

Interim Ministry Resources

Chapter 13 Identity

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Resources

1) Power Analysis

Power Analysis

Figure 8. Power Analysis Chart 69

Raising the Roof: The Pastoral-to-Program Size Transition Alice Mann - 2001 - Religion

<https://books.google.com/books?isbn=1566996155>

Images for Power Analysis Chart

<https://www.amazon.com/Raising-Roof-Pastoral-Program-Transition-ebook/dp/B00LGI0B64>

Images for Raising-Roof-Pastoral-Program-Transition

Power Analysis of a Congregation [Roy M. Oswald]

This update of Roy Oswald's long-popular report on understanding and becoming more comfortable with power and authority in congregations makes it a more user-friendly piece for both Christian churches and Jewish synagogues. This concise study guides clergy and lay leaders in analyzing personal and corporate power and helps the reader come to grips with personal theology of power.

<http://www.amazon.com/Power-Analysis-Congregation-Roy-Oswald/dp/1566990084>

<https://alban.org/archive/alligators-in-the-swamp/>

https://www.episcopalfoundation.org/uploads/pages/files/FS_3.11_Power_Authority_and_Influence_Resources_080111_.pdf Page 2

<https://static1.squarespace.com/static/54c7d7ede4b03a45e09cd270/t/5aa00b43652dea8c73c46299/1520438089615/HowToMinisterEffectivelyInFamilyPastoralProgramandCorporate-SizedChurches.pdf>

<https://4b2hrderdaoklyfu2n1ah3eku-wpengine.netdna-ssl.com/wp-content/uploads/2016/09/Roy-M-Oswald-bio.pdf>

<https://www.ntnl.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/09/Roy-M-Oswald-bio.pdf>

<https://www.facebook.com/roy.oswald>

<https://www.waterstones.com/author/roy-m-oswald/1153247>

<https://www.amazon.com/Roy-M.-Oswald/e/B001K8KQ1O>

http://www.goodreads.com/author/show/152452.Roy_M_Oswald

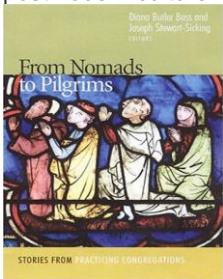
Images for roy m. oswald, author

Images for Power Analysis of a Congregation [Roy M. Oswald]

2) Practicing Congregation

From Nomads to Pilgrims: Stories from Practicing Congregations [Diana Butler Bass Author, J. Stewart-Sicking]

In *The Practicing Congregation* (Alban, 2004), Diana Butler Bass explored the phenomenon of "intentional congregations," an emerging style of congregational vitality in which churches creatively and intentionally re-appropriate traditional Christian practices such as hospitality, discernment, contemplative prayer, and testimony. Against the steady flow of stories highlighting "mainline decline," *The Practicing Congregation* suggested that there is a new and often overlooked renaissance occurring in mainline Protestant churches. The success of *The Practicing Congregation* made it clear that the next step was to provide examples that would illustrate the concepts laid out in that initial work. In *From Nomads to Pilgrims*, the editors continue to build this narrative, gathering specific stories of congregational vitality and transformation from participants in their research at the Project on Congregations of Intentional Practice, a Lilly Endowment Inc. funded study at Virginia Theological Seminary. Including stories from a variety of faith traditions across the U.S., *From Nomads to Pilgrims* explores: how intentional congregations develop; how they negotiate the demands of interpreting traditional Christian practices in a postmodern culture; how these practices lead to congregational and personal transformation. Each chapter is an instructive case study, illustrating a unique expression of the vitality experienced by a congregation that intentionally reclaims a traditional Christian practice. The pastors who have been involved in these congregations' stories share their practical wisdom gained through the experience of leading these churches - how intentional congregations develop- how they negotiate the demands of interpreting traditional Christian practices in a postmodern culture - how these practices lead to congregational and personal transformation.



<http://www.amazon.com/From-Nomads-Pilgrims-Practicing-Congregations/dp/1566993237>

https://www.goodreads.com/book/show/29823.From_Nomads_to_Pilgrims

<https://rowman.com/ISBN/9781566995290/From-Nomads-to-Pilgrims-Stories-from-Practicing-Congregations>

<https://books.google.com/books?isbn=1566995299>

https://books.google.com/books/about/From_Nomads_to_Pilgrims.html?id=jqUCBAAQBAJ

From Nomads to Pilgrims: Stories from Practicing Congregations

<http://www.insights.uca.org.au/reviews/from-nomads-to-pilgrims-stories-from-practicing-congregations>
<http://www.loyola.edu/academics/pastoral-counseling/faculty/joseph-stewart-sicking>
[Images for J. Stewart-Sicking](#)
[Images for Stories from Practicing Congregations \[Diana Butler Bass Author, J. Stewart-Sicking\]](#)

The Practicing Congregation: Imagining a New Old Church by Diana Butler Bass (Author).

The conventional wisdom about mainline Protestantism maintains that it is a dying tradition, irrelevant to a postmodern society, unresponsive to change, and increasingly disconnected from its core faith tenets. In her provocative new book, historian and researcher Diana Butler Bass argues that there are signs that mainline Protestant churches are indeed changing, finding a new vitality intentionally grounded in Christian practices and laying the groundwork for a new type of congregation. *The Practicing Congregation* tracks these changes by looking at the overall history of American congregations, noting the cultural trends that have sparked change, and providing evidence of how mainline churches are re-appropriating traditional Christian practices. The signs of life that Bass identifies lead the reader beyond the crumbling "liberal vs. conservative" dualities to a more nuanced and fluid understanding of the shape of contemporary ecclesiology and faithfulness. In so doing, she helps readers understand tradition in new ways and creates an alternative path through the culture wars that today arrest the energies of most denominations. Invigorated by stories from Bass's own experience, *The Practicing Congregation* provides a hopeful and exciting vision for the church. The imaginative "re-traditioning" she identifies and celebrates will guide pastors and other leaders on this "pilgrimage of creating church" and convincingly counter the naysayers that long ago gave up on the viability of the mainline church.



<http://www.amazon.com/The-Practicing-Congregation-Imagining-Church/dp/1566993059>
https://www.goodreads.com/book/show/529185.The_Practicing_Congregation
https://www.thriftbooks.com/w/the-practicing-congregation-imagining-a-new-old-church_diana-butler-bass/369461/#isbn=1566993059&idiq=2811906
http://books.google.com/books/about/The_Practicing_Congregation.html?id=g9tcAAAACAAJ
<https://alban.org/archive/intentionality-practice-and-vitality/>
http://hrr.hartsem.edu/bookshelf/roozen_article5.html Footnotes [25]
<https://cdn.centerforfaithandgiving.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/01/22015514/NarrativeBudgetingJudithJohnson.pdf> Page 5
<http://www.dianabutlerbass.com/dianasbooks.html>
<http://preachinginpumps.com/2013/04/04/the-practicing-congregation-imagining-a-new-old-church/>
<http://www.lifeandleadership.com/book-summaries/bass-the-practicing-congregation.html>
<https://www.peterdehaan.com/book-reviews/the-practicing-congregation/>
https://www.heartsandmindsbooks.com/2010/06/two_truly_unique_books_about_c/
<https://www.linkedin.com/pub/diana-butler-bass/5/b50/8a8>
<https://twitter.com/dianabutlerbass?lang=en>
<https://sojo.net/biography/diana-butler-bass>
https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Diana_Butler_Bass
<https://www.thriftbooks.com/a/diana-butler-bass/223596/>
<https://www.amazon.com/Diana-Butler-Bass/e/B001HCYT84>
https://www.goodreads.com/author/show/135053.Diana_Butler_Bass
[Images for Diana Butler Bass \(Author\)](#)
[Images for The Practicing Congregation: Imagining a New Old Church by Diana Butler Bass \(Author\).](#)

What Does the Bible Say About Practice? - OpenBible.info

<https://www.openbible.info/topics/practice>
[Images for Bible and Practice](#)
<http://www.beliefnet.com/faiths/christianity/galleries/4-steps-to-putting-the-bible-into-practice-this-week.aspx>
<https://www.kingjamesbibleonline.org/Bible-Verses-About-Practice/>
<https://bible.org/seriespage/lesson-11-putting-god-s-truth-practice-nehemiah-101-39>
[Images for putting-god's-truth-practice](#)
<https://bible.org/article/matthew-6-practice-righteousness>
[Images for practice-righteousness](#)

3) Principles

FIVE GUIDING PRINCIPLES

Our church council decided that we needed to clarify who and what we are as a congregation. As resources, we used the Scriptures, the ancient creeds, the Lutheran Confessions, and our rich heritage as Protestant Reformers. We agreed that the framework for the whole conversation would be our understanding of the God who always comes down to set us free. The result of this effort was five guiding principles, easily remembered and simple to understand, that are a clear and full summary of what is uniquely Lutheran:

1. Jesus is Lord
2. Everyone is Welcome
3. Love Changes People
4. Everybody Has Something to Offer
5. The World Needs What We Have

These principles articulate clearly what is essential. We believe that these principles are faithful to the Scriptures and to our confessional heritage. They are our way of answering the question "Who are we?"

[PDF] Chapter 2 (PDF) - Hosanna Lutheran Church

http://www.welcometohosanna.com/ReclaimingTheLWord/ReclaimingTheLWord_2.pdf

Images for FIVE GUIDING PRINCIPLES church council

Principle - Wikipedia

A principle is a proposition or value that is a guide for behavior or evaluation. In law, it is a rule that has to be or usually is to be followed, or can be desirably followed, or is an inevitable consequence of something, such as the laws observed in nature or the way that a system is constructed. The principles of such a system are understood by its users as the essential characteristics of the system, or reflecting system's designed purpose, and the effective operation or use of which would be impossible if any one of the principles was to be ignored.^[2] A system may be explicitly based on and implemented from a document of principles as was done in IBM's 360/370 *Principles of Operation*.

<https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Principle>

Images for principle

What are the biblical principles for solid decision-making? | GotQuestions.org

Answer: Solid decision-making begins by discerning the will of God. God delights in revealing His will to those who are eager to follow His precepts (Psalm 33:18; Psalm 35:27; Psalm 147:11). Our attitude towards decision-making should be that of Jesus Himself who affirmed, "Not My will, but Yours be done" (Luke 22:42; Matthew 6:10).

<https://www.gotquestions.org/decision-making-Bible.html>

Images for What are the biblical principles for solid decision-making? | GotQuestions.org

<http://www.watermark.org/blog/decision-making-principles>

Images for decision-making-principles

https://www.huffingtonpost.com/zack-hunt/12-biblical-principles-ye_b_5571511.html

<https://www.jw.org/en/publications/books/good-news-from-god/bible-principles-benefit-us/>

<http://wordblessings.com/biblical-principles/>

<https://tifwe.org/biblical-principles-values-actions/>

Images for biblical-principles-values-actions

https://www.openbible.info/topics/principle_of_god

Images for bible/topics/principle_of_god

https://www.openbible.info/topics/ethical_principles

Images for bible/topics/ethical_principles

4) Process

All for God's Glory: Redeeming Church Scutwork by Louis B. Weeks

Process is the way things get done, the "way the goals are accomplished."⁴



<https://books.google.com/books?isbn=1566994640>

Images for process way things get done, goals accomplished

<http://www.amazon.com/All-Gods-Glory-Redeeming-Scutwork/dp/1566993792>

All for God's Glory: Redeeming Church Scutwork

https://www.goodreads.com/author/list/483885.Louis_B_Weeks

Images for Louis B. Weeks, author

Images for All for God's Glory: Redeeming Church Scutwork by Louis B. Weeks

Appreciative Inquiry at St. Mary's Manhattanville - Episcopal

St. Mary's Manhattanville did its first congregation wide Appreciative Inquiry in 2007. A team of five lay people and the rector learned about AI and designed the process, led by Anne Ditzler who had been trained in Appreciative Inquiry. A useful resource book was Mark Lau Branson's *Memories, Hopes, and Conversations: Appreciative Inquiry and Congregational Change*.

<http://www.ecfvp.org/yourturn/appreciative-inquiry-at-st-marys-manhattanville/>

Images for designed the process congregation

<https://www.amazon.com/Memories-Hopes-Conversations-Appreciative-Congregational/dp/1566992885>

Images for Memories-Hopes-Conversations-Appreciative-Congregational

[PDF] CHAPTER 4 - Hartford Seminary

We have defined **process** as the underlying flow and dynamics of a congregation that knit it together in its common life and affect its morale and climate.

<http://hrr.hartsem.edu/bookshelf/Congstudieshandbook/congstdhdbk-ch4.pdf>
Images for process as the underlying flow and dynamics of a congregation

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[PDF] CHAPTER 4 - Hartford Seminary

Understanding the tension between formal and informal **process** is essential in congregational studies. Formal process, or structure, refers to the formal, agreed upon, and usually written understandings that the members of a congregation have about congregational procedures such as decision making, delegating responsibility, defining authority, and role differentiation. Informal process, as we will use the term in this chapter, has to do with the procedures that people actually follow, which may be different from what they are authorized to do in the congregation. This tension between the approved procedures (or espoused values) and the common practice makes the study of process essential.

<http://hrr.hartsem.edu/bookshelf/Congstudieshandbook/congstdhdbk-ch4.pdf>
Images for formal and informal process

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Direct Observation - Springer

Direct observation, also known as observational study, is a method of collecting evaluative information in which the evaluator watches the subject in his or her usual environment without altering that environment. Direct observation is used when other data collection procedures, such as surveys, questionnaires, etc., are not effective; when the goal is to evaluate an ongoing behavior **process**, event, or situation; or when there are physical outcomes that can be readily seen.

http://link.springer.com/referenceworkentry/10.1007%2F978-1-4419-1698-3_1758

Images for direct observation observational study

Images for goal is to evaluate an ongoing behavior process

Step One – FTM: The Work of the Leader (FTML) - Interim Ministry Network

The Work of the Transitional Leader. Examine the process that a leader goes through from beginning to end in an interim situation.

This **Process Task** include *Joining the System, Analyzing the System, Discerning Responsibility and Establishing Priorities, Connecting the Congregation and the Denomination, and Evaluating and Adjusting to a New Future.*

https://imnedu.org/interim_transitional-education/fundamentals-of-transitional-ministry/

Images for This Process Task include Joining the System, Analyzing the System, Discerning Responsibility and Establishing Priorities, Connecting the Congregation and the Denomination, and Evaluating and Adjusting to a New Future.

https://imnedu.org/interim_transitional-education/the-fundamentals-of-transitional-ministry-the-work-of-the-congregation/
Images for interim ministry network process task

https://www.episcopalchurch.org/files/CDO_Interim_Book_2.pdf

Page 6

<https://ofld.mccchurch.org/download/interimministry/Interim-Ministry-Manual.pdf> Section Two: Pastoral Appointment Procedures and Tools for the Transition Period 7. The Intentional Interim Tasks and Procedures

<https://alban.org/archive/rethinking-transitional-ministry/>

Images for rethinking-transitional-ministry

<https://louisville-institute.org/interviews/norman-bendroth/>

Images for norman-bendroth

5) Program Size Congregation

How to Minister Effectively in Family, Pastoral, Program, and Corporate-Sized Churches by Roy M. Oswald

Clergy are still at the center of the **Program Church**, but their role has shifted dramatically. Much of their time and attention must be spent in planning with other lay leaders to ensure the highest quality programs. The pastor must spend a lot of time recruiting people to head up these smaller ministries, training, supervising, and evaluating them and seeing to it that their morale remains high. In essence, the pastor must often step back from direct ministry with people to coordinate and support volunteers who offer this ministry. Unless the pastor gives high priority to their spiritual and pastoral needs, those programs will suffer.

