

Tangaza University College  
Catholic University of Eastern Africa (CUEA)  
Nairobi, Kenya

Annotated Syllabus of Two Credit Core Course, Three hours per week for nine weeks, Lecture Format, Pastorally Oriented (January to March, 2015).  
Thursdays 8:30 a.m. to 11:25 a.m. in Hall.

### **Small Christian Communities as a New Model of Church in Africa Today (PTC418)**

**NOTE:** This course is only offered in the Second Semester of the Academic Year (January to March). It is a Core Course in the Pastoral Theology Department of the School of Theology as part of the STB and BATH (CUEA) Degrees (Eighth Semester) and the MA Degree in Pastoral Ministry. There are a total of 27 class periods of 50 minutes each spread over three periods per week on Thursday mornings for nine weeks.

Ebooks/Printed Paperback Books: Resources and Reference Books for Required and Recommended Reading:

- a. Healey, Joseph G., *Building the Church as Family of God: Evaluation of Small Christian Communities in Eastern Africa*. The Online Digital (Ebook or Electronic Book) Version of this book is regularly updated as a free Ebook. As of 5 February, 2015 it is 576 pages and is available on the left hand side of the “Home Page” of the Small Christian Communities Global Collaborative Website as an Ebook at:  
[http://www.smallchristiancommunities.org/images/stories/pdf/Build\\_new.pdf](http://www.smallchristiancommunities.org/images/stories/pdf/Build_new.pdf).

It can also be found on the Tangaza University College Website. Go to: Library>E-Resources>Open Access Lists> Small Christian Communities in Eastern Africa)  
<http://www.tangaza.org>

This Ebook is 4.35 MB in the PDF Format. It can be downloaded (saved) on any electronic reading device with a free capacity of 5 MB and above (desktop computer, external hard drive, flash drive, laptop computer, notebook, tablet, Ipad, smart phone, etc.). Follow the download instructions on each browser. Google Chrome is recommended. Offline you can convert it to a Microsoft Word Document and use “Home” then “Find” (or Control F) to go to the “Navigation Box” to search the Ebook. Online use Control F to open the “Find” or “Search” Box to search the Ebook. Handouts for the course are found in the [APPENDIX: Resource Materials on the On-going Formation and Training of SCC Members](#) (pages 432-529) in the Ebook.

- b. Healey, Joseph G., *Building the Church as Family of God: Evaluation of Small Christian Communities in Eastern Africa*. Eldoret: AMECEA Gaba Publications – CUEA Press, Double Spearhead Nos. 199-200, 2012. 163 pages with Index.
- c. Healey, Joseph and Jeanne Hinton (eds.), *Small Christian Communities Today: Capturing the New Moment*. Orbis Books, 2005 and Paulines Publications Africa, 2006. 224 pages with Index. Referred to as *SCCT*.

**8 January, 2015:** Week 1: Classes 1-3: "Introduction to SCCs Course." One minute of Silence. No. 120 of Pope Francis' *The Joy of the Gospel* states: "In virtue of their Baptism all members of the People of God have become missionary disciples." Opening Solidarity Prayer: "Peace in Africa." Plan of the Course.

Small Christian Communities (SCCs) are a "New Way of Being (Becoming) Church" and a "New Model of Church in Africa Today."

The many changes in organizing our course mirror the life of our 160,000 SCCs in Eastern Africa. Expectations for the course. A new way of teaching about SCCs and a new way of learning about SCCs. The course is practical and pastoral and largely based on the students' personal experience. A User Friendly Course. Developing a Training of Trainers (TOT) style. Profile of the class. Developing a "SCC identity" as a class. Using name *Mwanajumuiya* (member of a SCC) rather than "student" in class. The 44 *Wanajumuiya* (members of a SCC) come from 21 religious congregations and include 19 deacons. They come from a total of 16 countries: 14 countries in Africa: Angola, Benin, Burundi, DRC, Ethiopia, Ghana, Ivory Coast, Kenya, Nigeria, Rwanda, Tanzania, Togo, Uganda and Zambia in Africa and 2 other countries: Brazil and Pakistan. They have done pastoral work in these countries plus 3 more African countries -- Egypt, Liberia, Malawi -- and Argentina.

