A MAJORITY OF NALC CHURCHES ARE SMALL, AND ARE LOCATED IN RURAL, SMALL TOWN AREAS......

I. Struggles of the Small Congregation-

- Aging
- Less people worshipping
- Declining towns/closing schools
- Farms struggling/low commodity prices
- Lack of money
- Negativity/Power Issues/Control
- Lack of community engagement
- Many churches in town
- Maintaining property
- Lack of children/youth
- Not wanting to change
- Short pastorates
- Lack of participation, burnout
- Trying to be everything to all
- Always comparing to the past
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II. Importance of Relationships-

- Relationship with Jesus-

- Relationship with each other-
• Relationship with Community-

III. Opportunities for Small Congregations-

• Discipleship Growth
• Using Assets for Ministry
• Connecting with Community (visitation)
• Addressing needs of the Area
• Working with other Faith Communities
• Allow people to use their gifts for ministry
• Optimistic Attitude

IV. Possible Resources
• How to Thrive as a Small Church Pastor”-Steve Bierly
• “Small, Strong Congregations”-Kennon Callahan
• “Effective Small Churches in the 21st Century”- Carl Dudley
• The Forgotten Church-Why Rural Ministry Matters for Every Church in America”- Glen Daman and Brian Wechsler
• “The Lord’s harvest And the Rural Church” Kent Hunter
• “Rural congregations”- Kevin Ruffcorn
• “Small Congregations, BIG Potential”- Lyle Schaller
• “Small Church Essentials”-Karl Vaters