<https://static1.squarespace.com/static/54c7d7ede4b03a45e09cd270/t/5aa00b43652dea8c73c46299/1520438089615/HowToMinisterEffectivelyInFamilyPastoralProgramandCorporate-SizedChurches.pdf>

Page 6

<https://www.ministrytoday.org.uk/magazine/issues/44/361/WhatTypeofChurchIsYours?> - Ministry Today

<https://www.amazon.com/Roy-M.-Oswald/e/B001K8KQ1O>

http://www.goodreads.com/author/show/152452.Roy_M_Oswald

<https://4b2hrderdaoklyfu2n1ah3eku-wpengine.netdna-ssl.com/wp-content/uploads/2016/09/Roy-M-Oswald-bio.pdf>

<https://www.facebook.com/roy.oswald>

Images for roy m. oswald (author)

Images for How to Minister Effectively in Family, Pastoral, Program, and Corporate-Sized Churches by Roy M. Oswald

[PDF] PASTORAL ROLES ACCORDING TO CHURCH SIZE

Program Size (151-350)

- Pastor and small group of lay leaders replace matriarch/patriarch

- Success requires pastor to delegate authority, assign responsibility, recognize accomplishments of others and drive all aspects of ministry
- Responds to reasonable pastoral care expectations
- Success requires strong interpersonal skills and open, interactive leadership style
- Willingness to give up strong “connections” to members essential to transition to program size

<http://mccchurch.org/download/sizesummitresources/PASTORAL%20ROLES%20ACCORDING%20TO%20CHURCH%20SIZE.pdf>
 Images for PASTORAL ROLES ACCORDING TO CHURCH SIZE Program Size (151-350)

Reflections on Parish Leadership and Mission Strategy

Program-size church (151 to 400):

Known for the quality and variety of its programs. Separate programs for children, youth, couples, seniors, and other age and interest groups provide entry points for a wide range of people.

The pastor’s crucial role is to recruit, equip, and inspire a small circle of key program leaders— lay and ordained, paid and unpaid. This ring of leadership might include, for example, the choir director, the church school superintendent, the youth group leader, the coordinator of lay visitors, and the head of a committee that tracks new member incorporation. Working as a team with the pastor, they reach out to involve others as program participants and as leaders. Decision making is broadly distributed within the wider leadership circle (perhaps 50 people) and pastoral care is shared by laity. While Rothauge originally identified the maximum attendance for program size as 350, I will be using a higher figure of 400.

http://kotaraang.angelfire.com/Parish_Leadership.pdf

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Images for Reflections on Parish Leadership and Mission Strategy Program-size church (151 to 400)

Size Transitions in UU Congregations update2 - UUA.org

Program Size Congregations

The program size congregation is known for the quality and variety of its programs. Separate programs for children, youth, couples, seniors, and other age and interest groups provide entry points to congregational life for a wide range of people. The minister’s crucial role is to recruit, equip, and inspire a small circle of key program leaders—lay and ordained, paid and unpaid. This ring of leadership might include the choir director, the director of religious education, the adult education director, and the new member committee chair. Working as a team with the minister, these leaders reach out to involve others as program participants and as leaders. The leadership circle shares broadly in decision making (among perhaps fifty people), and the laity share pastoral care.

<http://www.uua.org/documents/congservices/sizetransitions.pdf>

Images for Size Transitions in UU Congregations update2 - Unitarian Universalist Congregations Program Size Congregations

Sizing up a Congregation for New Member Ministry

The Program Church: 150-35017

[https://episcopalchurch.org/files/CDR_series1\(1\).pdf](https://episcopalchurch.org/files/CDR_series1(1).pdf)

Images for Sizing up a Congregation for New Member Ministry The Program Church

<https://sethtan.wordpress.com/2017/09/17/sizing-up-a-congregation-book-summary/>

https://www.episcopalchurch.org/uploads/pages/files/Church_Size_Resources_-_101612.pdf

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6) Progressive Christianity

88 best Progressive Christianity images on Pinterest

<https://www.pinterest.com/ashleyrburkhart/progressive-christianity/>

Images for Progressive Christianity Pinterest

<https://www.pinterest.com/donnaelong/progressive-christianityprogressive-religion/>

Images for pinterest/progressive-christianityprogressive-religion/

<https://www.pinterest.com/HelensHatbox/progressive-christianity/>

<https://www.pinterest.com/cgrrl/progressive-christianity/>

<https://www.pinterest.com/abbyhenrich/progressive-christian/>

<https://www.pinterest.co.uk/faithforwar1091/progressive-christianity/>

4 Ways Christian Fundamentalists Get Progressive Christianity Shockingly Wrong

Here’s a list of **popular charges leveled against progressive Christianity** — charges that, in many people’s minds, have ceased to be controversial. Christian fundamentalism has successfully dominated the conversation about the nature and purpose of Christianity to the extent that these charges are viewed, especially among many Christians, as self-evidently true. But they’re wrong.

<http://www.faithstreet.com/onfaith/2014/08/07/4-ways-christian-fundamentalists-get-progressive-christianity-shockingly-wrong/33537>

<http://dmergent.org/articles/2014/8/4/4-ways-fundamentalism-gets-it-shockingly-wrong-about-progressive-christianity>

Images for popular charges leveled against progressive Christianity

Progressive Christian: Religion, Theology, History, Churches | Patheos

www.patheos.com/progressive-christian

Images for Progressive Christian

[ProgressiveChristianity.org](http://progressivechristianity.org)

<http://progressivechristianity.org/>

<http://progressivechristianity.org/the-8-points/>

[Images for ProgressiveChristianity.org](#)

Progressive Christianity - Wikipedia

Progressive Christianity represents a [post-modern](#) theological approach, and is not necessarily synonymous with progressive politics.^[1] It developed out of the [Liberal Christianity](#) of the [modern era](#), which was rooted in [enlightenment](#) thinking.^[1] As such, Progressive Christianity is a "post-liberal movement" within [Christianity](#) "that seeks to reform the faith via the insights of post-modernism and a reclaiming of the truth beyond the verifiable historicity and factuality of the passages in the Bible by affirming the truths within the stories that may not have actually happened."^[1]

Progressive Christianity is characterized by a willingness to question tradition, acceptance of human diversity, a strong emphasis on [social justice](#) and care for the poor and the oppressed, and environmental stewardship of the earth. Progressive Christians have a deep belief in the centrality of the instruction to "[love one another](#)" (John 15:17) within the teachings of [Jesus Christ](#).^[2] This leads to a focus on promoting values such as compassion, justice, mercy, and tolerance, often through political activism. Though prominent, the movement is by no means the only significant movement of progressive thought among Christians.

Progressive Christianity draws on the insights of multiple theological streams including [evangelicalism](#), [liberalism](#), [neo-orthodoxy](#), [pragmatism](#), [postmodernism](#), [Progressive Reconstructionism](#), and [liberation theology](#).^[3] The concerns of feminism are also a major influence on the movement, as expressed in [feminist](#) and [womanist](#) theologies.^{[4][5][6]}

Though the terms Progressive Christianity and [Liberal Christianity](#) are often used synonymously, the two movements are distinct, despite much overlap.^[1]

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Progressive_Christianity

[Images for Progressive Christianity](#)

Progressive Christians | HuffPost - Huffington Post

<https://www.huffingtonpost.com/topic/progressive-christians>

[Images for Progressive Christians | HuffPost – Huffington Post](#)

<https://www.huffingtonpost.com/topic/progressive-christianity>

http://www.huffingtonpost.com/paul-raushenbush/progressive-christianity_b_5437715.html

[Images for Resurgence of Progressive Christianity](#)

Progressive Christians Speak: A Different Voice on Faith and Politics by John B. Cobb Jr. (Editor)

In this earnest discussion, revolutionary theologian John Cobb Jr. implores Christian churches to take a more active role in the solution of contemporary issues such as food security and the ever-expanding world population, the welfare system, civil and human rights, the war on drugs, abortion, immigration, and the destruction of ecosystems.

<https://www.amazon.com/Progressive-Christians-Speak-Different-Politics/dp/0664225896>

https://www.goodreads.com/book/show/182091.Progressive_Christians_Speak

<https://www.christianbook.com/progressive-christians-different-voice-faith-politics/9780664225896/pd/225891>

<https://www.wjkbooks.com/Products/0664225896/progressive-christians-speak.aspx>

https://books.google.com/books/about/Progressive_Christians_Speak.html?id=GAeSjCOaCvcC

<https://progressivechristianity.org/resources/progressive-christians-speak-a-different-voice-on-faith-and-politics/>

http://www.jesuisaliberal.org/br_progressive_christians.html

https://www.goodreads.com/author/show/302414.John_B_Cobb_Jr

[Images for John B. Cobb Jr. \(Editor\)](#)

[Images for Progressive Christians Speak: A Different Voice on Faith and Politics by John B. Cobb Jr. \(Editor\)](#)

Quotes - ProgressiveChristianity.org

<https://progressivechristianity.org/resource-types/quotes/>

[Images for Quotes - Progressive Christianity](#)

www.progressivetheology.org/quotes.html

<https://progressivechristianityaotearoa.com/quotes-progressive-voices/>

<https://www.pinterest.com/ashleyrburkhart/progressive-christianity/>

<http://www.patheos.com/blogs/religionprof/2015/05/progressive-christianity-in-the-spotlight.html>

<http://www.spiritualityandpractice.com/practices/features/view/22301/our-vision-of-progressive-christian-spirituality>

[Images for vision-of-progressive-christian-spirituality](#)

Spiritual Musings: Yes, I Am a Progressive

One of the ways in which I continue to be challenged is to how willing I am to be open to change. I believe that I should be always changing, always questioning my beliefs, always looking for better ways to do things, even better ways to make other lives better. I believe that the Bible is a progressive book and so therefore my faith and spiritual life should also be progressive.

<http://davidfwelch.blogspot.com/2014/08/yes-i-am-progressive.html>

[Images for open to change](#)

The 8 Points of Progressive Christianity - ProgressiveChristianity.org

By calling ourselves progressive Christians, we mean we are Christians who...

<https://progressivechristianity.org/the-8-points/>
[Images for The 8 Points of Progressive Christianity - ProgressiveChristianity.org](#)

The Progressive Christian Alliance - Facebook

<https://www.facebook.com/progressive.christian.alliance/>
[Images for Progressive Christian: Religion, Theology, History, Churches | Patheos](#)

The Ten Commandments of Progressive Christianity by Michael Kruger (Author)

A cautionary look at ten dangerously appealing half-truths

Not long ago, I came across a list of ten principles set forth by proponents of progressive Christianity. They are, in effect, a new Ten Commandments. What's striking is that they are far less about God revealing his desires and far more about man expressing his own—less Moses, more Oprah.

Yet each of these commandments is partially true. Indeed, that is what makes this list, and progressive Christianity as a whole, so challenging. Half-truths can sound quite appealing until you recognize their foundations and implications. In this booklet, I diagnose and critique each of these tenets and offer a brief biblical and theological response.

Liberal Christianity never really goes away. If the church is going to hold fast to “the faith that was once for all delivered to the saints” (Jude 3), we must, in every era, be able to distinguish the true faith from the false.



<https://www.amazon.com/Commandments-Progressive-Christianity-Cruciform-Quick-ebook/dp/B0821X99RM>
<https://www.goodreads.com/book/show/49807871-the-ten-commandments-of-progressive-christianity>
<https://www.barnesandnoble.com/w/the-ten-commandments-of-progressive-christianity-michael-j-kruger/1135036747>
<https://www.cruciformpress.com/product/the-ten-commandments-of-progressive-christianity/>
<https://www.michaeljkruger.com/a-preview-of-my-new-book-the-10-commandments-of-progressive-christianity/>
<https://www.reformation21.org/blog/the-ten-commandments-of-progressive-christianity>
<https://www.biblestudytools.com/blogs/michael-j-kruger/10-commandments-of-progressive-christianity-1-is-jesus-our-lord-or-our-example.html>
<https://www.alisachilders.com/blog/61-the-ten-commandments-of-progressive-christianity-with-dr-michael-kruger>
<https://www.amazon.com/Michael-J-Kruger/e/B001JRX244>
https://www.goodreads.com/author/show/2348905.Michael_J_Kruger
[Images for Michael Kruger \(Author\)](#)
[Images for The Ten Commandments of Progressive Christianity by Michael Kruger \(Author\)](#)

Vestry Papers - Healthy Practices - The End to Business as Usual - ECF Vital Practices

I believe the time is right for us to move forward. The stars are aligning. There is growing interest in **progressive Christianity**. We have diversity to offer and, for the most part, have moved beyond fascination with the wealthy. We are far more nimble than we were. But for a better future to happen, vestries need to recognize that business-as-usual is over. Over the next two to three years, vestries need to undertake six radical shifts in how they operate.

<http://www.ecfvp.org/vestry-papers/article/113/the-end-to-business-as-usual>
[Images for growing interest in progressive Christianity](#)

7) Public Presence

One church in its “citizen” mode of public presence | Keith Watkins historian

Throughout this multi-generation era of public service, the congregation also maintained an active program of education in the issues and structures of contemporary life. It was a strong example of the *citizen* mode of public presence...

<https://keithwatkinshistorian.wordpress.com/2012/07/24/one-church-in-its-citizen-mode-of-public-presence/>
[Images for One church in its “citizen” mode of public presence | Keith Watkins historian](#)

Varieties of Religious Presence: Mission in Public Life [David A. Roozen, William McKinney, Jackson W. Carroll]

This classic is a reassessment of approaches to metropolitan ministry, focusing on ways religion relates to public life. Based on extensive research in the Hartford, Connecticut, area, it shows how local churches and synagogues in any area are present in the life of their communities.

<http://www.amazon.com/Varieties-Religious-Presence-Mission-Public/dp/0829807241>
<http://www.resourcingchristianity.org/grant-product/varieties-of-religious-presence-mission-in-public-life>
http://hrr.hartsem.edu/bookshelf/bookshelf_bibliography.html
<https://books.google.com/books?isbn=0814661939> Page 43
<https://books.google.com/books?isbn=0865543585> Page 15
<http://michaelhmontgomery.com/papers/bestpractices.pdf> Page 14
http://hrr.hartsem.edu/cong/congregational_studies_biblio.html

http://www.goodreads.com/author/show/176285.David_A_Roozen

Images for david a. roozen, author

http://hrr.hartsem.edu/about/roozen_vitae.htm

<http://hrr.hartsem.edu/about/roozen.htm>

Images for William McKinney, author mission in public life

http://www.abingdonpress.com/jackson_w_carroll

<http://www.religioninsights.org/articles/jackson-w-carroll-pastoral-leadership>

<https://divinity.duke.edu/faculty/jackson-w-carroll>

<https://www.amazon.com/Jackson-W.-Carroll/e/B0011ZRERS>

https://www.goodreads.com/author/show/176284.Jackson_W_Carroll

Images for Jackson W. Carroll, author

Images for Varieties of Religious Presence: Mission in Public Life [David A. Roozen, William McKinney, Jackson W. Carroll]

8) Quality

Benchmarks of Quality in the Church: 21 Ways to Continuously Improve the Content of Your Ministry [Gustave Rath, Norman Shawchuck]

The particular emphasis of this book is on “quality” as expressed in active, growing churches around the country. It establishes the standards of quality that congregations must seek to achieve. It illustrates processes that manifest quality in churches through a continuous hypothetical narrative that takes place in a church board. Charts, diagrams, statistics, and “quality jargon” are kept to a minimum. This book is part of an overall product extension of the Shawchuck Marketing/Leading/Managing trilogy.

<http://www.amazon.com/Benchmarks-Quality-Church-Continuously-Ministry/dp/0687349125>

<https://www.goodreads.com/book/show/2934863-benchmarks-of-quality-in-the-church>

<http://www.amazon.in/Norman-Shawchuck/e/B0011YZ8S6>

https://www.goodreads.com/author/show/307029.Norman_Shawchuck

Images for Norman Shawchuck, author

http://www.nobts.edu/_resources/pdf/academics/syllabi/S2016/EVAN6221DayJan2016.pdf

Images for Gustave Rath, author

Images for Benchmarks of Quality in the Church: 21 Ways to Continuously Improve the Content of Your Ministry [Gustave Rath, Norman Shawchuck]

Does Your Church Pay Attention to Quality? — Smart Church Management

Churches have come to realize the importance of incorporating quality concepts and tools into management practices.

