

Relationships, Growth and Leadership in Your Church

Revitalizing Congregations: refocusing and healing through transitions.

Avery, William O. Alban, 2002. 250.973 Ave

Features the stories of six congregations who used a trained interim pastor and a specific process to address a crisis in the congregation and also focused on improving the health of a congregation.

Memories, Hopes, and Conversations: appreciative inquiry and congregational change.

Branson, Mark Lau. Alban, 2004. 253.7 Bra

The framework of appreciative inquiry is presented through the story of one congregation's struggle to articulate its identity when much has changed. *Appreciative Inquiry* focuses on positive, generative and creative images that can be valued and used as a basis for moving forward.

Small, Strong Congregations: creating strengths and health for your congregation.

Callahan, Kennon L. Jossey-Bass, 2000. 250 Cal

A hands-on guide that affirms the importance of small churches (in contrast with the current rise of mega-congregations). Shows pastors how to develop values and qualities helpful in shaping and strengthening their own small, strong congregations.

Effective Small Churches in the Twenty-first Century

Dudley, Carl S. Abingdon Press, 2003. 250 Dud

Uses social scientific approaches to understanding the dynamics of life in the small congregation. Based on an earlier book by the same author, this updated edition explores

the key components that contribute to a small congregation's sense of unity and that motivate its members to more faithfully live out their beliefs.

Making Room for Life: trading chaotic lifestyles for connected relationships.

Frazer, Randy. Zondervan, 2003. 248.4 Fra

Suggests that we don't have to work harder and faster nor have more gadgets, but by choosing a lifestyle of conversation and community over a lifestyle of accumulation. 13 chapters, includes questions for discussion.

Leadership From the Inside Out: spirituality and organizational change.

Granberg-Michaelson, Wesley. Crossroad, 2004 253 Gra

Asking big questions, discovering strengths, creating a road map, forming teams, listening for God's call.

When There is No Burning Bush: following your passions to discover God's call.

Hall, Eddy and Gary Morsch. Baker, 2004. 253 Mor

Explores six common myths of how we understand lay and pastoral ministry and helps us identify God's unique call in our lives. This might be a good follow-up to the Purpose Driven Life – helps with next steps, now what. Includes a study / action guide for eight sessions.

The Thin Book of Appreciative Inquiry.

Hammond, Sue Annis. Thin Book. 658 Ham

A basic introduction to the concept of appreciative inquiry, a thought process whereby each participant makes a contribution and the potential for change is measured by appreciating the strengths of a congregation.

Conference Resource Library

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Marlene Bogard, Director Pat Schmidt, Assistant

crlib@mennowdc.org 316-283-6300 www.mennowdc.org on-line catalog

The Gathered and Scattered Church: equipping believers for the 21st century.

Hammett, Edward H. Smyth & Helwys, 1999. 262.001 Ham

With increasing secularization in churches and in Christian households, it is hard to know how to live and serve as a follower of Christ. This book addresses this issue and offers suggestions for understanding, activating, and evaluating the church and for equipping individual believers for more effective ministry.

Safe and Secure: the Alban Guide to Protecting Your Congregation.

Hanna, Jeffrey W. 1999. 254 HAN

Church is a place where risks need to be managed, just like everywhere else. Issues of theft, conflict, liability, sexual abuse all need to be tended and prevention policies put in place. Hanna offers guidelines and insights into such issues as security for church staff and volunteers, legal and ethical ramifications that could shape (or scar) congregations in the future.

Cultivating Christian Community.

Hawkins, Thomas. Discipleship Resources, 2001. 262.2 Haw

Unpacks the qualities of Christian community: centered on Christ, practices hospitality and means of grace, opportunities for healing and wholeness, invites members to discover gifts for ministry and live out their baptismal covenant. Includes 10 chapters, each with discussion questions, great for Sunday school or small group discussion.

Friendship: Creating a Culture of Connectivity In Your Church.

Lindsay, D. Michael. Group Pub. 2005. 262.001 LIN

Explores the idea that personal relationships are key in developing and maintaining a church community. Features in-depth research by the Gallup Organization focusing on the power of friendship in church. Includes supplementary CD.

Preventing Sexual Abuse in Congregations: a resource for leaders.

McClintock, Karen A. Alban, 2004. 261.83272 Mcc

An excellent book that covers many aspects of sexual abuse prevention in the congregational setting: definitions; prevention strategies, storytelling, risk management abuse reporting, dangers in pastoral counseling.

The Search to Belong: rethinking intimacy, community and small groups.

Myers, Joseph R. Zondervan, 2003. 262.2 Mye

Offers insights into how churches can create community

based on offering a place to belong not only believe. Answers the questions: How can we create an environment where all levels of community spontaneously emerge and thrive? How can we invite those on the “fringe” to participate in our church?

Celebrating Passages in the Church: reflections and resources.

Sanborn, Hugh W., ed. Chalice Press, 1999. 265.9 Cel

Discusses the importance of celebrating milestones in one’s life within a church setting. Chapters include the theology behind each rite as well as sample services on topics that include the transition from infancy to childhood, marriage, divorce, entering midlife, leaving home, and more.

Thank You for Asking: conversing with young adults about the future church.

Shenk, Sara Wenger. Herald Press, 2005. 289.773 Tha

Stories from and interviews with young adults provide insight into their lives and their struggles as well as an exploration of the future of the church of which they are so integral.

The Power of Asset Mapping: how your congregation can act on its gifts.

Snow, Luther K. Alban, 2004. 254 Sno

Provides insights and techniques to cut through church bureaucracy and small church despair by offering a clear way for people to work together with hope and enthusiasm by understanding and claiming their strengths.

The Out of Bounds Church?: learning to create a community of faith in a culture of change.

Taylor, Steve. Zondervan, 2005. 261 Tay

Provides a view of the emerging church and presents scenarios of what’s to come. Q to ponder: what are existing churches doing to midwife new communities of faith? How does the emerging church grow itself at faith festivals, and postmodern monasteries? How is tactile spirituality a foundation for the emerging church?

Small Group Leadership as Spiritual Direction: practical ways to blend an ancient art into your contemporary community.

Webb, Heather. Zondervan, 2005. 302.3 Web

Webb defines spiritual direction as the “ancient art of being with another person in relationship to God.” In her book she explains ways to apply this practice in small group settings which will in turn help groups address life’s most difficult and deepest questions in a way that invites God’s presence.