

ANDERSON UNIVERSITY SCHOOL OF THEOLOGY

EMERGING FOR MINISTRY:  
STRATEGIES FOR MINISTRY TURNAROUND  
FOR KEARSARGE CHURCH OF GOD

A PROFESSIONAL PROJECT SUBMITTED TO  
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## ABSTRACT

### EMERGING FOR MINISTRY: STRATEGIES FOR MINISTRY TURNAROUND FOR KEARSARGE CHURCH OF GOD

The American cultural and religious landscape is changing. Many churches including the Kearsarge Church of God have failed to keep pace with the changing culture. For the Kearsarge Church of God this has resulted in a continued decline in ministry and community engagement.

This professional project documents how the Kearsarge Church of God has sought to turnaround the decline and engage in more effective ministry. Through an emergent theological intervention, the congregation has implemented strategies to engage the surrounding postmodern culture. The documentation of this intervention is divided into three parts.

The first part begins by analyzing the congregational context and presenting the measurements that were used to facilitate an evaluation of the developing strategies. The problem that the congregation was facing is also presented. This is followed by a brief overview of the Erie, Pennsylvania community to provide a picture of the changing community and some indications that the postmodern ethos is detectable in the community.

The second part documents the core of the theological and theoretical materials that were examined in preparation for strategy development. While both the postmodern ethos and the emerging church have wide and varied understandings, this part designates what factors became the important focus for strategy development. This is followed by an assessment of the postmodern culture and the emerging church theology and practices

through the lens of Church of God (Anderson, Indiana) theological heritage. The purpose is to examine the important factors to determine the extent that engagement is viable for this Church of God congregation.

The final part provides the details on what strategies were employed in order to address the problem that the congregation was facing. These strategies were adapted from or inspired by the emerging church. Finally the subsequent measurements are presented. Implications are presented in this final section both for other congregations as well as the future of the Kearsarge Church of God.