<http://smartchurchmanagement.com/church-quality-assurance/>

Images for Does Your Church Pay Attention to Quality? — Smart Church Management

<https://www.amazon.com/Smart-Church-Management-Quality-Administration/dp/1470133520>

Images for Smart-Church-Management-Quality-Administration

<https://www.sharefaith.com/blog/2015/07/6-areas-quality-church-focus/>

Images for quality-church-focus

<http://www.christianpost.com/news/why-church-numbers-matter-god-wants-both-quality-and-quantity-says-columnist-115034/>

Images for why-church-numbers-matter-god-wants-both-quality-and-quantity

Quality - Wikipedia

Quality is how good something is. If the quality of a product is high, then that means that it is fit for its purpose. If the quality of a item is low that means that the product may break easily or not work properly. When people say something is a quality product that means that the product is of good quality.

<https://simple.wikipedia.org/wiki/Quality>

Images for quality

3 Easy Ways To Know the Quality of Your Leadership - Carey Nieuwhof

One of the most difficult aspects of leadership is to know how you're doing. Here are three simple ways to know the quality of your leadership.

<https://careynieuwhof.com/3-easy-ways-to-know-the-quality-of-your-leadership/>

<https://careynieuwhof.com/7-essential-qualities-that-make-you-a-leader-worth-following/>

<https://careynieuwhof.com/tag/quality-of-leadership/>

Images for Carey Nieuwhof on quality leadership

What Does the Bible Say About Quality? - OpenBible.info

<https://www.openbible.info/topics/quality>

https://www.openbible.info/topics/quality_living

https://www.openbible.info/topics/quality_work

Images for Bible and Quality

<https://bible.org/seriespage/29-quality-and-excellence>

Images for quality-and-excellence

<https://www.cgg.org/index.cfm/fuseaction/Library.verses/ID/1066/Quality-Life-verses.htm>

<https://www.kingjamesbibleonline.org/Bible-Verses-About-Quality-Living/>

[Images for Bible Quality Living](#)

<http://hanoverbaptistchurch.org/blogpastor/2012/what-does-the-bible-say-about-the-high-quality-of-a-christians-life/>

[Images for quality-christians-life](#)

Why Small Churches Are the Next Big Thing - Q Ideas

But not just any church, and not the churches their parents built. Millennials are used to a **high-quality experience** in everything, and they won't settle for less.

<http://qideas.org/articles/why-small-churches-are-the-next-big-thing/>

[Images for quality church experience](#)

<https://www.sharefaith.com/blog/2015/07/6-areas-quality-church-focus/>

<http://www.christianpost.com/news/why-church-numbers-matter-god-wants-both-quality-and-quantity-says-columnist-115034/>

<https://www.christianitytoday.com/pastors/1983/winter/8311028.html> The Quality Church (Part 1) | CT Pastors - Christianity Today

9) Reactionary Congregation

Expectant vs. Reactionary Churches | ChuckLawless.com

Many churches, though, live in reactive mode rather than expectant mode.

<http://chucklawless.com/2013/05/expectant-vs-reactionary-churches/>

[Images for Expectant vs. Reactionary Churches | ChuckLawless.com](#)

<http://chucklawless.com/2020/01/expectant-vs-reactionary-churches/>

<https://thomrainer.com/2014/07/expectant-churches-vs-reactive-churches/>

<https://thomrainer.com/2017/08/seven-characteristics-reactionary-pastors/>

[Images for characteristics-reactionary-pastors](#)

<https://churchleaders.com/pastors/pastor-articles/308624-7-characteristics-reactionary-pastors-thom-rainer.html>

<https://www.amazon.com/Disciplined-Warriors-Churches-Equipped-Spiritual/dp/082543159X>

[Images for Disciplined-Warriors-Churches-Equipped-Spiritual](#)

<https://books.google.com/books?isbn=0825494664>

[Images for Chuck Lawless \(author\)](#)

Page 175

Reactionary Christianity: Step Off the Pendulum | Gospel-Centered Discipleship

Reactionary Christianity causes a stir but doesn't inspire to action beyond debate. Biblical Christianity cultivates a sustained expectancy as we pursue scriptural living.

<http://gcdiscipleship.com/2013/05/09/reactionary-christianity-step-off-the-pendulum/>

[Images for Reactionary Christianity: Step Off the Pendulum | Gospel-Centered Discipleship](#)

Reactionary - Wikipedia

In Protestant Christian societies, reactionary has described those supporting tradition against modernity.

<https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Reactionary>

<https://rationalwiki.org/wiki/Reactionary>

[Images for reactionary](#)

10) Renewing Congregation

Renewing Congregations - Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

We are a church that is deeply rooted — and always being made new. Congregational renewal is a biblical journey in which ELCA congregations deepen their understanding of the word of God, expand their practice of the word in the world, and are inspired to share with others the beauty of the word.

<http://www.elca.org/Our-Work/Congregations-and-Synods/Renewing-Congregations>

[Images for Renewing Congregations – Evangelical Lutheran Church in America](#)

http://download.elca.org/ELCA%20Resource%20Repository/MCS_Renewing_Congregations.pdf

<https://www.elca.org/News-and-Events/7773> New Renewing Congregations grants support revitalization of ELCA congregations

www.semisynod.com/images/docs/SEMISynod/renewing-congregations.pdf

https://stjohnlutheranelcasaginaw.weebly.com/uploads/1/8/3/2/18329045/newsletter_-_february_2017.pdf

https://www.scsw-elca.org/renewing_congregations_mission.aspx

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dDHqiDmlW3o> Renewing Congregations Video Story - First Evangelical Lutheran Church – Parkers Prairie, MN

http://nwmnsynod.org/assets/Campaign_Toolkit_Online-version.pdf

<https://metrodcelca.org/for-congregations/new-renewing-congregational-grant/>

<https://www.rmselca.org/resources-renewal>

<https://www.lss-elca.org/renewal-in-the-lower-susquehanna-synod/>

https://digitalrepository.unm.edu/cgi/viewcontent.cgi?article=1005&context=soc_fsp Renewing Congregations - UNM Digital Repository

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The Mission Table: Renewing Congregation and Community by Stephen P. Bouman (Author)

In a time of declining mainline Protestant church attendance, Bouman reminds us that the Holy Spirit is still very much at work. It is the mission of our churches to aid God's reconciling and restoring action in the world. This conversation on mission must involve everyone including laypeople, pastors, seminarians, and emerging congregational leaders. Each chapter contains scripture, questions, and activities, allowing for group study, reflection, and action. The goal is ultimately to help every member of the church to live as signs of the God who made the world and who will make all things new.

<https://www.amazon.com/Mission-Table-Renewing-Congregation-Community/dp/1451478127>

<https://www.goodreads.com/book/show/18317567-the-mission-table>

<https://www.augsburgfortress.org/store/productgroup/597/The-Mission-Table-Renewing-Congregation-and-Community?c=285662%5D>

http://download.elca.org/ELCA%20Resource%20Repository/Building_A_Mission_Table.pdf

<https://www.barnesandnoble.com/w/the-mission-table-stephen-p-bouman/1116462758>

<https://books.google.com/books?isbn=145147928X>

https://books.google.com/books/about/The_Mission_Table.html?id=QaFfAAAAQBAJ

<https://www.stevethomason.net/2015/08/10/book-the-mission-table-renewing-congregation-community-by-stephen-p-bouman/>

<http://larrywohlrabe.blogspot.com/2013/12/kitchen-table-altar-table-mission-table.html>

<http://nwmnsynod.org/assets/2014-The-Mission-Table-Wohlraabe.pdf>

http://thecresset.org/2015/Lent/Williamson_L15.html A More Modest Denomination - The Cresset

https://digitalcommons.luthersem.edu/cgi/viewcontent.cgi?article=1038&context=ma_theses Bibliography

Page 4

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<https://digitalcommons.fuller.edu/cgi/viewcontent.cgi?article=1325&context=dmin>

http://www.nemnsynod.org/uploads/2/5/8/8/25887261/earth_stewardship_and_the_missio_dei_participating_in_the_care_a.pdf

Page 267

http://day1.org/273-bishop_stephen_bouman

<https://scsw-elca.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/03/Stephen-Bouman.pdf>

https://www.christianbook.com/Christian/Books/easy_find?Ntk=author&Ntt=Stephen%20Bouman

<https://www.thriftbooks.com/a/stephen-p-bouman/1673389/>

https://www.goodreads.com/author/show/7860478.Stephen_P_Bouman

Images for Stephen P. Bouman (Author)

Images for The Mission Table: Renewing Congregation and Community by Stephen P. Bouman (Author)

11) Retrogressive Congregation

Congregational analysis revisited: empirical approaches - Scielo

A third type is called **retrogressive congregations**:

occasionally a church goes through a period of numeric decline that enables it to become more active and effective, rather than less... those who made hard decisions that lead to fewer programs, fewer services, a narrower focus, or more specialized ministry that results in some people leaving the congregation.

http://www.scielo.org.za/scielo.php?script=sci_arttext&pid=S0259-94222009000100033

Images for retrogressive congregations

Four kinds of congregations – John Meunier

Retrogressive churches: Negative growth and high sustainability. High expectations of members and clear focus on identity and purpose. Outward focus. Very active, but often very narrow.

<https://johnmeunier.wordpress.com/2011/02/19/four-kinds-of-congregations/>

Images for retrogressive churches

<http://um-insight.net/blogs/john-meunier/what-congregations-do/>

<http://um-insight.net/blogs/john-meunier/just-give-me-orders,-please/>

<https://johnmeunier.wordpress.com/2010/02/19/failure-to-disciple-make/>

12) Returnees

Christianity for the Rest of Us Small Group: Study Guide

Returnees: People who are “returning home” to the church traditions of their childhood.

<http://aprilmallgroup.blogspot.com/2008/04/study-guide-for-session-1.html>

Images for “returning home” to the church traditions of their childhood

Joining and Leaving Religion: Research Perspectives - Google Books

This compares with 46% of all attenders and 30% of **returnees** to church life.

<https://books.google.com/books?isbn=0852445172>

Images for returnees to church life

https://www.researchgate.net/publication/255172195_Joining_and_leaving_religion_Research_perspectives

Images for Joining and leaving religion Research

Returnees in the Bible (4 instances) - Knowing Jesus

<https://bible.knowing-jesus.com/words/Returnees>

Images for Returnees in the Bible

https://www.openbible.info/topics/returning_home

[Images for bible returning home](#)

<https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Ezra+2&version=CEB> Ezra 2 CEB - List of the returnees - These were the

<https://www.fpcjackson.org/resource-library/sermons/more-names-returnees>

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Return_to_Zion

[Images for Return to Zion](#)

13) Ritual

Cultural Frame » Studying Congregations

Activities – What the Congregation Does Together

Rituals – all cultures have particular rituals that shape the common sense of identity and purpose of the group, and churches are no exception. Worship service, and the various rituals within services, are likely the most common rituals within religious organization. Rituals like worship services help to explain important meanings and values of the congregation. Perhaps there is an extended welcoming period during the service, where each congregation talks to fifteen to twenty people. This ritual would suggest a strong sense of community and inter-connection.

<http://studyingcongregations.org/thinking-about-congregations/frames-for-studying-congregations/cultural-frame/>

[Images for Cultural Frame » Studying Congregations - Rituals](#)

Ritual Practices in Congregational Identity Formation [Timothy D. Son]

Ritual Practices in Congregational Identity Formation investigates the educational roles of ritual practices in the process of congregational identity formation. Son identifies and analyzes various kinds of Christian rituals with respect to how rituals influence the formational processes of a congregation's identity. Based on Victor Turner's ritual theory, this book also investigates the pedagogical and transformative efficacies of ritual practices within the dynamics of congregational education.

<http://www.amazon.com/Ritual-Practices-Congregational-Identity-Formation/dp/0739183109>

<https://rowman.com/ISBN/9780739183113/Ritual-Practices-in-Congregational-Identity-Formation>

<https://books.google.com/books?isbn=0739183117>

<http://www.pts.edu/UserFiles/File/faculty/CVs/Son.pdf>

<https://www.facebook.com/timothy.d.son>

[https://almanac.logos.com/Timothy D. Son](https://almanac.logos.com/Timothy_D_Son)

<http://www.pts.edu/UserFiles/File/faculty/CVs/Son.pdf>

[Images for Timothy D. Son, author ritual practices](#)

[Images for Ritual Practices in Congregational Identity Formation \[Timothy D. Son\]](#)

Rituals as an Indicator of Congregational Culture - Studying Congregations

One important way to examine your religious community's culture is through its *rituals*. Rituals say something about who we are and what we hold dear, pointing to deeper meanings. In religious communities, these religious rituals outline how a deity is worshiped.

<http://studyingcongregations.org/2014/02/08/rituals-as-an-indicator-of-congregational-culture/>

[Images for Rituals as an Indicator of Congregational Culture » Studying Congregations](#)

What Does the Bible Say About Traditional Rituals? - OpenBible.info

https://www.openbible.info/topics/traditional_rituals

[Images for Bible and Traditional Rituals](#)

<https://bible.knowing-jesus.com/topics/Ritual>

<https://www.gotquestions.org/rituals-in-Christianity.html>

<http://www.mannaexpressonline.com/bible-says-rituals-traditions/>

<http://access-jesus.com/bible-list-christian-ritual-practices-html/>

[Images for christian-ritual-practices](#)

14) Roots

Northwest 101: Establishing Roots in a Faith Community

If you have been wondering if membership is the next right step for you—or if you would simply like to meet other seekers like yourself—we invite you to a special program on Unitarian Universalism and Northwest, led by Rev. Terry Davis, Board President Keith Kreycik, Seminarian-in-Residence Earl Daniels, and Northwest lay leaders.

<http://nwuuc.org/2014/03/19/northwest-101-establishing-roots-in-a-faith-community-april-5/>

[Images for Establishing Roots in a Faith Community](#)

Spiritual Family Trees: Finding Your Faith Community's Roots [Barbara Wendland, Larry W. Easterling]

Wendland and Easterling show you how you can use genograms in your congregation as a tool for promoting spiritual growth, building community, and enhancing communication. Spiritual Family Trees gives congregations a powerful instrument for building more intimate spiritual communities.

<http://www.amazon.com/Spiritual-Family-Trees-Finding-Communitys/dp/1566992494Spiritual>

<https://www.barnesandnoble.com/w/spiritual-family-trees-barbara-wendland/1120046604>

<https://rowman.com/ISBN/9781566996358/Spiritual-Family-Trees-Finding-Your-Faith-Community's-Roots>

<https://www.cokesbury.com/9781566992497-Spiritual-Family-Trees?refq=family%20devotion>

http://books.google.com/books/about/Spiritual_Family_Trees.html?id=SIGXAwAAQBAJ

Spiritual Family Trees: Finding Your Faith Community's Roots

<https://www.amazon.com/Barbara-Wendland/e/B000APUV04>

https://www.goodreads.com/author/show/2444597.Barbara_Wendland

[Images for barbara wendland \(author\) family tree](#)

[Images for Spiritual Family Trees: Finding Your Faith Community's Roots \[Barbara Wendland, Larry W. Easterling\]](#)

What Does the Bible Say About Roots? - OpenBible.info

<https://www.openbible.info/topics/roots>

[Images for Bible and Roots](#)

<https://www.kingjamesbibleonline.org/Bible-Verses-About-Roots/>

<https://bible.knowing-jesus.com/topics/Roots>

<https://www.biblestudytools.com/nlt/colossians/2-7.html>

<https://www.crosswalk.com/faith/bible-study/a-deeply-rooted-life.html>

<https://www.christiantoday.com/article/what-does-the-bible-say-about-being-rooted-in-christ/83616.htm>

[Images for rooted-in-christ](#)

http://www.vatican.va/roman_curia/congregations/cfaith/pcb_documents/rc_con_cfaith_doc_20080511_bibbia-e-morale_en.html

15) Rural America

A Rural Exodus from American Churches - TIME

Rural Churches Grapple with a Pastor Exodus

The only group vanishing faster than the population in rural America is its pastors, stranding farm congregations and challenging church leaders to find new models

<http://content.time.com/time/magazine/article/0,9171,1874843-1,00.html>

[Images for Rural Exodus from American Churches - TIME](#)

[Images for Rural Churches Grapple with a Pastor Exodus](#)

Church in rural America - Living Lutheran

A changing landscape

The ELCA has a long history of ministry in rural areas. Rural congregations rank as the highest percentage (28.1) of ELCA churches compared to other population demographic segments.

