

15-minute Assignment PRIOR TO JANUARY 13, 2017 CLASS
Field Observation in a Congregation

One of the ways we understand the culture and theology of a congregation is by observing its social setting, its building, its artifacts, and its rituals. This is a very brief introduction to how to start this process.

Visit a church building – preferably one you do not know. It can be for a worship service or at a time when worship is not held. Write brief notes to answer the following questions.

What does a quick look at the neighborhood tell you about the community surrounding this church?

What does the building tell you about the culture of this church?

What do the material objects inside the church tell you?

Looking at the bulletin (if one is available inside the sanctuary), what do you learn about the symbols, rituals, worldview, tradition, and culture of this church?