

**A Narrative Inquiry into the Impact of House Churches on People’s Lives and Community
as A Basis for Its Adoption by the UCCP as a Mission Strategy**

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Abstract

Poverty and corruption are among the persistent problems of Philippine society. This dissertation investigated the contribution of selected house churches in the Philippines in the transformation of persons, their communities, and society. Through Narrative Inquiry, this dissertation constructed, deconstructed, and reconstructed the storied personal experiences of six house church members and leaders. The study argued that, despite having smaller attendance and fewer resources compared to traditional and mega-churches, house churches effectively facilitate change at various levels. The simplicity and small size of house churches enhance their effectiveness in bringing about changes in these areas. Currently, there appears to be nothing in the existing corpus of literature on the contribution of house churches to personal, familial, ecclesial, communal, and social transformation, and how one area is interrelated and connected with and affects the other areas. In light of this study's findings, it is proposed that the United Church of Christ in the Philippines (UCCP) adopt the house church model as a mission strategy in line with its vision and mission statements. The research concludes with a proposal for a study on how to integrate the HCs into the structure of the UCCP. It also proposes conducting a comparative, quantitative study between traditional or mega-churches and house churches, focusing on resource allocation for administrative expenses versus initiatives that foster positive societal change.

Key words: house church, transformation, society, social change, Narrative Inquiry