<https://www.livinglutheran.org/2017/04/church-rural-america/>

<https://www.livinglutheran.org/2017/03/study-guide-church-rural-america/>

[Images for Church in rural America - Living Lutheran A changing landscape](#)

[Images for ELCA long history of ministry in rural areas](#)

<https://www.livinglutheran.org/contact-us/>

<https://www.livinglutheran.org/issues/>

Crisis in the country: Loss of community threatens to splinter rural America | The Lutheran

"I'd like to live in a rural town, too," said the department store clerk to a customer wearing a seed corn cap. "It's peaceful. Things don't change so much." The customer nodded when another customer piped up, "I don't know which rural America you're talking about.

"The mine in our town closed five years ago. We still have 200 families looking for work. Government regulations make it so we can't log either, so another 100 people will be laid off."

These two men reflect rural America's many faces. These faces are shaped by land-based industries — agriculture, forestry, fisheries, mining and energy — and increasingly by manufacturing and service industries.

The Lutheran | August 1996 Issue

<http://www.thelutheran.org/article/issue.cfm?issue=75>

[Images for Crisis in the country: Loss of community threatens to splinter rural America | The Lutheran](#)

[Images for loss of community threatens to splinter rural America](#)

Finding a mission in rural America: Mere survival is not enough | The Lutheran

My friend Andrea's holiday letter gave details about work, children and grandchildren, but this annual greeting also included a description of her congregation's first worship in their new space Sept. 17, 2000. The congregation of 166 managed to build the church — with 70 percent pledged — in an area and at a time when others might not see growth and potential on the plains of South Dakota.

'I love parish ministry in a rural setting. It's my calling,' says Randy Gibbs, driving along U.S. Highway 283 to an ice-cream social at Our Redeemer Lutheran Church, Ness City, Kan. "The part of the kyrie in our Sunday worship liturgy when I get to say, 'For this holy house, and for all who offer here their worship and praise, let us pray to the Lord,' still makes me feel like crying — tears of joy," he wrote.

The Lutheran | October 2004 Issue

<http://www.thelutheran.org/article/issue.cfm?issue=15>

[Images for Finding a mission in rural America: Mere survival is not enough | The Lutheran](#)

Heartland Center - Clues to Rural Community Survival

As a workshop component, "20 Clues to Rural Community Survival" is one of the Heartland Center's most popular and effective training tools. The list of vital characteristics provides an "ideal" benchmark against which people can measure their own community. It moves people naturally from theory, to strategy, to action.

<http://heartlandcenter.info/what-we-do/clues-to-rural-community-survival/>

[Images for Heartland Center - Clues to Rural Community Survival](#)

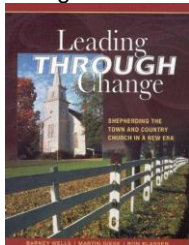
Leading Through Change [Barney Wells/Martin Guise/Ron Klassen, Stuart Hoffman, Julie Becker]

Rural areas are experiencing changes. Changes brought by an encroaching city. Changes brought by communication technologies such as the internet and satellite TV. Changes brought by urbanites buying land and making the area their personal retreat. In short, rural areas are experiencing changes that they are not seeking but must now respond to. This book is about leading through change, whether it be proactive or reactive.

You might be facing issues such as these:

- Our community is changing but our church is not
- Our church's worship style hasn't changed in recent memory
- Our church is not reaching the young people in the community
- Our church is declining
- Our church has newcomers that are bringing ideas that meet resistance and even create conflict
- Our church building is run-down and sends the message that we are old, tired and worn out

Change is already happening in your town. Learn how to lead your church to greater effectiveness and fruitfulness through this change.



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[Images for Leading Through Change \[Barney Wells/Martin Guise/Ron Klassen, Stuart Hoffman, Julie Becker\]](#)

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Douglas John Hall

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[Images for The Future of Rural America – Word and World – Spring, 2000 – Luther Seminary](#)

The Left Behind: Decline and Rage in Rural America by Robert Wuthnow (Author)

How a fraying social fabric is fueling the outrage of rural Americans

What is fueling rural America's outrage toward the federal government? Why did rural Americans vote overwhelmingly for Donald Trump? And, beyond economic and demographic decline, is there a more nuanced explanation for the growing rural-urban divide? Drawing on more than a decade of research and hundreds of interviews, Robert Wuthnow brings us into America's small towns, farms, and rural communities to paint a rich portrait of the moral order--the interactions, loyalties, obligations, and identities—underpinning this critical segment of the nation. Wuthnow demonstrates that to truly understand rural Americans' anger, their culture must be explored more fully.

We hear from farmers who want government out of their business, factory workers who believe in working hard to support their families, town managers who find the federal government unresponsive to their communities' needs, and clergy who say the moral climate is being undermined. Wuthnow argues that rural America's fury stems less from specific economic concerns than from the perception that Washington is distant from and yet threatening to the social fabric of small towns. Rural dwellers are especially troubled by Washington's seeming lack of empathy for such small-town norms as personal responsibility, frugality, cooperation, and common sense. Wuthnow also shows that while these communities may not be as discriminatory as critics claim, racism and misogyny remain embedded in rural patterns of life.

Moving beyond simplistic depictions of the residents of America's heartland, *The Left Behind* offers a clearer picture of how this important population will influence the nation's political future.

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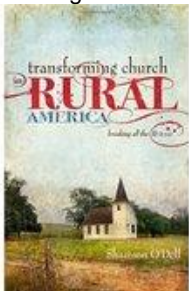
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Images for Robert Wuthnow (Author)

Images for *The Left Behind: Decline and Rage in Rural America* by Robert Wuthnow (Author)

Transforming Church in Rural America [Shannon O'Dell]

Small church buildings dotting the countryside are home to ministries that often struggle with limited attendance, no money, and little expectation that change can revitalize their future. In *Transforming Church in Rural America*, Pastor Shannon O'Dell shares a powerful vision of relevance, possibility, and excellence for these small churches, or for any ministry that is stuck in a rural state of mind. The book reveals: how to generate growth through transformed lives; ways to create active evangelism in your community; no-cost solutions for staffing challenges, enhancing the worship experience, and inspiring volunteers. Focusing on vision, attitude, leadership, and innovation, you can learn the practical strategies and biblical guidance that helped to grow a church of 31 into a multi-campus church of several thousand, with a national and global outreach. Discover effective structure and ways to cast God-given vision so others can follow and make an impact. Experience the blueprint for transforming into effective, dynamic, and thriving churches - no matter where the location or how small it may be.



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[Images for Shannon O'Dell](#)
[Images for Transforming Church in Rural America \[Shannon O'Dell\]](#)

16) Rural Church

Discovering Hope: Building Vitality in Rural Congregations [David Poling-Goldenne, L. Shannon Jung]

God's Spirit is breathing new vitality into rural congregations! Hear what 26 effective rural congregations have to say about God's activity in and through them. In these stories, you can explore the best practices for vital ministry and identify action steps for your own setting.

Discovering Hope is a process that helps rural and small town congregations rediscover their purpose and sense of mission. This evangelism tool is based on the book *Discovering Hope: Building Vitality in Rural Congregations* written by David Poling-Goldenne and L. Shannon Jung. This resource celebrates the best practices of 26 rural and small town congregations highlighting their effective work in the areas of prayer, worship, discipleship, evangelism, congregational care and leadership.

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[Images for David Poling-Goldenne \(Author\)](#)
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[Images for Discovering Hope: Building Vitality in Rural Congregations \[David Poling-Goldenne, L. Shannon Jung\]](#)

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Practicing Care in Rural Congregations and Communities [Jeanne Hoeft, L. Shannon Jung, Joretta Marshall]

Pastoral care in rural communities is different from care in other locales. Despite these differences, rural churches and communities also hold a particular wisdom from which the rest of the church might benefit. Small towns and rural areas have particular challenges, and in seeking to live out the Christian life in the midst of those, local churches have unique and useful insights into what it means to care for one another.

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Images for Joretta Marshall, author
Images for Rural Congregational Studies: A Guide for Good Shepherds [Shannon Jung, Mary A. Agria]

Rural Congregational Studies: A Guide for Good Shepherds [Shannon Jung, Mary A. Agria]

Nearly all pastors sent to rural congregations were nurtured in larger urban congregations, and nearly always educated in urbanized seminaries. A wide culture gap between leaders and members often emerges among the church leaders in rural congregations. This book is designed to address and study the issues that arise when ordained and lay pastors are called or appointed to rural congregations.

This handbook will orient seminary students and pastors who are doing ministry in rural congregations. It focuses on the nature of congregational life in such a setting, showing ways to deal with the issues and challenges specific to rural culture. The authors tell how to best engage in evangelism and mission in the particular locations in which these congregations find themselves. *Rural Congregational Studies: A Guide for Good Shepherds* outlines features of different rural settings that affect life and church life. Each chapter contains a section of "resources" (sidebars, ideas, programs, and so forth) that tie it to the chapter theme.

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Images for Rural Congregational Studies [Shannon Jung, Mary A. Agria]

Growing a Rural Church | CT Pastors - Christianity Today

If you're a rural pastor, as I am, you have probably read books that claim to address the needs of the small, rural congregation, only to discover that to many authors, "small" means a church of less than two hundred and "rural" means a town of less than ten thousand. You've probably heard exciting news about churches adding thousands of members every year, too. Where does this leave the pastor of a church of forty in a community of five hundred? What does church growth mean in such a congregation?

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In this 'Country Church': Learn more than theology by-the-book | The Lutheran

The phrase "summer reading" assumes that you have more time in the summer, which may or may not be true. But now, or whenever you do have time, I suggest you read *Open Secrets: A Spiritual Journey Through a Country Church* (Doubleday, 2001). The author is Richard Lischer, an ELCA pastor who teaches at Duke University Divinity School, Durham, N.C. But, Lischer hasn't always been an academic, and that is the subject of the book.

He started out in the 1970s, with a doctorate in theology, as a small-town pastor in southern Illinois. There, rather than ponder deep theological issues, he dealt with such problems as rural poverty and farm crises, narrow-mindedness and gossip, infidelity and spousal abuse. (These do, of course, raise deep theological issues.) It's here, in New Cana, a community of eccentric yet universally recognizable "plain folks," that he received his second — perhaps more profound — education.

This isn't an idyllic description of some quaint village whose residents gather for ice-cream socials and band concerts in the park. Lischer says New Cana "lacked the traditional accessories that make a town picturesque — no courthouse, town square or ivy-covered cottages. The few white picket fences I saw were in disrepair and were obviously placed to keep the chickens in the yard." Lischer learned how to be a pastor the hard way. Nor did he avoid personal problems, including one that all clergy face: competition for time between church life and family or private life.

Yet through all this, Lischer maintained a sense of humor that is one of the book's most prominent and appealing features. The advertising material lauds his "style reminiscent of Garrison Keillor." I suppose that description will sell more books. But the reference is unfortunate because Lischer has his own style and voice — unique and refreshing.

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National Catholic Rural Life Conference

Applying the teachings of Jesus Christ for the betterment of rural America
<http://www.ncrlc.com/>
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Pioneering on the prairie - The Lutheran Magazine

North Dakota parish unites congregations without destroying their identity
"Our pastors move on after two or three years."
"Out here in the country I feel isolated from other pastors."
"Our pastor was good with older people, not so good with younger ones."
"Will we be able to afford a pastor?"

These comments are common in **rural** congregations. They are fueled by an aging and declining population. Dealing with these challenges requires innovation. One model of ministry that addresses these concerns is taking hold on the wind-beaten prairie of eastern North Dakota. It is Tri-County Ministry, a parish consisting of seven ELCA congregations and one Presbyterian church spread out over seven towns but joined by one staff and council.

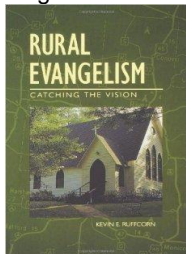
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Rural Evangelism: Catching the Vision [Kevin Ruffcorn]

Responding to the need for a new vision of evangelism for small towns and rural areas, Kevin Ruffcorn presents lively suggestions and new understandings gleaned from his workshops on rural evangelism and his own experience. He emphasizes that the vision of evangelism held by those in suburbia and other well-populated neighborhoods usually does not fit rural settings. The author looks at possibilities and the problems typical of less densely populated areas, reviewing some concerns many of them experience: small memberships, frequent turnover of pastors, decreasing population of surrounding communities, and the challenge of facilitating needed changes.

Evangelism needs to emphasize faithfulness to God's call to proclaim the good news of Jesus Christ, using the talents and resources available. A broader understanding can free congregations to dream big dreams and to see new possibilities. They do not need to feel compelled to evaluate their efforts in terms of large increases in membership. Rather, says Pastor Ruffcorn, such congregations can emphasize both inward and outward aspects of nurturing their own members and reaching out to their neighbors. This can be done by words and through actions in an intentional and relational manner.



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Images for Kevin Ruffcorn, author
Images for Rural Evangelism: Catching the Vision [Kevin Ruffcorn]

Rural Revival: Growing Churches in Shrinking Communities [W. Scott Moore]

Most of the sixteen million Southern Baptists were classified in a recent news article as living in either suburban, small town, or rural areas. Phillip B. Jones, director of the Strategic Planning Support Team of the North American Mission Board, stated: "Most Southern Baptist congregations are small and are located in small towns and rural areas. Over a third are located in rural or open country." He also observed, "Slightly less than a third are located in small towns and villages of less than 10,000 population." Can rural churches experience significant growth? The answer is a resounding, "YES!" This book defines and applies the four major factors that distinguish growing churches from the rest of the pack.

A companion volume to *Rural Pastor's Handbook: A How to Guide to Leading Your Flock*. The handbook is designed to help you, the rural pastor, improve your prayer life and your preaching, grow your church, and deal with the day-to-day opportunities and problems that you will ultimately face.

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Images for W. Scott Moore, author rural revival
Images for Rural Revival: Growing Churches in Shrinking Communities [W. Scott Moore]

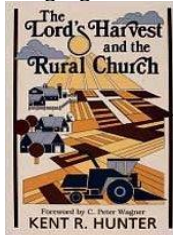
Rural Route Church | A Rural Church Vision

This blog is dedicated to the wonderful world of rural life and ministry.

<https://ruralchurch.wordpress.com/>
Images for Rural Route Church | A Rural Church Vision This blog is dedicated to the wonderful world of rural life and ministry.
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The Lord's Harvest and the Rural Church: A New Look at Ministry in the Agri-Culture [Kent R. Hunter, C. Peter Wagner]

Leading church growth expert provides insights into the unique worldview of rural settings in order to help pastors serve these congregations more effectively.



<http://www.amazon.com/Lords-Harvest-Rural-Church-Agri-Culture/dp/0834115034>
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Images for C. Peter Wagner

Images for [The Lord's Harvest and the Rural Church: A New Look at Ministry in the Agri-Culture](#) [Kent R. Hunter, C. Peter Wagner]

The Rural Church: Learning from Three Decades of Change (Creative Leadership Series) [Edward W. Hassinger, John S. Holik, J. Kenneth Benson]

The Rural Church is one of the most instructive books ever written for:

Clergy, professionals, and lay leaders in rural churches

Seminary students studying rural ministry

Urban-born pastors whose first pastorates are in rural America

Church executives from urban-church backgrounds who find themselves in rural districts

College and seminary classes on rural sociology

Based on thirty years of research, *The Rural Church* provides an in-depth look at the characteristics of rural churches and their congregations, to show how church leaders can most effectively function within a rural-church environment.

<http://www.amazon.com/The-Rural-Church-Learning-Leadership/dp/0687365872>

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<https://www.librarything.com/series/Creative+Leadership+Series>

Images for Creative Leadership Series books

The small rural parish by Bernard Quinn (Author)

Foreword

A characteristic of any approach to parish development must be awareness of the differences among parishes. These differences arise from the history of the people, the church of church life in the area, the demographic characteristics of the parish, and the locale. Thus, there are sharp differences between urban parishes in traditionally Catholic areas and rural parishes where Catholics constitute a relatively small portion of the total population. And, it might be added, parishes in rural areas where the population is largely Catholic differ from those where the population is largely Protestant. Another major distinction among parishes is their size: the total number of people, the size of the staff, and the geographic area included.