The basic teaching method is online learning using the Small Christian Communities Global Collaborative Website (<http://www.smallchristiancommunities.org>) that is available on laptops, desktops, notebooks, tablets Ipads and smartphones. Use different browsers: Google Chrome, Internet Explorer, Mozilla Firefox, Safari and Torch. Includes: I highly recommend Google Search for 95% of our research needs. The SCCs Website includes the free online Ebook, Video Section (DVDs on YouTube), Facebook Page and Skype.

**Handouts:** "Table of Contents" of Ebook

"APPENDIX: Resource Materials on the On-going Formation and Training of SCC Members" (24 E-Resources in the Online Resource Materials)

Bookmark: *Celebrating 160,000 Small Christian Communities in Eastern Africa*.

Connecting to the other theology courses. Connecting to our personal, pastoral, practical experiences in parishes and apostolic activities. There is no blueprint for building and developing SCCs. Spanish proverb: *We create the path by walking*. Reading and responding to the signs of the times. Explanation of the two print reference books. Suggestion: Prepare a folder with all your SCCs materials that also be used in your ongoing pastoral ministry. Explanation of the **SCCs Course Paper** (the one CAT -- Continuous Assessment Task -- 30 points of course grade) and the **Final Written (Short Essay) Exam** (50 points of course grade). Highest marks in the written exam for answers that include specific examples from the assigned reading, class discussion and the DVDs.

DVD on *The Church in the Neighbourhood: Small Christian Communities* (with Swahili and Arabic versions). Nairobi: Ukweli Video Productions, 1995. 43 minutes. Segment I: "Life and Activities of SCCs." Segment II: "Services (Ministries) in the SCCs." Still the best DVD on the life and activities of SCCs in Africa.

Modeling a SCC Model of Church by experiencing being a member of a SCC during the course. Dividing class into four SCCs and choosing Patron/Patroness Saints of the four SCCs with their feast days:

Importance of the *Bible* (our *jembe*). Comparing the *Bible* to our smartphone. Bring the *Bible*, *Missal*, Smartphone (such as the iPhone) or tablet (such as the iPad) with Gospel text to class. *Lectio Divina*. During the course we will have practical experience of different methods of *Bible* Sharing/*Bible* Reflection.

20 minutes in modeling the *Bible* Sharing/*Bible* Reflection/*Bible*—Life Connections in our four SCCs based on the Gospel of the following Sunday (Sunday after the Epiphany, the Baptism of the Lord – Year B). *Mark* 1: 7-11. Process: Read the Gospel the first time. Silence. Share *Bible* reflections: *Bible*—Life Connections that connect, relate and apply the Gospel to our daily lives. This is lectionary-based faith sharing. This experience will help the deacons prepare their homilies for the following Sunday.

**NOTE:** Each week the first period begins with the students being asked to share “what struck them”/”what they learned” from the assigned reading.

**Readings:** Become familiar with the SCCs Website and Facebook Page.

“Foreword,” “Introduction” and “Explanation of Terms” (page xi to page 8 in *Small Christian Communities Today: Capturing the New Moment (SCCT)*).

**15 January, 2015:** Week 2: Classes 4-6: "Types and Trends in Small Christian Communities in Eastern Africa." Opening Solidarity Prayer: No. 33 of Pope Francis' *The Joy of the Gospel*. General housekeeping details. “Touchdown” period (page 449 of Ebook *Building the Church as Family of God*) with examples of the deacons’ homilies from Sunday, 11 January, 2015. “A New Way of Preparing a Homily.” Story: Traveling around the world I’m sure that I surprise many priests (and parishioners alike) when I say that in Eastern Africa we find it “easy” to preach on Sunday if we use the “SCC process.” During the week the priest participates in various SCC meetings of lay people in his parish that listen to, and reflect on, the Gospel of the following Sunday. Then the Sunday Parish Eucharist becomes the “communion of the SCCs.” During his homily the priest or deacon reflects back the experiences, insights and applications that he has learned from the *Bible* reflections that have taken place in the individual SCC meetings. Much of the content of his homily come from the life experiences and *Bible*--life connections of SCC members that members of the Sunday congregation can easily relate to and feel are relevant to their lives.

