



## **Comparing Types of Small Churches**

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## Different Kinds of Small Churches

Table 1. Comparing Types of Small Churches Described by Size

<b>Arlin Routhage (1983)</b>	<b>Lyle Schaller (in Burt and Roper 2000)</b>
<p><u>Family Church</u> (up to 50):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Minister's functions limited and more like those of a chaplain.</li> <li>• Relational entity (more organism than organization), operating like an extended family, clan or tribe.</li> </ul>	<p><u>Fellowship: The Cat</u> (up to 40)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Independent, pays heed to the pastor when it wants to, instinctively knows how to care for itself, does not want to be trained or transformed into something else (Pastor as Chaplain).</li> </ul>
<p><u>Pastoral Church</u> (50 – 150)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Relational organism operating around a solo pastor.</li> <li>• Size dependent on number of relationships minister can establish and maintain.</li> </ul>	<p><u>Small: The Collie</u> (35-100)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• More capable than it first appears, responds to love with love, sometimes barks at strangers.</li> </ul>
<p><u>Program Church</u> (90 – 150)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Multi-cell (cells may function as family churches).</li> <li>• Pastor relates to leadership circle.</li> <li>• Representative rather than participatory government.</li> <li>• Newcomers attracted to programs.</li> </ul>	<p><u>Middle Size: The Garden</u> (100-175)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Weeds grow quickly when garden not tended.</li> <li>• Can be part of the corn without knowing the beans.</li> </ul>
	<p><u>Awkward: The House</u> (175-225)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Needs specialized skills to keep it in shape.</li> </ul>

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Table 2. Comparing Types of Small Churches Described by Growth Pattern

David Ray (2003)	Glenn Daman (2002)	Duncan McIntosh in Pappas (2000, 17-18)
<b>Declining or Plateaued</b>		
<u>Once Large Church</u> : carries structures from its large church days	<u>Declining Church</u> : formerly large, declining due to spiritual problems or changes in community	
<u>Schismatic Church</u> : uses conflict to practice cell division	<u>Stagnant Church</u> : lethargic, no vision or urgency	
<u>Clan Church</u> : a few large extended families – enter church mainly by birth or marriage		<u>Constricted Family Church</u> : tightly bound nuclear family; growth unlikely
<u>Intentionally Small Church</u> : Leaders jealous of power or highly disciplined and demanding		<u>Restricted Family Church</u> : family of siblings; some growth over time
<b>Plateaued or Increasing</b>		
<u>Ethnic Small Church</u> : small because of demographics or racism	<u>Enduring Church</u> : will not have much numerical growth through no fault of their own	
<u>Always Small Church</u> : few esteem issues	<u>Specialized Church</u> : could grow but chooses to limit growth by maintain-ing specialization	
<u>Not Yet Large Church</u> : new church in growing area, stable church with new, skilled pastor; behaves like a large church	<u>Growing Church</u> : changing from small to medium or large, usually in newly established, growing communities	<u>Reproducing Family Church</u> : extended family of cousins, likely to experience high growth

Burt, Steven E and Hazel Ann Roper. 2000. The little church that could: Raising small church esteem. Valley Forge, Pennsylvania: Judson Press.

Daman, Glen C. 2002. Shepherding the small church: A leadership guide for the majority of today's churches. Grand Rapids: Kregel.

Pappas, Anthony G., ed. 2002. Inside the Small Church. Herndon, Virginia: The Alban Institute.

Ray, David R. 2003. The indispensable guide for smaller churches. Cleveland: Pilgrim Press.