

**THE RURAL CHURCH  
SERVING  
THE COMMUNITY**

Published @ 2017 Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd

ISBN 9780649746392

The rural church serving the community by Edwin L. Earp

Except for use in any review, the reproduction or utilisation of this work in whole or in part in any form by any electronic, mechanical or other means, now known or hereafter invented, including xerography, photocopying and recording, or in any information storage or retrieval system, is forbidden without the permission of the publisher, Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd, PO Box 1576 Collingwood, Victoria 3066 Australia.

All rights reserved.

Edited by Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd.  
Cover @ 2017

This book is sold subject to the condition that it shall not, by way of trade or otherwise, be lent, re-sold, hired out, or otherwise circulated without the publisher's prior consent in any form or binding or cover other than that in which it is published and without a similar condition including this condition being imposed on the subsequent purchaser.

[www.triestepublishing.com](http://www.triestepublishing.com)

**EDWIN L. EARP**

**THE RURAL CHURCH  
SERVING  
THE COMMUNITY**



BOOKS BY THE SAME AUTHOR

---

THE SOCIAL ENGINEER

Crown 8vo, net, \$1.50

SOCIAL ASPECTS OF RELIGIOUS INSTITUTIONS

12mo, net, 75 cents

THE RURAL CHURCH MOVEMENT

12mo, net, 75 cents

# The Rural Church Serving the Community

BY

EDWIN L. EARP

Professor of Sociology, Drew Theological Seminary  
Madison, New Jersey



THE ABINGDON PRESS  
NEW YORK CINCINNATI

DEDICATED  
TO THE  
MEMORY OF MY BROTHER  
N. B. (KIRK) EARP  
THE LAST OF FIVE BROTHERS  
ON THE OLD HOMESTEAD  
THE FIRST OF THE FIVE  
"CALLED HOME"





## CONTENTS

	PAGE
PREFACE.....	13
CHAPTER I	
COMMUNITY LEADERSHIP.....	15
I. THE NEED OF SPIRITUAL LEADERSHIP IN THE OPEN COUNTRY.....	16
II. THE RURAL LIFE MOVEMENT BECOMING ORGANIZED	18
III. RURAL FOLK BECOMING CLASS CONSCIOUS.....	19
IV. THE SHIFTING OF RURAL POPULATION.....	23
V. SPIRITUAL LEADERSHIP.....	24
CHAPTER II	
THE RURAL SOCIAL SURVEY.....	26
I. HOW TO PROCEED TO MAKE A SOCIAL SURVEY OF A RURAL CHURCH COMMUNITY.....	27
II. WHAT THE RURAL SURVEY SHOULD INCLUDE.....	29
III. CHARTING OF THE FACTS TO SUIT YOUR PROGRAM..	31
IV. A PROGRAM OF WORK.....	32
V. HOW TO CARRY OUT THE PROGRAM.....	32
CHAPTER III	
THE DESTRUCTIVE FORCES IN A COUNTRY COMMUNITY.....	34
I. ISOLATION—INDIVIDUALISM—LACK OF ACQUAINT- ANCESHIP.....	36
II. LACK OF COOPERATION.....	37
III. WASTE OF POTENTIAL LEADERSHIP.....	38
IV. UNSCIENTIFIC MANAGEMENT OF FARM LIFE.....	39
V. ABSENTEE LAND OWNERSHIP AND TENANTRY.....	40

# CONTENTS

## CHAPTER IV

ECONOMIC PROSPERITY, THE BASIS OF A VIGOROUS COMMUNITY CHURCH LIFE.....	42
I. THE PRIMARY OR FUNDAMENTAL ECONOMIC FACTORS	42
1. Productive Soil.....	42
2. Adequate Farm Labor.....	44
3. Available Financial Resources.....	45
II. SECONDARY ECONOMIC FACTORS.....	46
1. Production of Raw Materials.....	46
2. Conservation of Farm Products.....	46
3. Distribution or Marketing of Farm Products.	47
III. PSYCHOLOGICAL FACTORS.....	48
1. The Mental Attitudes of People.....	48
2. Team Work.....	49

## CHAPTER V

THE RURAL CHURCH SERVING A COMMUNITY.....	51
I. THE CHURCH SERVING THE COMMUNITY.....	54
1. An Attractive Force.....	54
2. A Saving Agency.....	55
3. Legitimate Forms of Social Service.....	56
II. THE SOCIAL-CENTER PARISH PLAN.....	58
1. The Plan.....	60
(1) The Social Survey.	
(2) The Chart or Map.	
(3) A Program of Work.	
(4) A Staff of Workers.	
2. Its Value as a Socializing Agency.....	64
(1) Socializing a Community in Consciousness.	
(2) Socializing a Community in Activity.	
3. How the Plan Can Be Worked.....	66
(1) The Leader.	
(2) Financial Support.	
(3) Policy of Administration.	
(4) Cooperation.	

# CONTENTS

## CHAPTER VI

<b>THE OVERHEAD ORGANIZATION OF THE COUNTRY CHURCH.....</b>	<b>70</b>
I. COOPERATIVE OVERHEAD INTERVENTION.....	72
II. A DEFINITE PROGRAM FOR THE RURAL COMMUNITY....	73
III. A DEFINITE POLICY FOR RURAL COMMUNITIES....	79

## CHAPTER VII

<b>THE TRAINING OF RURAL MINISTERS.....</b>	<b>82</b>
I. RURAL MINISTERS CLASSIFIED.....	83
II. METHODS OF TRAINING THE RURAL MINISTRY....	84
III. GRADUATE FELLOWSHIPS IN RURAL CHURCH FIELDS.....	87
IV. ADDITIONAL QUALIFICATIONS NEEDED.....	91

## CHAPTER VIII

<b>TEAM WORK FOR THE RURAL COMMUNITY....</b>	<b>95</b>
I. THE ESSENTIALS OF TEAM ORGANIZATION.....	96
1. The Question of Ability.....	96
2. The Basis of Your Project.....	96
3. The Essentials in Team Play.....	97
II. HOW TO ORGANIZE TEAM WORK FOR THE COM- MUNITY.....	98
1. Theological Extension.....	98
2. Examples of Team Work.....	99
3. Social Nature of Conduct.....	101
4. Specific Tasks for Team Work.....	101

## CHAPTER IX

<b>LOCAL RURAL INSTITUTIONS AND THEIR RESPONSIBILITY TO THE COMMUNITY.....</b>	<b>103</b>
I. WHAT IS A RURAL COMMUNITY?.....	105
1. Homes.....	105
2. Neighborhoods.....	105
3. The Community.....	106