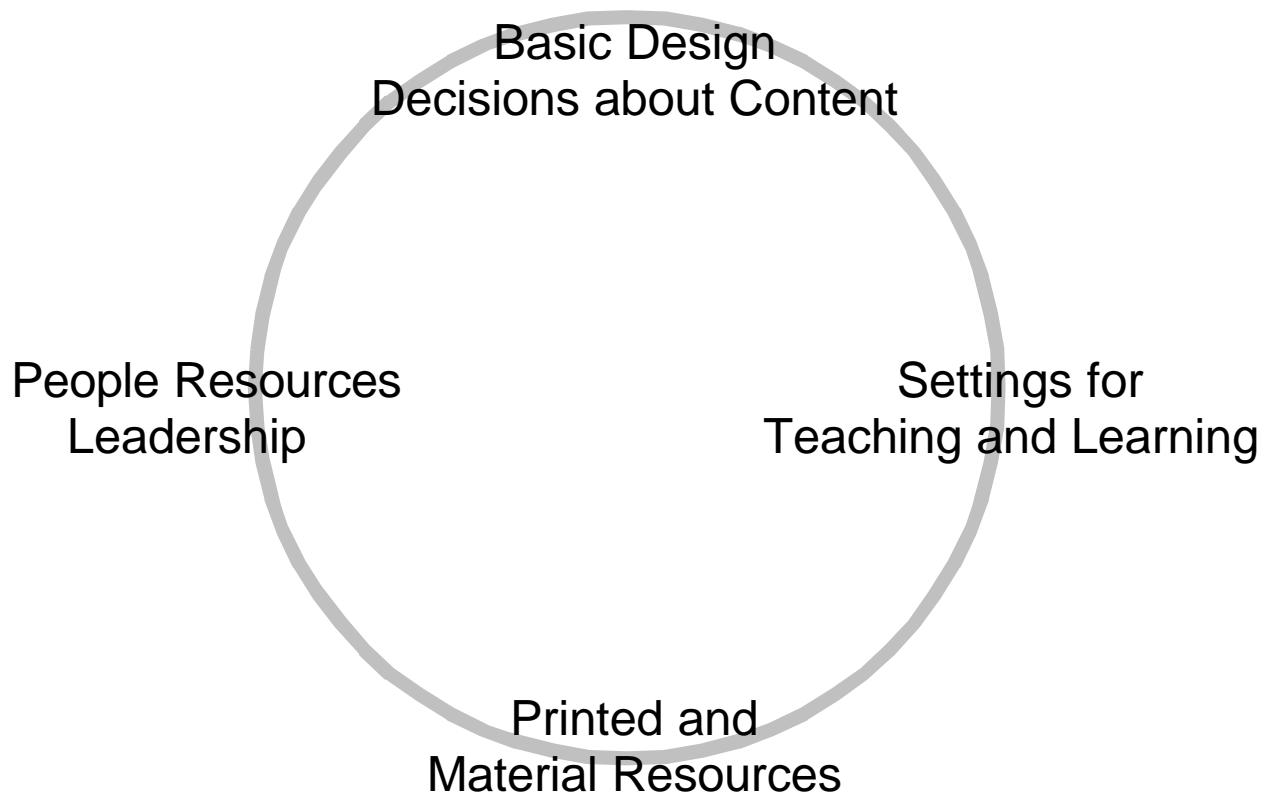


The Elements of Curriculum

The word "**curriculum**" originally meant the race course in the Roman coliseum, much like the race track in a modern stadium. It came to mean "running a course, race, or career." Modern definitions include:

- 1) The courses offered by an educational institution or one of its branches.
- 2) A set of courses.
- 3) A fixed series of studies required, as in a college, for graduation, qualification in a major field of study, etc.
- 4) All of the courses, collectively, offered in a school, college, etc., or in a particular subject.

In the church we have used the word "curriculum" to mean a set of printed resources which offer a "course" of teaching and learning. Printed resources, however, cannot in themselves be the "curriculum" of a congregation. There is more involved:



The curriculum of the church, while it is planned, is finally determined only in process. It cannot be purchased, because printed and material resources are only one part of a congregation's curriculum. All four elements are necessary to define the curriculum which is actually active in the life of a congregation.