to answer this.)
- 2.3 How can the deaconate and other mature Christians be involved in the counseling process?
  
- 4.1 What are the considerations before a pastor agrees to counsel someone from another congregation?
  
- 5.1 What is Adams' "GPO" in tracking a counseling case?
  
- 6.1 Give a biblical basis for "pastoral straightforwardness." What does it mean that "It is better to crush the egg than to kill the serpent?"
- 6.2 What is Adams' recommended three step approach in taking initiative to confront people?
  
- 7.1 List five aspects to teach youths in preparing them for the true meaning of marriage.
- 7.2 List and briefly explain the three qualifying questions a pastor should ask a couple before he agrees to marry them.
- 7.3 What do you think of Adams' schedule and mode of operation for post-wedding follow up?
  
- 8.1 How and why must a pastor be pro-active in protecting his own purity when counseling a woman? What should a pastor do if he is propositioned by a counselee?
  
- 9.1 The pastor should be aware of what kind of particular challenges facing the elderly?
- 9.2 What general biblical counsel should be given to lonely older people? Spend 6 minutes on exercise 2 for the Student on page 270.
- 9.3 Who is the head of the home if an aged parent moves in with his married child?
  
- 10.1 Discuss the two questions about pre-baptismal counseling on page 274.
  
- 14.1 Should you do your counseling at the church or at the office in your home?
- 14.2 Note: If you do not have a PDA, preferably with a voice recorder, you are condemned to Adams' Shirt Pocket Filing System.

CHURCH MINISTRIES for **Week 11**  
“Worship and Sacraments”

- Turnbull. “Pastor as Worshiper,” pp. 305-08
- B. Patterson in *Leadership Magazine*. “Can Worship Leaders Worship?” pp. 34-38
- Sugden & Wiersbe. VII, pp. 70-76.
- Robertson. *The Christian Minister*, pp. 99-125

**Cochrane (in Turnbull)** Pp. 305-08

1. Try to capsule the essence of worship and the pastor’s important role in it.
2. How does the Invocation differ from the morning pastoral prayer?
3. Why is the pulpit (sermon) central in most protestant churches?

**Patterson**, p. 34ff.

1. What are some suggested elements of the leader’s preparation for worship?

**Sugden & Wiersbe VII**, Pp. 70 ff.

1. Note some of the suggestions that help keep worship services from grinding down into the “business as usual” syndrome.
2. What are the pros and cons of the modern day altar call?
3. Note: “I concentrate on my midweek service the most. People are going to come to church on Sunday, anyway. A church will be built through the prayers and labors of those particular ones who attend the midweek service.” (paraphrase of H. Okenga)

**Robertson** pp. 99-125

1. Can the exclusion of a short children’s message be justified on the basis that the preacher will address all ages in his regular sermonizing?
2. Is the benediction really necessary?
3. Note: Be sure to advise the subjects (or parents) of baptism what questions and order of events will come at the baptism.
4. What about a catechism class for teenagers and new members?
5. What are the pros of open and of closed communion?
6. Note in class the language/form of administering the Lord’s Supper.

**Memorize** one of these “calls-to-worship” by the next class:

CALLS: John 5:24 or Psalm 100:2,4 or John 4:23,24

## CHURCH MINISTRIES for Week 12

### Church Music

- B. Gsell. “Church Music: Biblical and Worshipful” handout
- [F. Segler. *Christian Worship: Its Theology and Practice*, VI “Music and Worship,” pp. 92-104]
- J. Frame. “Music in Worship” handout from *New Horizons*, 7:4 (April ‘86), pp. 1,2
- Thiessen. XIII, “Church Music”

#### Gsell. “Church Music”

1. Paraphrase your favorite thought on music in worship from among the numerous citations from characters in church history.
2. Name a method for breaking in unfamiliar hymns with the congregation

#### Segler. Pp. 92-104

1. A strict interpretation of the regulative principle says that only Psalms may be sung in worship. What does the NT incorporation, (particularly in Pauline epistles), of early popular Christian hymns (see NT refrs.) imply about exclusive Psalmody?
2. In what three ways does music relate to worship?
3. List the four “tests” for choosing hymns. Any other criteria?

#### J. Frame. “Music in Worship”

1. Since music is just a heightened form of language (“All language has the qualities of music [tone, rhythm, timbre, pitch]”) and is more vivid and impressive, why don’t we make all our services entirely musical?
2. Is it OK biblically to use simple praise songs that are short and overly repetitious?
3. What about keeping our music relevant to new generations and changing cultures (point #6)? [see also Rick Warren who argues for easy rock in *Leadership*, Spring ‘93, p. 24). Should our style of music be made more appealing to the tastes of the unbeliever present in the service (arguments from I Cor. 14:23-25 and from mission outreach to a foreign culture). Does to “sing with the understanding” (I Cor. 14:15 cf. Ps. 47:7 in KJV) mean that we must adapt music of worship to standards of the pop culture?

