

Practical Theology in Church and Society

To reflect theologically on practice is to attend to various **levels of community**—from individual action to political praxis. We might reflect on personal practices, interpersonal interactions, community organizations, social institutions, or wider social forces—even globalizing trends. Some students in PMM1 are attending very deliberately to praxis as community engagement.



Many of them are reading **Carl Dudley's, *Community Ministry*** (Alban, 2002), and are following Dudley's steps in analyzing a community. These steps are:

1. defining the community,
2. identifying the people,
3. finding the "invisible" people,
4. analyzing intangible forces,
5. listening to the community, and
6. choosing a focus for ministry.

Learning partners are invited to engage in **community analysis** along with the student-interns and to reflect together theologically on their shared society. In fact, student interns might involve others in the congregation or in the neighborhood along with their learning partners in a study- group to explore their social context. This social analysis could then guide your theological reflection together. The following is a guide for broadening theological reflection to take into account analysis of social realities and dynamics... [more >](#)