In this book, Father Quinn looks specifically at the small rural parish and draws on experiences largely in areas where Catholics are a minority. This focus and his experience makes the book very practically helpful. At the same time, he situates the practical ingredients clearly in a theological viewpoint. This viewpoint includes as part of parish life the development of people, the ecumenical aspects of ministry, and the necessary foundation of parish ministry in increasingly conscious faith. The book also emphasizes the relationship between parish community and the mission of the Churchy. The community is assembled and gathered; it also reaches out to others.

The Parish Project of the National Conference of Catholic Bishops is delighted to be associated with this contribution to one major form of parish life: the small rural parish.

Rev. Philip J. Murnion

Director, The Parish Project

National Conference of Catholic Bishops

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<http://www.nytimes.com/2010/06/25/nyregion/25saint.html>

Images for Bernard Quinn (Author)

[Images for The small rural parish by Bernard Quinn \(Author\)](#)

Thriving Rural Communities - Duke Divinity School - Duke University

The Thriving Rural Communities initiative works to foster thriving rural North Carolina communities by cultivating faithful rural Christian leadership and fruitful rural United Methodist congregations.

<https://divinity.duke.edu/initiatives/trc>

[Images for Thriving Rural Communities](#)

17) Rural Ministry

Center for Theology & Land - Wartburg Seminary

The Center for Theology & Land, established in 1987, is the **rural ministry** program of Wartburg Theological Seminary.

Mission

The mission of the Center is to strengthen rural churches and their communities by:

- Training ministers for work in small/rural churches.
- Providing continuing education sessions for clergy and laity in rural settings.
- Helping empower rural churches for mission in their communities.

http://www.wartburgseminary.edu/template_Centers.asp?id=391

[Images for Center for Theology & Land - Wartburg Seminary](#)

[Images for rural ministry program of Wartburg Theological Seminary](#)

Rural Ministry Conference - Wartburg Theological Seminary

Where leaders in rural communities and congregations gather to gain insight and inspiration, to network and neighbor that our ministries might be empowered. This ecumenical conference includes worship, keynote speakers, workshops, and Bible study, and offers participants a unique opportunity to network with others who are active in and concerned about rural ministry.

<https://www.wartburgseminary.edu/learningforlife/learning-for-life-events/rural-ministry-conference/>

[Images for Rural Ministry Conference – Wartburg Theological Seminary](#)

Rural Ministry is Not Second Rate - The Gospel Coalition

The incomparable Tim Keller, himself a pastor in Manhattan, offers some great advice to the young pastor. A taste:

Young pastors or seminarians often ask me for advice on what kind of early ministry experience to seek in order to best grow in skill and wisdom as a pastor. They often are surprised when I tell them to consider being a 'country parson' — namely, the solo pastor of a small church, many or most of which are in non-urban settings. Let me quickly emphasize the word 'consider.' I would never insist that everyone must follow this path. Nevertheless, it is worth thinking about. It was great for me . . .

. . . Some will be surprised to hear me say this, since they know my emphasis on ministry in the city. Yes, I believe firmly that the evangelical church has neglected the city. It still is difficult to get Christians and Christian leaders to make the sacrifices necessary to live their lives out in cities. However, the disdain many people have for urban areas is no worse than the condescending attitudes many have toward small towns and small churches.

<http://thegospelcoalition.org/blogs/gospeldrivenchurch/2012/06/05/rural-ministry-is-not-second-rate/>

[Images for Rural Ministry is Not Second Rate](#)

Rural Ministry: The Shape of the Renewal to Come [Shannon Jung]

Grounded in social research, *Rural Ministry* evaluates the diminishing establishment of the church in rural America, which is linked to the fifty-year-old crisis in rural ministry. It names the primary issues for leaders of Protestant and Catholic churches to ponder: the graying of the population; the closing of schools, hospitals, and factories; and the corporate buyout of farms during the 1980s. In addition to retelling the history of this crisis, Shannon Jung and the other contributors to this volume offer a set of Christian principles that respond to social problems in rural life. The situation is so intense that the book offers examples from around the heartland of cooperative or collaborative parishes that blend denominational and theological differences across the Protestant and Catholic spectrum.

Key Benefits: Offers a vision of nationwide renewal in rural America; Advocates true **ecumenical** solutions to issues confronting the rural church in America; Sidebars feature examples and illustrations; Informs new rural ministers of the culture and issues about to confront them, allowing them to better handle the challenges and opportunities of the rural environment; Motivates congregations to activate ministries in new and provocative ways, insuring the spread of the gospel; Can help troubled churches survive.



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Conclusion

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<https://www.christiancentury.org/contributor/shannon-jung>
Images for Shannon Jung, author
Images for Rural Ministry: The Shape of the Renewal to Come [Shannon Jung]

Successful Rural Ministry

Ministering in a rural church comes with unique challenges that set it apart from ministry in more populous areas. But it can be done successfully.

<http://www.cmconline.org/press/SRMraeArticle.pdf>
Images for Successful Rural Ministry

Sustaining Heart in the Heartland: Exploring Rural Spirituality by Miriam Brown (Author, Editor)

Sustaining Heart in the Heartland is a unique exploration of rural spirituality that describes how faith is lived out in the sparsely populated rural areas of the US, what it is to be people of faith and commitment in the face of daunting challenges facing the rural way of life today.

Writing with authentic grass roots knowledge and experience, the authors demonstrate that the notion of rural spirituality takes on many different forms. In part one, they describe characteristics and themes of rural spirituality as well as its hopes and struggles. Part two describes the roles, dynamics, spirit, and challenges of ten groups in the quilt of relationships that make up rural life, e.g., the land, families, family farming, local organizations. Part three provides three looks at the expanding identities of local congregations and includes a pastoral suggestions review.

Written with a passion for rural life and a deep appreciation for rural spirituality, this book invites residents of the heartland, as well as those in ministry, clergy, and lay leaders, to work together to nurture the spiritual vigor of the rural community. It celebrates the reality of rural life's special land-God connection and the commitment to stewardship that keeps it alive.

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Images for Sustaining Heart in the Heartland: Exploring Rural Spirituality by Miriam Brown (Author, Editor)

Page 3

18) Scappy Church

Scrappers Nov 15, 2011 by Carol Howard Merritt – Christian Century

A Scrapper is pragmatic. We are people who have learned to work outside of institutional structures in order to get stuff done. It doesn't always mean that we're anti-institutional. It just means that after facing years of rejected articles and diminishing job opportunities, we've learned to build our own unsteady platforms and live out our creative callings.

<http://www.christiancentury.org/blogs/archive/2011-11/scrappers>
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"Scappy" Church Ministry - Episcopal Church Foundation

Blessings & Struggles of "Scappy" Church. Ministry. The Rev. Nancy Aide Frausto.

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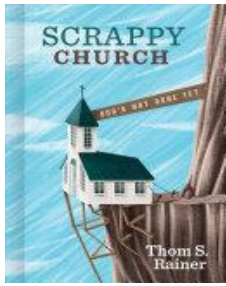
Scappy Church: God's Not Done Yet: Thom S. Rainer

How many times have we heard these statements...

- "We can't compete with the megachurch in our town!"
- "A new church was started two blocks from us. We've got plenty of churches without them!"
- "The church brought another one of their campuses near us. It's totally unethical what they are doing."
- "We can't reach young families. They all go to the big church that has all the children's and student stuff."
- "We don't have the money or the people the other churches have."

Bestselling author Thom S. Rainer (*I Am a Church Member, Autopsy of a Deceased Church*) has heard comments like these hundreds, if not thousands, of times. They are statements of hopelessness. They are statements of despair. They are statements of defeat. Church leaders don't want to feel this way. They desire to break out of the mediocrity of the same, lame, and tame existence of their churches. They want their churches to make a difference. There is hope. God's hope. God's possibilities.

What does a scappy church look like? Let's take a look together.



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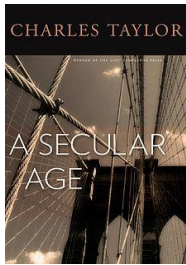
19) Secular

A Secular Age: Charles Taylor

What does it mean to say that we live in a secular age? Almost everyone would agree that we--in the West, at least--largely do. And clearly the place of religion in our societies has changed profoundly in the last few centuries. In what will be a defining book for our time, Charles Taylor takes up the question of what these changes mean--of what, precisely, happens when a society in which it is virtually impossible not to believe in God becomes one in which faith, even for the staunchest believer, is only one human possibility among others.

Taylor, long one of our most insightful thinkers on such questions, offers a historical perspective. He examines the development in "Western Christendom" of those aspects of modernity which we call secular. What he describes is in fact not a single, continuous transformation, but a series of new departures, in which earlier forms of religious life have been dissolved or destabilized and new ones have been created. As we see here, today's secular world is characterized not by an absence of religion--although in some societies religious belief and practice have markedly declined--but rather by the continuing multiplication of new options, religious, spiritual, and anti-religious, which individuals and groups seize on in order to make sense of their lives and give shape to their spiritual aspirations.

What this means for the world--including the new forms of collective religious life it encourages, with their tendency to a mass mobilization that breeds violence--is what Charles Taylor grapples with, in a book as timely as it is timeless.



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[Images for Secular Age: Charles Taylor](#)

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Dilemmas and Connections: Selected Essays — Charles Taylor

There are, always, more things in heaven and earth than are dreamt of in one's philosophy and in these essays Charles Taylor turns to those things not fully imagined or avenues not wholly explored in his epochal *A Secular Age*. Here Taylor talks in detail about thinkers who are his allies and interlocutors, such as Iris Murdoch, Alasdair MacIntyre, Robert Brandom, and Paul Celan. He offers major contributions to social theory, expanding on the issues of nationalism, democratic exclusionism, religious mobilizations, and modernity. And he delves even more deeply into themes taken up in *A Secular Age*: the continuity of religion from the past into the future; the nature of the secular; the folly of hoping to live by reason alone; the perils of moralism. He also speculates on how irrationality emerges from the heart of rationality itself, and why violence breaks out again and again.

In *A Secular Age*, Taylor more evidently foregrounded his Catholic faith, and there are several essays here that further explore that faith. Overall, this is a hopeful book, showing how, while acknowledging the force of religion and the persistence of violence and folly, we nonetheless have the power to move forward once we have given up the brittle pretensions of a narrow rationalism.

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[Images for Dilemmas and Connections: Selected Essays — Charles Taylor](#)

Philosophical Papers: Volume 1, Human Agency and Language by Charles Taylor (Author)

Charles Taylor has been one of the most original and influential figures in contemporary philosophy: his 'philosophical anthropology' spans an unusually wide range of theoretical interests and draws creatively on both Anglo-American and Continental traditions in philosophy. A selection of his published papers is presented here in two volumes, structured to indicate the direction and essential unity of the work. He starts from a polemical concern with behaviorism and other reductionist theories (particularly in psychology and the philosophy of language) which aim to model the study of man on the natural sciences. This leads to a general critique of naturalism, its historical development and its importance for modern culture and consciousness; and that in turn points, forward to a positive account of human agency and the self, the constitutive role of language and value, and the scope of practical reason. The volumes jointly present some two decades of work on these fundamental themes, and convey strongly the tenacity, verve and versatility of the author in grappling with them. They will interest a very wide range of philosophers and students of the human sciences.

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Philosophical Papers: Volume 1, Human Agency and Language
<http://www.jstor.org/discover/10.2307/40231599?uid=2&uid=4&sid=21103937932143>
[Images for Philosophical Papers: Volume 1, Human Agency and Language by Charles Taylor \(Author\)](#)

Sources of the Self: The Making of the Modern Identity: Charles Taylor:

In this extensive inquiry into the sources of modern selfhood, Charles Taylor demonstrates just how rich and precious those resources are. The modern turn to subjectivity, with its attendant rejection of an objective order of reason, has led--it seems to many--to *mere* subjectivism at the mildest and to sheer nihilism at the worst. Many critics believe that the modern order has no moral backbone and has proved corrosive to all that might foster human good. Taylor rejects this view. He argues that, properly understood, our modern notion of the self provides a framework that more than compensates for the abandonment of substantive notions of rationality.

The major insight of *Sources of the Self* is that modern subjectivity, in all its epistemological, aesthetic, and political ramifications, has its roots in ideas of human good. After first arguing that contemporary philosophers have ignored how self and good connect, the author defines the modern identity by describing its genesis. His effort to uncover and map our moral sources leads to novel interpretations of most of the figures and movements in the modern tradition. Taylor shows that the modern turn inward is not disastrous but is in fact the result of our long efforts to define and reach the good. At the heart of this definition he finds what he calls the affirmation of ordinary life, a value which has decisively if not completely replaced an older conception of reason as connected to a hierarchy based on birth and wealth. In telling the story of a revolution whose proponents have been Augustine, Montaigne, Luther, and a host of others, Taylor's goal is in part to make sure we do not lose sight of their goal and endanger all that has been achieved. *Sources of the Self* provides a decisive defense of the modern order and a sharp rebuff to its critics.

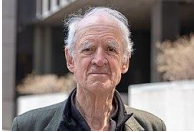
<http://www.amazon.com/Sources-Self-Making-Modern-Identity/dp/0674824261>
https://www.goodreads.com/book/show/37858.Sources_of_the_Self
http://books.google.com/books?id=qoG8asWZRGoC&source=gbs_book_similarbooks
https://books.google.com/books/about/Sources_of_the_Self.html?id=qoG8asWZRGoC
https://books.google.com/books/about/Sources_of_the_Self.html?id=OYN88ArbxUAC
http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sources_of_the_Self
<https://www.britannica.com/topic/Sources-of-the-Self-The-Making-of-the-Modern-Identity>
<http://www.hup.harvard.edu/catalog.php?isbn=9780674824263>
<https://www.sunypress.edu/pdf/60558.pdf> Charles Taylor's Sources of the Self - SUNY Press
<http://www.georgescialabba.net/mtgs/1990/09/sources-of-the-self-the-making.html>
<http://lincolnmullen.com/blog/charles-taylor-and-the-sources-of-the-self/>
<https://www.bookdepository.com/Sources-Self-Charles-Taylor/9780674824263>
http://philosophynow.org/issues/74/Charles_Taylor
<http://www.lrb.co.uk/v12/n22/jonathan-glover/god-loveth-adverbs>
http://ebookey.org/Sources-of-the-Self-The-Making-of-the-Modern-Identity_296823.html
<https://au.pinterest.com/pin/110830840799398219/>
[Images for Sources of the Self: Charles Taylor](#)

The Ethics of Authenticity: Charles Taylor

Everywhere we hear talk of decline, of a world that was better once, maybe fifty years ago, maybe centuries ago, but certainly before modernity drew us along its dubious path. While some lament the slide of Western culture into relativism and nihilism and others celebrate the trend as a liberating sort of progress, Charles Taylor calls on us to face the moral and political crises of our time, and to make the most of modernity's challenges.

At the heart of the modern malaise, according to most accounts, is the notion of authenticity, of self-fulfillment, which seems to render ineffective the whole tradition of common values and social commitment. Though Taylor recognizes the dangers associated with modernity's drive toward self-realization, he is not as quick as others to dismiss it. He calls for a freeze on cultural pessimism. In a discussion of ideas and ideologies from Friedrich Nietzsche to Gail Sheehy, from Allan Bloom to Michel Foucault, Taylor sorts out the good from the harmful in the modern cultivation of an authentic self. He sets forth the entire network of thought and morals that link our quest for self-creation with our impulse toward self-fashioning, and shows how such efforts must be conducted against an existing set of rules, or a grid work of moral measurement. Seen against this network, our modern preoccupations with expression, rights, and the subjectivity of human thought reveal themselves as assets, not liabilities.

By looking past simplistic, one-sided judgments of modern culture, by distinguishing the good and valuable from the socially and politically perilous, Taylor articulates the promise of our age. His bracing and provocative book gives voice to the challenge of modernity, and calls on all of us to answer it.