SCCs Facebook Page (presently 1,373 Fans). Discussion of the assigned reading. Survey of *wanajumuiya* involvement in the 14 common activities of SCCs (E-Resource No. 1 in the Online Resource Materials on pages 433-435 of Ebook *Building the Church as Family of God*). “Small Christian Communities as a New Model of Church in Africa Today.” “Small Christian Communities as a New Way of Being (Becoming) Church in Africa Today.” Difference between a SCC Model of Church and a Small Group Model of Church. Neighborhood (geographical), parish-based SCCs are a pastoral model of church and an instrument/vehicle/tool of evangelization. Comprise 90 % of the SCCs in the AMECEA (the acronym for "Association of Member Episcopal Conferences in Eastern Africa" that is a service organization for the National

Episcopal Conferences of the nine English-speaking countries of Eastern Africa, namely Eritrea, Ethiopia, Kenya, Malawi, South Sudan, Sudan, Tanzania, Uganda and Zambia) Region.

Other types of SCCs are called specialized SCCs that comprise 10 % of the SCCs in the AMECEA Region. Examples: Extraterritorial or floating SCCs in parishes; SCCs in schools (including universities, seminaries and houses of religious formation), training centres and hospitals; specialized groups (doctors, lawyers, nurses, teachers, youth); and small groups connected to international movements and organizations such as like Christian Life Communities (CLCs), Focolare, Neo-Catechumenate and the charism of various religious congregations. Youth Small Christian Communities (YSCCs).

Explanation of the Three Steps of the Pastoral Spiral Methodology or Process of the Course (“See,” “Judge” and “Act”) with concrete SCC examples on the local level.

References:

1. “Checklist of 14 Activities in Small Christian Communities (SCCs) in Africa Today” (E-Resource No. 1 in the Ebook on the SCCs Website).
2. “13 Steps in the Weekly *Bible Sharing/Bible Reflection/Bible—Life Connections of Small Christian Communities (SCCs) in Africa*” (E-Resource No. 4 in the Online Resource Materials in the Ebook on the SCCs Website).

DVD (via YouTube) on *Celebrating 120,000 Small Christian Communities in Eastern Africa*.

Final 20 minutes of third period is modeling the *Bible Sharing/Bible Reflection/Bible—Life Connections* in our four SCCs based on the Gospel of the following Sunday (Second Sunday of Ordinary Time – Year B: *John 1: 35-42*). Steps 4-9 of E-Resource No. 4. Mention a word or phrase in the Gospel that strikes you the most (*chambua maneno ya maana* in Swahili).

**Reading:** “Timeline in the History and Development of Small Christian Communities (SCCs) in Africa Especially Eastern Africa.” Under the “African Continent” on the SCCs Website, Chapter One of the Ebook and Chapter One of the paperback book.

**22 January, 2015:** Week 3: Classes 7-9: “How African Priests Animate SCCs in Parishes in Eastern Africa.” Opening Solidarity Prayer: “Week of Prayer for Christian Unity” plus elections in Zambia and DRC. Touchdown.

Analysis of and discussion on: “In the evaluation and assessment of SCCs in the AMECEA Region, research on the participation of priests is mixed. On the open statement – ‘The priests...’ we have heard a wide range of comments (including the exact words) listed below from the negative/critical to the positive/complimentary ranging from:” See pages 104-106 of free online Ebook. Different Case Studies.

