



Small Church

Dunbar's Number

The average group size among modern hunter-gatherer societies (where there was accurate census data) was 148.4 individuals

Company size in professional armies, Dunbar found, was also remarkably close to a hundred and fifty, from the Roman Empire to sixteenth-century Spain to the twentieth-century Soviet Union

Dunbar's number isn't exact. It ranges from 120-190



Dunbar's Number

Dunbar says, "relationships involved across very big units then become **very casual** — and don't have that **deep meaning and sense of obligation and reciprocity** that you have with your close friends."



After 200, social bonds
break down

Every day they continued to meet together in the **temple courts**. They broke bread in their **homes** and ate together with glad and sincere hearts
Acts 2:46



**Temple Courts-Large
Gathering (120-190)**

**Home Gathering-Small
Gathering (8-20)**



So now you Gentiles are no longer **strangers and foreigners**. You are citizens along with all of God's holy people. You are **members of God's family**. Together, we are his house, built on the foundation of the apostles and the prophets. And the cornerstone is Christ Jesus himself. We are **carefully joined together in him**, becoming a holy temple for the Lord. Through him you Gentiles are also being made part of this dwelling where God lives by his Spirit. Ephesians 2:19-21



The Lethality of Loneliness, New Republic, Judith Shulevitz

definition of loneliness—"the want of intimacy"



Bigger

Better

**More
More
More
More
More
More**



It's Inevitable: We're Human, We're Christian, and We're Lonely

Enuma Okoro, Christianity Today

The lonely can easily fall into the unfulfilling trap of the quick fix: the new romantic relationship or sexual encounter, the new material item, or novel experience that we hope will fill that space (turns out shopping is linked to loneliness).

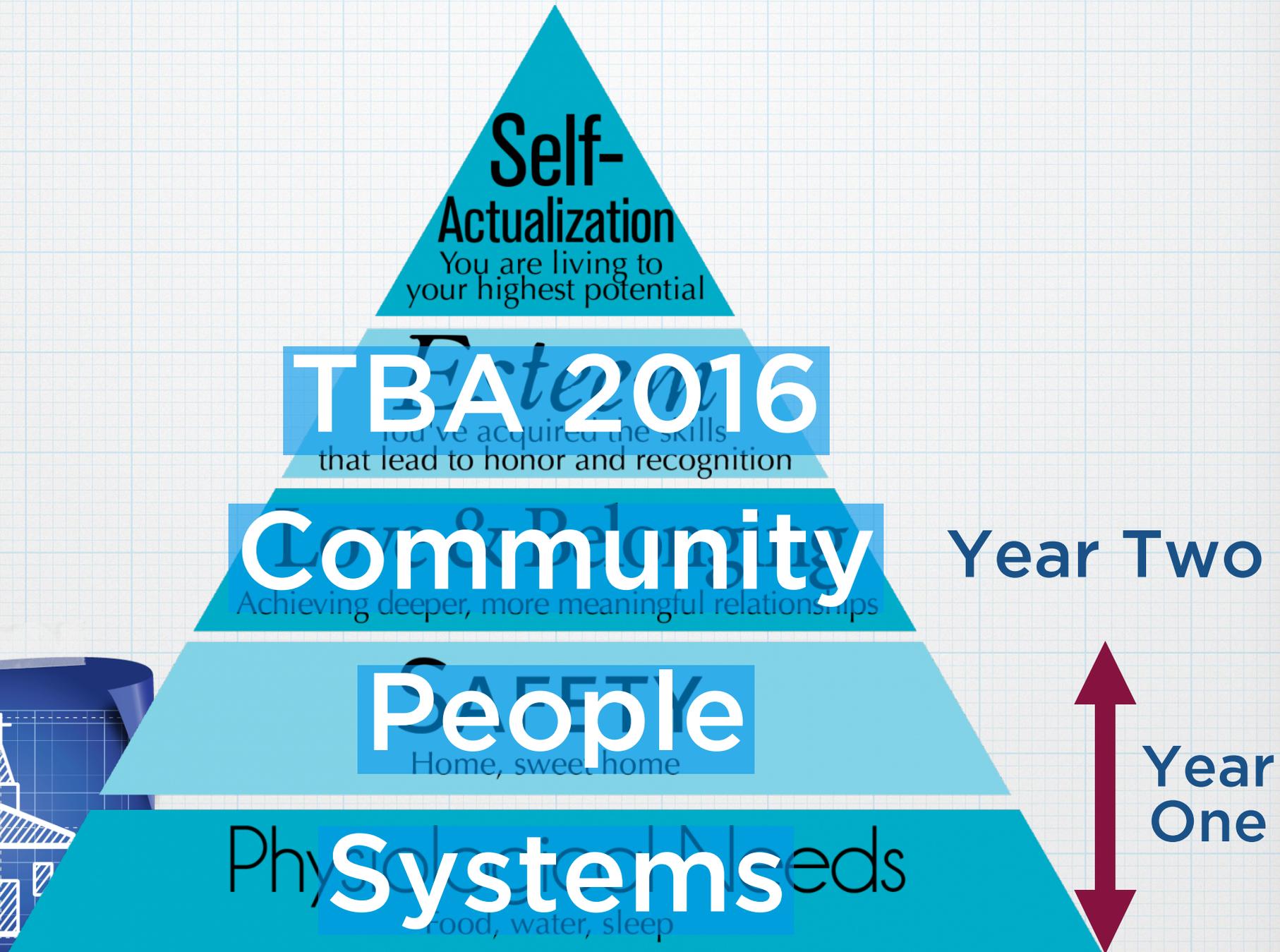


Loneliness can make our head lie to our heart and vice-versa.

**Church is only an “opportunity”
think handshake**



UCC first year-Maslow's Hierarchy of Needs



Smaller Churches Advantages, Brandon O'Brien

SMALL CHURCH, BIG IMPACT

Brandon O'Brien



Small Church is...

Authentic

A poll at the website ChurchMarketingSucks.com reveals that the number one reason people return to churches after an initial visit is because they deem the church “authentic.” The next most popular reason is the pastor’s preaching. The church’s programs only pulled five percent of the vote.



Small Church is... Lean and Focused

Instead of running a multitude of generic programs, a better use of resources and energy in the small church is to zero in on one or two programs that focus on the unique needs of your local context.



Small Church is... People Powered

If a small church limits the number of programs it runs, then the lion's share of the church's ministry will have to come from its members. One creative way small churches are addressing this challenge is by finding ways to equip their congregants to minister where they are already active during the week.



Small Church is... Intergenerational

In her research through the Fuller Youth Institute, Kara Powell has discovered a common denominator among young adults who continue to make the local church a vital part of their lives. Students who actively seek a church home after high school are those who have had meaningful relationships with other adults in the church besides their parents.



New For the Fall at UCC

City Wide City Group

2nd Sunday



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Ephesians 2:19-21