<http://www.amazon.com/The-Ethics-Authenticity-Charles-Taylor/dp/0674268636>
http://books.google.com/books?id=f11Q-RNvmSEC&source=gbs_book_similarbooks
http://books.google.com/books/about/The_Ethics_of_Authenticity.html?id=f11Q-RNvmSEC
https://uniteyouthdublin.files.wordpress.com/2015/01/the_ethics_of_authenticity-copy.pdf
<http://www.hup.harvard.edu/catalog.php?isbn=9780674268630>
http://www.academia.edu/2522794/Review_of_Charles_Taylor_The_Ethics_of_Authenticity
<http://www.scribd.com/doc/51045598/Charles-Taylor-The-Ethics-of-Authenticity>
https://bearspace.baylor.edu/Scott_Moore/www/handouts/E_A1.html
<http://www.studymode.com/essays/Charles-Taylor-Augustine-And-The-Ethics-50991.html>
<http://www.spiked-online.com/spiked-review/article/the-ideal-of-authenticity/17966#.WljWlainGUK>
<http://www.lrb.co.uk/v15/n07/richard-rorty/in-a-flattened-world>
<http://isaddictedtothemusic.wordpress.com/2011/05/09/charles-taylor-and-authenticity/>
<http://www.enotes.com/topics/ethics-authenticity>
<http://www.wowessays.com/dbase/ae2/vak152.shtm>
<https://seoulphilosophy.wordpress.com/2015/06/19/charles-taylors-the-ethics-of-authenticity-chapters-1-5/>
Images for Ethics of Authenticity: Charles Taylor

Varieties of Religion Today: William James Revisited by Charles Taylor (Author)

A hundred years after William James delivered the celebrated lectures that became *The Varieties of Religious Experience*, one of the foremost thinkers in the English-speaking world returns to the questions posed in James's masterpiece to clarify the circumstances and conditions of religion in our day. An elegant mix of the philosophy and sociology of religion, Charles Taylor's powerful book maintains a clear perspective on James's work in its historical and cultural contexts, while casting a new and revealing light upon the present.

Lucid, readable, and dense with ideas that promise to transform current debates about religion and secularism, *Varieties of Religion Today* is much more than a revisiting of James's classic. Rather, it places James's analysis of religious experience and the dilemmas of doubt and belief in an unfamiliar but illuminating context, namely the social horizon in which questions of religion come to be presented to individuals in the first place.

Taylor begins with questions about the way in which James conceives his subject, and shows how these questions arise out of different ways of understanding religion that confronted one another in James's time and continue to do so today. Evaluating James's treatment of the ethics of belief, he goes on to develop an innovative and provocative reading of the public and cultural conditions in which questions of belief or unbelief are perceived to be individual questions. What emerges is a remarkable and penetrating view of the relation between religion and social order and, ultimately, of what "religion" means.

<http://www.amazon.com/Varieties-Religion-Today-Revisited-Institute/dp/0674012534>
https://www.goodreads.com/book/show/774055.Varieties_of_Religion_Today
<https://www.giffordlectures.org/lecturers/charles-margrave-taylor>
http://books.google.com/books?id=qanbH9RVxVsC&source=gbs_book_similarbooks
<http://www.ndpr.nd.edu/news/varieties-of-religion-today-william-james-revisited/>
<http://www.hup.harvard.edu/catalog.php?isbn=9780674012530>
https://www.publishersweekly.com/978-0-674-00760-4_Religion_Book_Review
[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Charles_Taylor_\(philosopher\)](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Charles_Taylor_(philosopher))
<http://journals.cambridge.org/action/displayAbstract?fromPage=online&aid=5342816>
http://www.powells.com/review/2002_06_20.html
<http://www.jstor.org/discover/10.2307/40337835?uid=2&uid=4&sid=21103943356403>

20) Secular Humanism

Best 25+ Secular humanism ideas on Pinterest

<https://www.pinterest.com/explore/secular-humanism/>
Images for secular humanism Pinterest
<https://www.pinterest.com/Zerofoxes/secular-humanism/>
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<https://www.pinterest.com/maryschar/secular-humanism/>
<https://www.pinterest.com/rejobson/secular-humanist/>
<https://www.pinterest.com/andreas4dogs/secular-humanism/>
<https://www.pinterest.com/riaanvanwyk/secular-humanism/>
<https://www.pinterest.com/michelin316/secular-humanism/>
<https://www.pinterest.com/secularfamilies/humanism-101/>
<https://www.pinterest.com/davisedwinclark/secular-humanist/>
<https://www.pinterest.com/kelliklymenko/the-secular-humanist/>
[Images for pinterest/secular-humanist/](#)

Secular Humanism: A Proactive Approach to Goodness | Bart Campolo - YouTube

For many people, atheism is the answer, but for secular humanists it mainly poses the ultimate question: If this life is all we have, how do we make the most of it?

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=d3JldCru1po>
Images for Secular Humanism: A Proactive Approach to Goodness | Bart Campolo - YouTube
<http://bartcampolo.org/>
https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bart_Campolo
[Images for Bart Campolo](#)

Secular humanism - Wikipedia

The philosophy or [life stance](#) of secular humanism embraces human [reason](#), [ethics](#), [social justice](#), and [philosophical naturalism](#) while specifically rejecting religious [dogma](#), [supernaturalism](#), [pseudoscience](#), and [superstition](#) as the bases of [morality](#) and decision making.^{[1][2][3][4]}

Secular humanism posits that human beings are capable of being ethical and moral without religion or a [god](#). It does not, however, assume that humans are either inherently [evil](#) or innately good, nor does it present humans as being superior to nature. Rather, the humanist life stance emphasizes the unique responsibility facing humanity and the ethical consequences of human decisions. Fundamental to the concept of secular humanism is the strongly held viewpoint that ideology—be it religious or political—must be thoroughly examined by each individual and not simply accepted or rejected on faith. Along with this, an essential part of secular humanism is a continually adapting search for truth, primarily through [science](#) and [philosophy](#). Many secular humanists derive their moral codes from a philosophy of [utilitarianism](#), [ethical naturalism](#), or [evolutionary ethics](#), and some, such as [Sam Harris](#), advocate a [science of morality](#).

The [International Humanist and Ethical Union](#) (IHEU) is the world union of more than one hundred Humanist, rationalist, [irreligious](#), [atheistic](#), [Bright](#), [secular](#), [Ethical Culture](#), and [freethought](#) organizations in more than 40 countries. The "Happy Human" is the official symbol of the IHEU as well as being regarded as a universally recognized symbol for those who call themselves Humanists. Secular humanist organizations are found in all parts of the world. Those who call themselves humanists are estimated to number between four and five million people worldwide.

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Secular_humanism
[Images for Secular Humanism](#)

TOP 25 SECULAR HUMANISM QUOTES | A-Z Quotes

www.azquotes.com/quotes/topics/secular-humanism.html
Images for Secular Humanism quotes
<https://www.goodreads.com/quotes/tag/secular-humanism>
<https://www.brainyquote.com/topics/humanism>
<https://www.goodreads.com/quotes/tag/humanism>
<https://humanism.org.uk/humanism/humanism-today/humanists-thinking/quotations/>
Images for humanists-thinking/quotations
<https://www.askideas.com/62-top-humanism-quotes-and-sayings/>
Images for humanism-quotes-and-sayings
www.wiseoldsayings.com/humanist-quotes/

Urban Dictionary: secular humanist

Secular Humanism is a term which has come into use in the last thirty years to describe a world view with the following [elements](#) and principles:

A conviction that dogmas, ideologies and traditions, whether religious, political or social, must be weighed and tested by each

individual and not simply accepted on [faith](#).

Commitment to the use of critical reason, factual evidence, and scientific methods of inquiry, rather than faith and mysticism, in seeking solutions to [human](#) problems and answers to important human questions.

A primary concern with fulfillment, growth, and creativity for both the individual and humankind in general.

A constant search for objective [truth](#), with the understanding that new knowledge and experience constantly alter our imperfect perception of it.

A concern for this [life](#) and a commitment to making it meaningful through better understanding of ourselves, our [history](#), our intellectual and artistic achievements, and the outlooks of those who differ from us.

A search for viable individual, social and political principles of ethical conduct, judging them on their ability to enhance human well-being and individual responsibility.

A conviction that with reason, an open marketplace of ideas, good [will](#), and tolerance, progress can be made in building a better world for ourselves and our [children](#).

<http://www.urbandictionary.com/define.php?term=secular%20humanist>

[Images for Dictionary: secular humanist](#)

What Does the Bible Say About Secular Humanism? - OpenBible.info

https://www.openbible.info/topics/secular_humanism

[Images for Bible and Secular Humanism](#)

<https://www.kingjamesbibleonline.org/Bible-Verses-About-Secular-Humanism/>

<https://americanhumanist.org/what-is-humanism/reasons-humanists-reject-bible/>

[Images for reasons-humanists-reject-bible](#)

<https://www.soulwinning.info/fr/humanism/defined.htm>

<https://www.ucg.org/vertical-thought/the-bible-deflates-secular-humanism>

[Images for bible-deflates-secular-humanism](#)

<https://www.gotquestions.org/secular-humanism.html>

<https://www.ligonier.org/learn/devotionals/secular-humanism/>

<https://www.secularhumanism.org/index.php/articles/5440>

www.thebible.net/biblicaltheism/humanchrist.htm

What Is Secular Humanism? - Council for Secular Humanism

Secular humanism is a comprehensive, nonreligious life stance incorporating:

A naturalistic philosophy

A cosmic outlook rooted in science

A consequentialist ethical system

<https://www.secularhumanism.org/index.php/3260>

[Images for What Is Secular Humanism?](#)

<https://secularhumanism.org/index.php/13>

<https://www.amazon.com/What-Secular-Humanism-Paul-Kurtz/dp/1591024994>

[Images for What-Secular-Humanism-Paul-Kurtz](#)

<https://www.amazon.com/What-Secular-Humanism-James-Hitchcock/dp/B0001416HY>

[Images for What-Secular-Humanism-James-Hitchcock](#)

<https://www.amazon.com/What-Secular-Humanism-Became-Changing/dp/0892831634>

<https://owlcation.com/humanities/What-is-Secular-Humanism>

<https://www.thoughtco.com/what-is-secular-humanism-248120>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cdpObB1JBYQ> What is Secular Humanism? - YouTube

[Images for What is Secular Humanism? - YouTube](#)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KSM55FRLRDc> What is Secular Humanism? Mary Poplin at The Veritas Forum - YouTube

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fmtMnCTWQAY> What is Secular Humanism? | Secular Humanism Definition - YouTube

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=K9_VsdoxtvU Secular Humanism - YouTube

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dh-hxqlcQAo> Difference between Atheism and Secular Humanism - Atheism vs Secular Humanism

www.beliefnet.com/faiths/2001/06/what-secular-humanists-believe.aspx

<https://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/secular%20humanism>

<https://evolving-monkey.com/secular-humanism/>

21) Self-Appraisal

44 Questions for Congregational Self-Appraisal: Schaller, Lyle

Churches don't sit still; they are either planning for the future or wishing for the past. Yet, even when setting about to discern the future into which the Spirit is leading, how does a congregation map its way? How does it understand its strengths and weaknesses, opportunities and limitations, gifts and graces? In 44 Questions for Congregational Self-Appraisal, Lyle E. Schaller directs the reader to the crucial questions a church must ask itself if it is to understand its mission and the course it must chart in order to achieve that mission. He helps pastors, congregational leaders, and strategic planning groups understand that the questions we ask and the data we gather tend to set our priorities, and for this reason it is crucial to seek the correct information from the outset. Schaller shows church leaders how not to become trapped by "means to an end" questions (real estate, staffing,

money, and schedules) and focus instead on questions related to the congregation's distinctive mission (identity, purpose, role, and God's call) and message.

<https://www.amazon.com/Questions-Congregational-Self-Appraisal-Lyle-Schaller/dp/0687088402>
<https://www.barnesandnoble.com/w/44-questions-for-congregational-self-appraisal-lyle-e-schaller/1002870435>
<https://www.christianbook.com/44-questions-for-congregational-self-appraisal/lyle-schaller/9780687088409/pd/7088402>
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<https://www.cokesbury.com/9780687088409-44-Questions-for-Congregational-Self-Appraisal>
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https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Lyle_E._Schaller
<https://www.librarything.com/author/schallerlylee>
http://www.abingdonpress.com/lyle_e_schaller
<http://www.ministrymatters.com/all/entry/5884/remember-lyle-e-schaller-the-interventionist>
<https://www.amazon.com/Lyle-E.-Schaller/e/B0011R1J9K>
https://www.goodreads.com/author/list/179868.Lyle_E_Schaller
Images for Lyle e schaller author
Images for 44 Questions for Congregational Self-Appraisal: Schaller, Lyle

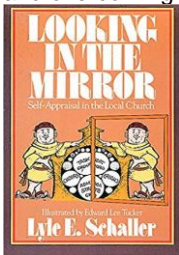
Looking in the Mirror: Self-Appraisal in the Local Church [Lyle E. Schaller, Edward Lee Tucker]

When you look at your church, what image do you see?

A small self-sufficient fellowship – reminiscent, perhaps of a cat? Or a responsive, affectionate congregation – more like, say, a collie? If your congregation numbers into the hundreds at worship time, could you think of it as a large and unified “mansion”? Or a diversified “ranch”? Is your church legalistic, with a heavy emphasis on rules and regulations? Is it ideological, stressing belief? Or does it comprise a loving, nurturing behaviorism?

“Frequently,” says Lyle Schaller, “it is difficult or impossible for congregational leaders to agree on the role God is calling that church to fill unless they can agree on contemporary reality.”

Looking in the Mirror provides a conceptual framework for church self-appraisal that can be a key factor in determining that reality and overcoming the passivity that blights so many congregations today.



<http://www.amazon.com/Looking-Mirror-Self-Appraisal-Local-Church/dp/068722635X>
https://www.goodreads.com/book/show/2059668.Looking_in_the_Mirror
<https://www.cokesbury.com/forms/DynamicContent.aspx?id=377&pageid=2025>
<https://www.barnesandnoble.com/w/looking-in-the-mirror-lyle-e-schaller/1112654047>
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https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Lyle_E._Schaller
http://www.abingdonpress.com/lyle_e_schaller
<https://www.willmancini.com/blog/powerful-quotes-on-vision-and-leadership-by-lyle-schaller-church-consultant-lylelearnings>
<https://www.amazon.com/Lyle-E.-Schaller/e/B0011R1J9K>
https://www.goodreads.com/author/list/179868.Lyle_E_Schaller
Images for lyle e schaller author
Images for Looking in the Mirror: Self-Appraisal in the Local Church [Lyle E. Schaller, Edward Lee Tucker]

22) Self-study

[PDF] Church Self-Study - Indiana Ministries

This study is intended to allow a congregation to collect information on its own health and history which can then best be understood and interpreted with the help of a trained coach.

<https://indianaministries.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/03/Congregational-Self-Study-Breakdown.pdf>
Images for Church Self-Study
http://www.nabnw.com/uploads/2/7/7/8/27787831/nabnw_church_self-study.pdf
<https://s3.amazonaws.com/texasbaptists/connections/Church-Self-Study.pdf>

[PDF] Congregational Self-Study - Transforming Churches Network

This study and report should be created by a group of staff and leaders. All material should be stored on computer with widely-used software and printed out in a notebook. It is preferable to have the entire staff and board involved in compiling this information and discussing it.