**Reading:** One of the chapters on Africa in the book *Small Christian Communities Today: Capturing the New Moment*.

**29 January, 2015:** Week 4: Classes 10-12: “The Importance of Lay People in SCCs in Africa.” Opening Song: “*Tende Mbele*.” Opening Solidarity Prayer: “Violence against Children.” Housekeeping. Touchdown. Input from two members of the Eastern Africa SCCs Training Team: Mwanajumuiya Mama Rose Musimba: “Why Women Should Have More Leadership in SCCs and in the Catholic Church in General.” Mwanajumuiya Alphonse Omolo: “Creative Ways of Promoting SCCs Networking.”

**Handouts:** “Guidelines for the “SCC Practicum Write-up”. “Part I of the **SCCs Course Paper** Based on the Pastoral Spiral/ Circle/Cycle” (one page).  
 “Example of a SCC Practicum Write-up” (one page).  
 Form for the **SCCs Course Paper** (to be handed in on 19 February, 2015).

**Reading:** material on:

Synod of Bishops III Extraordinary General Assembly. *The Pastoral Challenges of the Family in the Context of Evangelization* (October, 2014).

Synod of Bishops XIV Ordinary General Assembly. *The Vocation and Mission of the Family in the Church and Contemporary World*, (October, 2015).

Searching within the SCCs Website:

Family: 42 results found.

Marriage: 20 results found

**5 February, 2015:** Week 5: Classes 13-15: “SCCs Promote Family and Marriage Ministry in Africa Today.” Opening Solidarity Prayer. Pope Francis' prayer intention for evangelization in February, 2015 is: “That married people who are separated may find welcome and support in the Christian community.” Housekeeping. Outline of exam questions. Key: “Give five specific concrete examples.” Touchdown. Simon Rurinjah: “SCCs Promote Family and Marriage Ministry in Kenya Today.”

Second Period: Discussion on Questions 28-39 at the back of the booklet *Linamenta* for the Synod of Bishops XIV Ordinary General Assembly. *The Vocation and Mission of the Family in the Church and Contemporary World*, (4- 25 October, 2015). Pope Francis’ call to be “be bold and creative” in finding new pastoral solutions (“think outside the box”).

20 minutes of the third period is modeling the *Bible Sharing/Bible Reflection/Bible—Life Connections* in our class based on the Gospel of the following Sunday (Fifth Sunday of Ordinary Time – Year B -- *Mark* 1:29-39 in buzz groups of two or three people each. Buzz groups are a participatory method or process of group dynamics very helpful in SCCs.

**Homework:** Search on the Internet for examples of Youth Websites, Facebook Pages and Blogs.

**12 February, 2015.** Week 6: Classes 16-18: “Participation of Youth in Small Christian Communities in Africa.” Song popular with youth in Kenya. Housekeeping. “Forming Youth Small Christian Communities (YSCCs) in Africa.” Two types of YSCCs: parish-based and school-based. Why youth want their own SCCs. Special guests: Peter Kyalo and YSCC Team from Dandora Parish, Nairobi. Online demonstration of a multi-media website: Christ the

Teacher Parish, Kenyatta University Website and the plan of the SCCs of university students: some in dormitories/residence halls/hostels and two that are non-geographical):

<http://www.kucatholic.or.ke>. Includes Video Clips on YouTube. Demonstration of Youth Facebook Pages.

Reports from the free online Ebook on: Youth SCCs Workshop in Zambia in December, 2013. One-day Eastern Africa Youth Small Christian Communities (YSCCs) Workshop in Nairobi, Kenya on Saturday, 30 August, 2014. There were 31 participants (22 men and 9 women) from six countries: Ethiopia, Kenya, Tanzania, Uganda, Vietnam and Zambia.

**Reading:** Week Three (“Family and Social Morality”) of the Booklet of the “2015 Kenya Lenten Campaign.”

**19 February, 2015:** Week 7: Class 19-21: "SCCs Involvement in the 2015 Kenya Lenten Campaign on the theme *Build Our Family and Nation with Dignity*.