#### Thiessen. XIII

1. Note NT apostolic hymns; e.g., I Tim. 3:16, Phil. 2:8-10; cf. Eph. 5:19, Col. 3:16. See also Segler.
2. Generally, who should select the hymns for congregational worship?
3. Should the choir be open to anyone interested, or only the musically competent?

Davies and Grace (Anglicans) in *Music and Worship* suggest **four criteria** for tasteful church music:

1. Originality: is it fresh enough to renew while being in touch with the church’s tradition?
2. Simplicity of style and ease of use expressed in a recognizable melody and common chords.
3. Temper: *rhythmically* strong but not so assertive that the music draws attention to its own form instead of to God. Beware of simple, over-repeated rhythms.
4. Sensitivity: Bach had the technique of a giant and the heart of a child

#### ELEMENTS of MUSIC

Blackwood in *The Fine Art of Public Worship* notes that “In terms of popular psychology, rhythm appeals to the instincts, melody to the emotions, harmony to the intellect.” —p. 118

Hence a major appeal of Bach is his intricate harmonies while Rachminoff’s romantic melodies set the emotions to running, while the jungle beat of rock and roll makes the masses riot at rock concerts (otherwise you would think that “Music would soothe the savage breast”).

**MEMORIZE** these **Benedictions** by the next class:

BENEDICTIONS: II Cor. 13:14 Hebrews 13:20,21 Jude 24,25 Numbers 6:24-26

CHURCH MINISTRIES for **Week 13**  
Weddings & Funerals

—Thiessen. –XIX, “Weddings” –XVIII, “Funerals”

In place of Sugden/Wiersbe, Wagner, and Wiersbe or Blair, you may read Berkley, ed., Vol. I, pp. 463-499

—Sugden & Wiersbe. XI

—[Chs. Wagner. pp. 201-208]

—Either Wiersbe, *Comforting the Bereaved*, VII-IX, pp. 53-76 **OR** Robert Blair, *The Minister’s Funeral Handbook*, VI-IX, pp. 51-68

**Thiessen. XIX**

1. Should the pastor/session maintain the right to veto the couple’s wishes for special music, ceremonies, etc.?
2. Be prepared for the following questions about marrying prospective couples:
3. Can I marry two unbelievers? two believers outside of my flock? two people “shacking up”?
  - a. What about grounds for remarriage after divorce?
  - b. How many pre-marital counseling sessions should I hold? Consider at least three in order to get acquainted with them, to detect personality issues, and to assess their plans and realistic expectations for their marriage.

It is worth your while to take a seminar training course in “Prepare & Enrich,” a diagnostic analysis for both persons which is computer scored to reveal patterns in essential areas of concern like structures of the families of origin, philosophy of parenting, finances, religious orientations. It includes a helpful plan for building the communication process.

4. Don’t forget to verify that the wedding license has been procured.

5. In the early years of ministry, in helping to plan the ceremony you will find helpful a tool like *The Minister’s Service Manual*, complete with diagrams and alternate wedding services.

For details on wedding etiquette (what to wear; if the bride’s parents are divorced, who gives her away? where does her father sit? etc.), see J.L. Christiansen’s *The Minister’s Marriage Handbook* (Revell Publ.), a nuts and bolts guide from premarital counseling to the rehearsal to all kinds of ceremonies.

**Thiessen. XVII**

1. Note: Be sure to ask the family if they or the deceased have any requests for the funeral service. Personalize the service with some reminiscences of the deceased.
2. How long should the funeral sermon be? What central message will be proclaimed?
3. Take note of Thiessen’s good summary of the graveside service.

**Sugden & Wiersbe. XI**

1. How can you graciously respond to receiving a funeral honorarium?
2. Be prepared. Always have a funeral outline ready, one for a believer, one for an unbeliever.

**Wagner. Pp. 201-08**

1. Be sure to have a couple Scripture texts appropriate for comforting either a believing or non-believing family.
2. Try to learn (if unfamiliar) some significant facts or anecdotes about the deceased.
3. The \$8+ price of Wagner is worth it probably just for the various check lists and suggested Scripture passages in this chapter. Also see Bonar, *Texts for Visiting*

**Blair OR Wiersbe:** read one of these authors and take notes in order to give a three minute synopsis in class on your findings.

1. Always be sure to coordinate beforehand with the funeral director. You generally will find him helpful in choreographing your first funerals.
2. Be aware that lodges may want to take part in the funerals of members. Have your convictions worked out before this development.
3. What about cremation for a Christian? See Boettner’s chapter in *Immortality*