<http://transformingchurchesnetwork.org/wp-content/uploads/2011/01/Congregational-Self-Study.pdf>
[Images for Congregational Self-Study - Transforming Churches Network](#)
http://www.stpetersriverside.org/clientimages/59752/congregational%20self-study_gec%2015apr15.pdf
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<https://indianaministries.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/03/Congregational-Self-Study-Checklist.pdf>
[Images for Congregational-Self-Study-Checklist](#)
<https://indianaministries.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/03/Congregational-Self-Study-Breakdown.pdf>
<https://www.searchingforthecalled.org/discussion-guide/> Congregational self-study discussion guide — Searching for the Called
<https://faithcommunitynursingnw.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/03/Congregational-Self-Study.pdf>
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<http://stpaulspriorlake.org/church/wp-content/uploads/sites/4/2016/06/Congregational-Self-Study-Report.pdf>
http://trinitylutherancincinnati.com/uploads/2/8/2/7/2827025/self_study_draft.pdf [PDF]congregational self study - Trinity Lutheran
<https://pbygenval.org/publication/congregational-self-study/>
<https://www.timothythelutheran.com/wp-content/uploads/2018/11/TLC-Call-Congregational-Self-Study-2018-Final-112018-version.pdf>
<http://hopelutheran.org/church/2017/05/18/congregational-self-study/>
<https://txlcms.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/11/APPENDIX-C-CONGREGATIONAL-SELF-STUDYautofill-2.pdf>

Self-study Interim Pastor Ministries Program - Interim Pastor Ministries

The interim period is the optimal time in the life of a church to prepare it for its future. The tool that we can provide to help your church strengthen during this "in between" time is the IPM Self-Study. Our interims are trained to guide you through assessment and planning steps that can strengthened your church immensely.

www.interimpastors.com/ipm-self-study-program.html

[Images for Self-study Interim Pastor Ministries Program - Interim Pastor Ministries](#)

23) Sending Congregation

[PDF] Are We a Leader-Sending Congregation? – Parish Paper

Sending-Congregation Character Traits

New research in 434 churches profiles the characteristics of sending congregations.1 In 35 percent of those congregations, one of their members entered seminary during the past five years. Those sending congregations possess a "culture of calling" that makes them different from the other congregations in seven major ways.

http://www.wisconsinumc.org/Resources/Documents/ParishPaper/ParishPaper_Dec09.pdf

<https://www.theparishpaper.com/free-resources>

<http://www.wisconsinumc.org/connections/conference-news/the-parish-paper> December 2009 - "Are We a Leader-Sending Congregation?"

[Images for Are We a Leader-Sending Congregation? – Parish Paper](#)

<http://www.wcucc.org/resource-center/church-management/parish-paper/>

<http://www.hcucc.org/the-parish-paper>

[PDF] Bethany Lutheran Centennial - Bethany Lutheran Church

Members Ordained or Working in Foreign Missions

The first ordination of a member of Bethany occurred on August 6, 1978. Craig Lundstad-Vogt (pictured, L) and his wife Barbara were both ordained into the Holy Ministry by Pastor Russell A. Hillman. Barbara became the first woman ordained in the Rocky Mountain District of the ALC.

Duane Pederson (pictured, R) was ordained by Pastor Hillman on June 21, 1981. Duane currently serves First Lutheran Church, Eau Claire, Wisconsin.

Eddie Lindner (pictured, L) was ordained in the summer of 1988 at Wartburg Seminary in Dubuque, Iowa, and served 4 years at Dunkirk, New York and Menominee, Michigan.

Robin Nice (pictured, R), was ordained, at Luther Northwestern Seminary in Minnesota, in 1994. First serving Shelley-Marsh River in Minnesota, she currently serves at Sychar Lutheran in Silver Bay, Minnesota.

Since graduating from Faith Lutheran Seminary in Tacoma Washington, Mike Mohler (not pictured) has always worked as a chaplain in the Tacoma area.

Dan Sire is currently studying to be called to a foreign mission when she was commissioned to New Guinea for a two-year call on September 16, 1979.

Kelly and Deb Jorgenson (pictured R) served with the World Mission Prayer League in Kenya, and Mission Headquarters in Minneapolis.

http://www.bethanybigfork.org/newsletters/History_Bethany_BWcor1a1.pdf

[Images for bethany lutheran church bigfork mt](#)

Page 11

Immanuel Lutheran Church, Story City, IA / About Us / Our History

Sons and Daughters of Congregation

Theodore Heimarck

Harry Molstre

Melvin Sucher

Russell Anderson - ordained 1978
Lowell Bolstad - ordained 1980
Daniel Sanderson - ordained 1980
Nancy Jewell - ordained 1981
Rod Larson - ordained 1987
Sandy Anenson - commissioned as ELCA Associate in Ministry 1992
Trevor Soderstrum - presently serving Mackey Church

<http://storage.cloversites.com/immanuellutheranchurch4/documents/Centennial%20History%20of%20Immanuel--1998.pdf>
[Images for Immanuel Lutheran Church, Story City, IA](#)

24) Shepherd Congregation

The Hidden Lives of Congregations: Discerning Church Dynamics by Israel Galindo (Author)

A friend of mine once described the **shepherd-stance church** as “a congregation of social workers.”
Chapter 7 The Hidden Life of Congregational Identity

Page 122

<https://books.google.com/books?isbn=1566996562>

[Images for shepherd-stance church as a congregation of social workers.](#)

<http://www.israelgalindo.com/Resources/Church/Identity.pdf>

<http://www.amazon.com/The-Hidden-Lives-Congregations-Discerning/dp/1566993075>

https://www.goodreads.com/en/book/show/2143580.The_Hidden_Lives_of_Congregations

[Images for Israel Galindo \(Author\)](#)

[Images for The Hidden Lives of Congregations: Discerning Church Dynamics by Israel Galindo \(Author\)](#)

25) Sick Church

How to Spot a Sick Church | Pastor Joe McKeever

That said, here are my submissions for the “top ten ways to spot an unwell church when you see one.”

<http://joemckeeper.com/wp/how-to-spot-a-sick-church/>

[Images for How to Spot a Sick Church | Pastor Joe McKeever](#)

The Anatomy of a Sick Church – Rainer on Leadership #144 – ThomRainer.com

We explain the 10 symptoms found in sick churches.

<http://thomrainer.com/2015/07/the-anatomy-of-a-sick-church-rainer-on-leadership-144/>

[Images for The Anatomy of a Sick Church – Rainer on Leadership #144 – ThomRainer.com](#)

<http://thomrainer.com/2015/06/anatomy-of-a-sick-church-10-symptoms-to-watch/>

<http://thomrainer.com/2017/06/seven-personality-types-sick-churches/>

[Images for Personality Types of Sick Churches – Thom Rainer](#)

<https://thomrainer.com/2013/11/very-sick-churches/very-sick-churches/>

<http://ministrytodaymag.com/leadership/vision/20503-4-steps-forward-for-the-very-sick-church>

<http://www.christianpost.com/news/very-sick-churches-109400/>

<http://thomrainer.com/2017/03/urgent-church-nine-changes-must-make-die/>

<http://thomrainer.com/2013/04/autopsy-of-a-deceased-church-11-things-i-learned/>

<http://thomrainer.com/2017/06/six-stages-dying-church/>

<http://www.christianitydaily.com/articles/9060/20170622/seven-personality-types-sick-churches.htm>

<http://www.lifeway.com/Product/autopsy-of-a-deceased-church-P005649387?carid=jhowe-rainer-autopsy-presale>

<https://www.mcusa.org/Portals/8/Autopsy%20of%20a%20Deceased%20Church.docx>

https://twitter.com/ThomRainer?ref_src=twsrc%5Egoogle%7Ctwcamp%5Eserp%7Ctwgr%5Eauthor

<https://www.amazon.com/Autopsy-Deceased-Church-Yours-Alive/dp/143368392X>

[Images for thom rainer \(author\)](#)

Three Signs of a Sick Church - The Bible Study Site

Can the church you attend or the religion you adhere to be SICK? How can you tell if they are self-defeating and what can you do about it? There are three primary characteristics of a sick (self-defeating) group. This brief article will discuss each one of these.

<http://www.biblestudy.org/basicart/signs-of-a-sick-church.html>

[Images for sick \(self-defeating\) group](#)

26) Slow Church

Slow Church: Cultivating Community in the Patient Way of Jesus by C. Christopher Smith (Author), John Pattison (Author)

Fast food. Fast cars. Fast and furious. Fast forward. Fast . . . church? The church is often idealized (or demonized) as the last bastion of a bygone era, dragging our feet as we're pulled into new moralities and new spiritualities. We guard our doctrine and our piety with great vigilance. But we often fail to notice how quickly we're capitulating, in the structures and practices of our churches, to a culture of unreflective speed, dehumanizing efficiency and dis-integrating isolationism. In the beginning, the church ate together, traveled together and shared in all facets of life. Centered as they were on Jesus, these seemingly mundane activities took on their own significance in the mission of God. In *Slow Church*, Chris Smith and John Pattison invite us to leave franchise

faith behind and enter into the ecology, economy and ethics of the kingdom of God, where people know each other well and love one another as Christ loved the church.

<https://www.amazon.com/Slow-Church-Cultivating-Community-Patient/dp/0830841148>
<https://www.amazon.com/Church-Study-Guide-Christopher-Smith/dp/083084130X>
<http://www.goodreads.com/book/show/18500017-slow-church>
<https://www.ivpress.com/slow-church>
https://books.google.com/books/about/Slow_Church.html?id=iowYAwAAQBAJ
<http://slowchurch.com/>
<https://www.facebook.com/SlowChurch/>
<http://www.christianitytoday.com/ct/2014/september/slow-steady-builds-church.html>
<http://themelios.thegospelcoalition.org/review/slow-church-cultivating-community-in-the-patient-way-of-jesus>
<https://www.pcusa.org/news/2015/5/28/book-review-slow-church/>
<http://www.publishersweekly.com/978-0-8308-4114-1> Religion Book Review
<http://www.patheos.com/blogs/slowchurch/>
<https://books.google.com/books?isbn=0830841148>
<https://books.google.com/books?isbn=0830898867>
<https://books.google.com/books?isbn=1434710009>
<https://www.reconcilingworks.org/author/aubreyted/> Slow Church: Lenton Reflections Posted on March 1, 2017 by Aubrey Thonvold
<http://www.keyhallonline.org/reviews/book-review-slow-church-cultivating-community-patient-way-jesus/>
http://www.heartsandmindsbooks.com/booknotes/slow_church_cultivating_commun/
<https://www.christiancentury.org/reviews/2014-07/slow-church-c-christopher-smith-and-john-pattison>
<http://kenwytsma.com/2015/06/18/c-christopher-smith-on-the-slow-church-movement/>
<http://blog.emergingscholars.org/2014/06/interview-chris-smith-on-slow-church/>
<https://www.amazon.com/C.-Christopher-Smith/e/B002BTJ2SO>
http://www.goodreads.com/author/list/2014603.C_Christopher_Smith
[Images for C. Christopher Smith \(Author\)](#)
<https://www.facebook.com/CChristopherSmith317/>
<https://sojo.net/biography/c-christopher-smith>
<http://englewoodreview.org/chris-smith-editor/>
<http://www.plough.com/en/authors/s/c-christopher-smith>
<http://www.huffingtonpost.com/author/c-christopher-smith>
<https://www.amazon.com/John-Pattison/e/B004FORKHS>
https://www.goodreads.com/author/show/934851.John_Pattison
[Images for John Pattison \(Author\)](#)
<http://johnpattison.com/>
<http://johnpattison.com/slow-church/>
<https://www.ivpress.com/john-pattison>
<https://www.facebook.com/johnerikpattison/>
<http://www.patheos.com/blogs/slowchurch/john-pattison/>
<http://slowchurch.com/author/johnpattison/>
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-aL4_C9yW0E The Hypocrite Writer w/ John Pattison, Author of "Slow Church" – YouTube
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dyQLWdfX_s Interview with John Pattison, Author of SLOW CHURCH – YouTube
[Images for SLOW CHURCH – YouTube](#)
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=copJKXhPF9w> Tom Interviews Slow Church authors – YouTube
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bP43mFSGCdQ> Slow Church Interview #2 - YouTube
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3RUjYkvSwE> Christopher Smith invites you to his Slow Church webinar – YouTube
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ybVTAoAjA98> Chris Smith - What is Slow Church? (The Justice Conf. Indianapolis 2014)–YouTube
[Images for Slow Church: Cultivating Community in the Patient Way of Jesus by C. Christopher Smith \(Author\), John Pattison \(Author\)](#)

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Chapter 8: A Paradox

Slow Church, or the Congregation's Dilemma by Richard Bass

What does this have to do with congregations? You have to do it yourself. You can't pick up some processed program off the shelf and expect it have the nutritional value that a locally produced one will. Even if the result seems to be growth as high as a scientifically engineered corn seed, like that seed, which is designed to grow only one season, the results are temporary and illusory. You have to do the work to produce sustainable results. This involves knowing your land—or community—and what kinds of crops—or ministries—will flourish there. It means paying attention to the weather—or the culture—and taking appropriate steps to conserve our resources. It means knowing what and how you are trying to grow and using the right tools and techniques.



<https://alban.org/archive/from-the-editor-slow-church-or-the-congregations-dilemma/>
<http://episcopaldigitalnetwork.com/ens/2014/06/17/richard-bass-joins-church-publishing-as-consulting-editor/>
<https://books.google.com/books?isbn=1566997070>
<https://www.amazon.com/Leadership-Congregations-Harvesting-Learnings-Richard/dp/1566993342>

[Images for Leadership-Congregations-Harvesting-Learnings-Richard Bass](https://www.goodreads.com/author/show/1666183.Richard_Bass)
https://www.goodreads.com/author/show/1666183.Richard_Bass
[Images for Richard Bass, author slow church](#)
[Images for Slow Church, or the Congregation's Dilemma by Richard Bass](#)

27) Small Membership Congregation

A Saving Remnant: Vitality in Small Congregations - Alban

What does small church vitality look like? To be sure, there is no single definition, and in this sense the variations on small church vitality are as numerous as the congregations themselves. Yet there is a broad consensus on factors or characteristics that contribute to small and vital congregations.

[Alban at Duke Divinity School » A Saving Remnant: Vitality in Small Congregations](#)

<https://alban.org/archive/a-saving-remnant-vitality-in-small-congregations/>

[Images for A Saving Remnant: Vitality in Small Congregations - Alban](#)

<https://alban.org/archive/the-small-church/>

<https://alban.org/archive/why-size-matters/>

<https://alban.org/archive/neighbors-and-covenant-relationships/>

<https://alban.org/about-alban/alban-weekly/>

<https://alban.org/books/>

<https://alban.org/author/nekduke-edu/>

A Small Church Redefines its Mission: Lutheran Mission: Article

Barring a miracle, St. Andrew will never become a leading congregation numerically or financially. Having 160 in worship may be as far as it can go in numerical growth. St. Andrew will always be a neighborhood church increasingly surrounded by larger and larger congregations. That is the trend.

But I am convinced that the churches that will be most effective in recapturing their life as missional communities will discover their identities at the margins. And the communities that best serve from the margins will almost always initially be small groups or small Christian churches like St. Andrew.

<http://www.religion-online.org/showarticle.asp?title=2878>

[Images for Small Church Redefines its Mission](#)

A Strategy for Revitalizing Small to Medium Sized Plateaued or Declining Traditional Churches

This thesis attempts to identify reproducible principles for the revitalization of small to medium sized plateaued or declining traditional churches. These principles were identified by the author in his experience serving as the pastor of three small to medium sized plateaued traditional churches. The principles involve the importance of preparation for Sunday morning worship and Sunday school, the importance of developing leadership, the importance of evaluating and implementing successful ministries, and the importance of identifying with the community. The principles were studied and validated in the author's interaction with two churches during a year of research in which he consulted with the two churches four times each on the four areas of focus. The principles were also validated in the current literature available. It is the purpose of this thesis to give pastors of small to medium sized plateaued and declining traditional churches the tools necessary to achieve revitalization.

<http://digitalcommons.liberty.edu/cgi/viewcontent.cgi?article=1267&context=doctoral>

[Images for A Strategy for Revitalizing Small to Medium Sized Plateaued or Declining Traditional Churches](#)

About Small Congregations | UUA.org

To members, leaders, and staff of small congregations, welcome! The Unitarian Universalist Association (UUA) describes small congregations as being those with 150 adult members or fewer; or about 125, or fewer, attending worship. Small congregations range from groups of a few people, to small family-sized congregations, to congregations of around 80 members, to congregations on the verge of being [midsize](#) (or 150 - 550).

<http://www.uua.org/growth/small/128307.shtml>

[Images for About Small Congregations | UUA.org](#)

Administration in the Small Membership Church by John H. Tyson (Ministry in the Small Membership Church Series)

For many pastors, church administration may be their least favorite area of ministry. But whether they love it or loathe it, they probably spend more time on administration than on any other single area of ministry. This book will help pastors create and maintain effective structures that will enable them to spend most of their time on what they truly value.