<http://www.cjpkenya.org/index.php?page=other&gid=85>

<http://www.cjpkenya.org/index.php?page=other&gid=86>

Opening Solidarity Prayer with Spontaneous Petitions in different languages on: “Family and Marriage in Africa.” Archbishop Raphael Ndingi Mwana’a Nzeki’s comment about SCC members praying in their home or heart language.

Panel and Facilitators for Powerpoint Presentation: Representatives of the Kenya Episcopal Conference Catholic Justice and Peace Commission Office: Mrs. Beatrice Odera and Mr. Martin Omwange: “Background of the Annual Kenya Lenten Campaigns.” “Introduction to the Overall Theme of the 2015 Kenya Lenten Campaign and “Week 3 (Third Sunday of Lent – 8 March, 2015) on “Family and Social Morality:” “Use of the Important Resources: Catholic Justice and Peace Commission, *The Leadership Handbook* (Swahili is *Maelekezo ya Uongozi*), Nairobi: KEC Catholic Justice and Peace Commission, 2013. Catholic Justice and Peace Commission, *Lent: Let Light Shine Out of Darkness... Kenya Lenten Campaign Training Manual for Small Christian Communities*. Nairobi: KEC Catholic Justice and Peace Commission, 2012.”

Questions and discussion. Summary: A key factor in the history of the Kenya Lenten Campaign that started in 1988 was the emphasis on reflecting on social issues in Kenya (in addition the three normal priorities of Lent – prayer, fasting and almsgiving). In 2014-2015 Pope Francis has called two sessions of special synods on the “Family and Marriage.” He wants the synods to examine the pastoral challenges experienced by families. How is the Catholic Church in Kenya responding?

Facilitating “Train the Trainers” (TOT) workshops in our parishes and SCCs. Training SCC Leaders to use the inductive "See," "Judge" and "Act" methodology/process of the Kenya Lenten Campaign.

Third Period: Use the three steps of "See," "Judge" and "Act" methodology/process in Week 3 (Third Sunday of Lent – 8 March, 2015) on "Family and Social Morality." In our four SCCs read:

1. Analyze and discuss the drawing (cartoon) on page 19.
2. Read the story in Step One ("See"): "The Very Wealthy Family in Maweni" on page 20.
3. Read part of the Situational Analysis in Step Two ("Judge") on pages 21-22.
4. Read the Gospel (*John 2: 13-25*) and scripture commentary.
5. Answer question 1 in Step Three ("Act") on page 23: "What can we do as family or Small Christian Community to promote Christian values in our families?"

Short reports from each SCC. How we can be animators of SCCs during the five weeks of Lent? How can these Lenten materials be helpful to the deacons in preparing their Sunday homilies? Evaluation of the methodology/process. General Discussion and the Way Forward.

Hand in Form for the **SCCs Course Paper**.

**23-27 February, 2015**: Mid-semester Break.

**5 March, 2015**: Week 8: Classes 22-24. "LUMKO Method of SCCs." Opening Solidarity Prayer. Powerpoint Presentation on "A Bird's Eye View of the LUMKO Way of Being Church." Facilitator: Sister Ephigenia Gachiri, IBVM.

- Handouts:** "Cartoon of *Kokoteni* Model of Church" (one page)  
 "LUMKO Poster: Communion of Communities Model of Church" (one page)  
 "The Comprehensive LUMKO Approach" (one page)  
 "7-Step Gospel Sharing"  
 "Evaluation of 7-Step Gospel Sharing" (two pages)  
 "How to Evaluate of SCCs" (one page).

Valuable resources for our parish ministry in Africa. Questions and discussion.

Third period: modeling the Seven-Step Gospel Sharing in our four SCCs using the Group Response Method/*Bible*--Mirror Method (E-Resource No. 8 in the Online Resource Materials) based on the Gospel of the Fourth Sunday of Lent (15 March, 2015) – Year B: *John 3:14-21*.

**12 March, 2015**: Week 9 (Last Day): (Classes 25-27). Short reports on the 44 **SCC Course Papers** and Summary of Course. Missionary Song "*Nimtume Nani?*" Opening Solidarity Prayer.

Evaluation of the course: How to improve the course? How to make future courses better?

Explanation of the Final Written Exam. Three questions on the written exam: one required question and then choosing two out of six questions. Bonus Questions. Sample exam questions based on possible themes. Explanation of the Marking System.

Class photo in front of Tangaza (to be posted on our SCCs Facebook Page).

Short reports on the **SCC Course Papers** in our four SCCs.

The Way Forward. Suggestion for follow-up after the end of the course. We the graduates (Alumni, Alumnae) of our SCCs Class can continue sharing, interacting, networking and exchanging SCCs information and experiences through the public Facebook Page, our own special, ongoing Online or Virtual SCC as a Facebook Page and on Skype. Sharing our "Reflection Papers" through social networking such as the SCCs Website and Facebook.

**Hand in the SCCs Course Paper.**

Closing Solidarity Song: "Bind Us Together, Lord."

**Between 16--18 March, 2015:** Final Written (Essay) Exam. 50 points of course grade. Opening Solidarity Prayer: Calling on the help of the First Small Community (Trinity) and the First Small Christian Community (Holy Family).

**Written Assignment. SCCs Course Paper** (the one CAT -- Continual Assessment Task) that is at least three pages single spaced or six pages double spaced. One paper with two parts. To be handed in and reported on in our four SCCs during our last class on 12 March, 2015. 30 points of course grade.

"Part I -- SCC Practicum Write-up" (one or two pages) on your personal, pastoral, practical experience of a SCC Practicum (a SCC Activity). Use the three steps of the "see," "judge" and "act" methodology or process. Arrange the **SCC Practicum** on your own that is, participate in/attend/visit a specific gathering/meeting/activity of a SCC in a parish or special interest group/apostolic group in Nairobi Archdiocese or another diocese in Kenya. Or participate in the St. Isidore of Seville International Online Skype SCC on any Tuesday afternoon at 5 p.m. Choose one of the activities of a SCC in the "Checklist of 14 Activities in Small Christian Communities (SCCs) in Africa Today." 10 points of course grade.

"Part II -- Reflection Paper (two or four pages) on a topic of your choice that comes from your experience and observations during the SCC Practicum or from your other SCC experiences. Examples: "Lack of Youth and Men in SCCs." "Tribalism and Negative Ethnicity in SCCs." "How to Divide a Large SCC into Two Smaller SCCs." "SCCs and Inculturation." "SCCs Involvement in the Kenya Lenten Campaign 2015." "SCCs Promote Family and Marriage Ministry in Africa." "Comparing Two SCCs." "Specific Challenges in SCCs in Africa Today." "Danger of SCCs Becoming a Vehicle for Fund-raising." "A Pastoral or Theological Question Related to SCCs." "The Growth of Youth Small Christian Communities (YSCCs) in Africa." "Reaching Young People through the Small Christian Communities Global Collaborative Website and Facebook Page." 20 points of course grade.



## **SCCs Resources**

See the end of Joseph Healey, *Building the Church as Family of God: Evaluation of Small Christian Communities in Eastern Africa* and pages 537-566 in the online version updated as of 5 February, 2015 and available on the SCCs Website at:

[http://www.smallchristiancommunities.org/images/stories/pdf/Build\\_new.pdf](http://www.smallchristiancommunities.org/images/stories/pdf/Build_new.pdf)

Under three categories:

1. "Select Annotated Bibliography of Books, Booklets, Articles, Reports and Printed Materials" (265 entries)
2. "DVD/Video/Sound-Slide Resources" (43 entries)
3. "Internet Resources/Websites/E-Resources" (64 entries)

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