Describes church administration as a ministry in the small membership church.

Outlines key steps to organize and manage time, volunteers, and resources of the small membership churches including multi-point charges.

Gives practical methods for creating and maintaining viable structures for effective church management

* Helps pastors organize their church(es), so that they can focus on what gives them the most satisfaction in ministry.

* Helps pastors recruit and retain the right people for the right jobs, thereby maximizing ministry especially where resources are limited.

* Gives pastors ways to sharpen their vision for local church and mission beyond the local church ministry.

<http://www.amazon.com/Administration-Small-Membership-Church-Ministry/dp/068764643X>

https://www.goodreads.com/author/show/1105362.John_H_Tyson

[Images for John H. Tyson, author](#)

[Images for Administration in the Small Membership Church by John H. Tyson \(Ministry in the Small Membership Church Series\)](#)

[Images for Ministry in the Small Membership Church Series](#)

Advancing the Smaller Local Church [Walter Curry Mavis]

Smaller local churches can succeed, and this book tells how it can happen. Great material that can be applied today! Contents include: The Significance of Smaller Churches, The Genius of Smaller Churches, The Tendency toward Introversion, Maintaining Morale, Planning for Action, Training the Workers, Organizing for Action, Carrying on a Comprehensive Program, Making Ends Meet, Personalizing Publicity, Caring for the Flock, Worshiping in the Smaller Church, Advancing Through Christian Education, & Advancing Through Evangelism.

<http://www.amazon.com/Advancing-SMALLER-LOCAL-CHURCH-Curry/dp/B003Z3OFZU>

<https://archive.org/details/advancingsmaller00mavi>

https://www.amazon.com/s?ie=UTF8&page=1&rh=n%3A283155%2Cp_27%3AWalter%20Curry%20Mavis

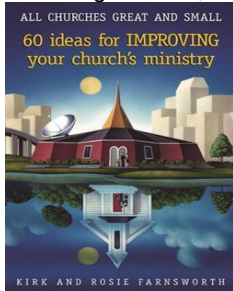
[Images for Walter Curry Mavis, author smaller local church](#)

[Images for Advancing the Smaller Local Church \[Walter Curry Mavis\]](#)

All Churches Great and Small: 60 Ideas for Improving Your Church's Ministry. By Kirk & Rose Farnsworth

In *All Churches Great and Small*, the authors make a compelling case that smaller is better when it comes to the church's ability to accomplish its mission. The authors cite research of church members that reveals that, when it comes to the vital qualities of strong churches' qualities such as growing spiritually, participating in the congregation, and having a sense of belonging, small churches have a decided advantage over larger churches.

The authors explore the ingredients of faithful, healthy churches, offering some 60 ideas for small churches that want to increase effectiveness in key areas such as worship, caring, praying, studying, giving, and witnessing. Featured is the Small Church Advantages Index, which lists five vital qualities of strong churches and seven essential qualities of healthy churches.



<https://www.amazon.com/All-Churches-Great-Small-Improving/dp/0817014780>

http://www.judsonpress.com/product.cfm?product_id=7917

<https://thecrg.org/resources/all-churches-great-and-small-60-ideas-for-improving-your-church-s-ministry>

<http://www.lifeandleadership.com/book-summaries/farnsworth-all-churches-great-and-small.html>

<https://www.ruralministry.net/books-on-rural-america-and-ministry>

<https://www.judsonpress.com/Author/Default.aspx?AuthorId=151765>

<https://www.judsonpress.com/Author/Default.aspx?AuthorId=153010>

[Images for All Churches Great and Small: 60 Ideas for Improving Your Church's Ministry. By Kirk & Rose Farnsworth](#)

Beyond survival: Revitalizing the small church [James E Cushman]

This book was written to give small church pastors, lay persons and governing body leaders a better understanding of the unique nature of small churches and to offer some practical approaches for revitalizing small congregations. After giving historical overview of how many small congregations have lost sight of their original purpose of being the center of community life, the author concentrates on the developmental stages of revitalizing small churches. Special attention is given to the key role of the small church pastor.

<http://www.amazon.com/Beyond-survival-Revitalizing-small-church/dp/0870123912>

<http://ministrycouncil.cumberland.org/products/559-870123912>

<https://books.google.com/books?isbn=1625640277>

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https://www.dailyprogress.com/obituaries/cushman-james-edward/article_cc7d1e6d-867c-5200-9108-8e9196c0d2db.html

<http://www.syntrinity.org/featured/jim-cushman-77-helped-synod-and-others-through-times-of-transition/>

[Images for James E Cushman, author revitalizing the small church](#)

[Images for Beyond survival: Revitalizing the small church \[James E Cushman\]](#)

Born of Water, Born of Spirit: Supporting the Ministry of the Baptized in Small Congregations [Sheryl A. Kujawa-Holbrook]

What does the church look like if we take the ministry of the baptized the priesthood of all believers seriously? How are congregations transformed when the church supports and affirms the ministry of all the baptized, particularly in small congregations without the means to hire a seminary-trained pastor? And what ecclesial structures and educational models need to emerge in the next decades to assist these small congregations in the recovery of baptismal living and their own vitality? Sheryl Kujawa-Holbrook and Fredrica Harris Thompsett explore these questions as well as the variety of ways people in small congregations many with no more than fifty members are living out their baptism and the impact their actions are having on their congregations, judicatories,

and communities, and the institutions that educate clergy. The authors argue that just because a community cannot pay a seminary-trained minister a growing problem in remote regions it does not mean that there is no ministry there. It does mean that we need to look at ministry and the church in a more expansive way. The stories of the congregations revealed in this book serve to inspire us about what is possible when we live intentionally as the reconciling presence of the body of Christ in the world. They also educate us about what will be needed in the years to come to lift up still more small congregations for their work in the larger community.



<http://www.amazon.com/Born-Water-Spirit-Supporting-Congregations/dp/1566994004>
<http://www.goodreads.com/book/show/8446133-born-of-water-born-of-spirit>
<https://rowman.com/ISBN/9781566994781>
<https://books.google.com/books?isbn=1566994780>
https://books.google.com/books/about/Born_of_Water_Born_of_Spirit.html?id=NSaTRAAACAAJ
[Born of Water, Born of Spirit: Supporting the Ministry of the Baptized in Small Congregations](http://www.ucobserver.org/arts/books/2011/02/born_water/)
http://www.ucobserver.org/arts/books/2011/02/born_water/
<https://alban.org/archive/signs-of-vitality/>
<https://alban.org/archive/the-ministry-of-the-baptized/>
<http://ec2-107-23-25-189.compute-1.amazonaws.com/resources/born-of-water-born-of-spirit-supporting-the-ministry-of-the-baptized-in-small-congregations>
https://www.selectlearning.org/sites/default/files/study/Life_of_Faith_Resources_and_links.pdf
<https://alban.org/archive/the-small-church/>
<https://pres-outlook.org/2011/04/born-of-water-born-of-spirit-supporting-the-ministry-of-the-baptized-in-small-congregations/>
<http://cst.academia.edu/SherylKujawaHolbrook/CurriculumVitae>
http://s3.amazonaws.com/dfc_attachments/public/documents/2221/BaptMinBrochure10.pdf
http://archive.episcopalchurch.org/80854_89239_ENG_HTM.htm
<https://www.amazon.com/Sheryl-A.-Kujawa-Holbrook/e/B001K8HP0Y>
http://www.goodreads.com/author/list/777100.Sheryl_A_Kujawa_Holbrook
[Images for sheryl a. kujawa-holbrook, author](https://www.amazon.com/Sheryl-A.-Kujawa-Holbrook/e/B001K8HP0Y)
[Images for Born of Water, Born of Spirit: Supporting the Ministry of the Baptized in Small Congregations \[Sheryl A. Kujawa-Holbrook\]](https://www.amazon.com/Sheryl-A.-Kujawa-Holbrook/e/B001K8HP0Y)

Business vs. Family Polity: Insights for the Smaller Church by Glenn Daman

While it is true that there is much that can (and should) be learned from the business paradigm of leadership, often that paradigm conflicts with the concept of leadership adapted within the small church. This results in the accusation that the small church remains hardheaded, unchangeable, un-leadable, old fashioned, or worse, downright sinful.

However, the problem is often not found in the people within in the church but in the failure of the leaders to understand the different paradigm by which the small church understands the role and nature of leadership.

<http://www.smallchurchleaders.org/the-country-shepherd/2005/04/business-vs-family-polity-insights-for-the-smaller-church/>
<http://www.christianitytoday.com/pastors/1998/spring/spring-1998-best-books.html>
<https://epc.org/smallerchurchnetwork/resources/>
<https://www.westernseminary.edu/academics/faculty/adjunct/glenn-daman>
<https://sharperiron.org/bio/glenn-daman-0>
<http://www.smallchurchleaders.org/information/glenn-daman.html>
<https://www.amazon.com/Glenn-Daman/e/B001JS7UXM>
http://www.goodreads.com/author/show/600117.Glenn_C_Daman
[Images for Glenn Daman](https://www.amazon.com/Glenn-Daman/e/B001JS7UXM)
[Images for Business vs. Family Polity: Insights for the Smaller Church by Glenn Daman](https://www.amazon.com/Glenn-Daman/e/B001JS7UXM)

Caring for the Small Church: Insights from Women in Ministry (Small Church in Action). by Nancy T. Foltz (Author), Douglas Alan Walrath (Editor)

Drawing from her experiences with women in leadership positions both inside and outside the church, Foltz highlights areas where the natural gifts of womanhood nurture small-church ministries and vice versa. Each chapter ends with "Reflection and Conversation Questions" aimed at applying the book's lesson to your unique congregation.

<http://www.amazon.com/Caring-Small-Church-Insights-Ministry/dp/0817011757>
<http://www.amazon.com/Possibilities-Small-Churches-Douglas-Walrath/dp/0829806687>
<http://www.lifeandleadership.com/ministry-resources/church-leadership-strategies-small-churches.html>
<https://www.amazon.com/Nancy-T.-Foltz/e/B001KJ01Q8>
https://www.goodreads.com/author/show/1368338.Nancy_T_Foltz
[Images for Nancy T. Foltz \(Author\)](https://www.amazon.com/Nancy-T.-Foltz/e/B001KJ01Q8)
<http://wipfandstock.com/author/view/detail/id/69014/>
<https://www.abebooks.com/book-search/author/douglas-alan-walrath/>
https://www.amazon.com/s?ie=UTF8&page=1&rh=n%3A283155%2Cp_27%3ADouglas%20Alan%20Walrath
http://www.goodreads.com/author/show/3979288.Douglas_A_Walrath

[Images for Douglas Alan Walrath, author](#)

[Images for Caring for the Small Church: Insights from Women in Ministry \(Small Church in Action\). by Nancy T. Foltz \(Author\), Douglas Alan Walrath \(Editor\)](#)

[Images for \(Small Church in Action\) series](#)

Christian Education in the Small Church (Small Church in Action) by Donald L Griggs (Editor), Judy M Walther (Editor), Douglas A Walrath (Editor), Douglas Alan Walrath (Photographer), Judy McKay Walther (Photographer)

Includes field-tested plans for achieving quality Christian education with limited resources and ideas for curriculum, worship, and more.

<http://www.amazon.com/Christian-Education-Small-Church-Action/dp/081701103X>

<http://www.authorsden.com/visit/author.asp?id=157750>

http://www.taibot.edu/ce20/educators/protestant/don_griggs/

<https://kerygma.com/pages/donald-l-griggs>

http://www.abingdonpress.com/donald_l_griggs

<https://www.amazon.com/Donald-L-Griggs/e/B001H6L99M>

[Images for Donald L Griggs, author](#)

[Images for Christian Education in the Small Church \(Small Church in Action\) by Donald L Griggs \(Editor\), Judy M Walther \(Editor\), Douglas A Walrath \(Editor\), Douglas Alan Walrath \(Photographer\), Judy McKay Walther \(Photographer\)](#)

Making It Work: Effective Administration in the Small Church (Small Church in Action) [Douglas Alan Walrath]

Challenging the assumption that administration in small churches is either unnecessary or impossible, this practical, easy-to-understand resource addresses the unique needs of a small congregation, showing how their ministry of administration can lead to an effective and efficient organization, while being faithful to the nature and mission of a small church.

<http://www.amazon.com/Making-Work-Effective-Administration-Church/dp/0817012117>

<https://www.goodreads.com/book/show/4893719-making-it-work>

[Images for Making It Work: Effective Administration in the Small Church \(Small Church in Action\) \[Douglas Alan Walrath\]](#)

[Images for Small Church in Action](#)

New Possibilities for Small Churches by Douglas Alan Walrath (Editor)

The problems and challenges facing small churches are inherently different from those of larger congregations. *New Possibilities for Small Churches* takes a critical look at those differences and offers suggestions to help small churches discover and develop their unique strengths. In seven chapters, the book examines the roles of women and ethnic minorities in small church ministries, the relationship of the small church to the judicatory, facilitating change in small congregations, worship and pastoring in small churches, and maximizing the potential of small churches. Contributions to the book, in addition to the editor, include Carl S. Dudley, Lynne Josselyn, Emmanuel L. McCall, Theodore H. Erickson, Paul Gibson, and Loren B. Mead. Douglas Alan Walrath is a church planning consultant, the author of *Leading Churches through Change*, and contributor to several other books. He lives in Maine.

<https://www.amazon.com/Possibilities-Small-Churches-Douglas-Walrath/dp/0829806687>

[Images for New Possibilities for Small Churches by Douglas Alan Walrath \(Editor\)](#)

Christian Education in the Small Membership Church by Karen B. Tye (Author)

Christian Education is part of the vital ministry of all churches, but especially of small membership churches. In a culture that places great value on numbers, small membership churches often mistakenly see themselves at a disadvantage. Small membership churches can create wonderful opportunities to form and disciple faithful followers of Jesus Christ. In offering viable Christian Education, the role of the pastor is critical. This book invites pastors to lead their small membership churches to develop an imaginative and holistic vision of Christian Education.

<http://www.amazon.com/Christian-Education-Membership-Church-Ministry/dp/0687650992>

<http://www.goodreads.com/book/show/5862297-christian-education-in-the-small-membership-church>

<http://www.barnesandnoble.com/w/christian-education-in-small-membership-church-karen-tye/1101825962>

<https://www.cokesbury.com/product/9780687650996/christian-education-in-the-small-membership-church/>

<http://www.abingdonpress.com/product/9780687650996#.WlkDBqinGUk>

<https://www.christianbook.com/christian-education-the-small-membership-church/karen-tye/9780687650996/pd/650996>

<https://books.google.com/books?isbn=1426722222>

https://books.google.com/books/about/Christian_Education_in_the_Small_Members.html?id=Dm-MDtNk2V8C

[Christian Education in the Small Membership Church – Karen B. Tye](#)

<http://saginawbaydistrict.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/02/Small-Membership-Church.pdf>

<http://www.lifeandleadership.com/book-summaries/tye-christian-education-in-the-small-membership-church.html>

https://www.newburghseminary.com/edd_doctor_of_education.html

<http://www.antiochian.org/node/26144> Book Review: Christian Education in the Small Membership Church Part 1: Who Are We?

<http://www.antiochian.org/node/26181> Book Review: Christian Education in the Small Membership Church Part 2: It's all About People!

<http://www.antiochian.org/node/26328> Book Review: Christian Education in the Small Membership Church Part 3: Where Does It Take

Place?

<https://www.amazon.com/Karen-B.-Tye/e/B001JS6740>

http://www.goodreads.com/author/show/556841.Karen_B_Tye

[Images for Karen B. Tye \(Author\)](#)

Church Leadership Strategies, Small Churches - Ministry Resource

Small churches are unique, presenting special challenges to leaders. Since the vast majority of churches are small, good materials are needed to affirm the strengths and embrace the opportunities of these contexts. The ministry resources below may help. Each is categorized under specific issues. Remember to see the bottom of the page for a list of related ministry resources.

- [Perspectives on the Small Church](#)
- [Building Small Church Morale](#)
- [Intentional Growth and Development of the Small Church](#)
- [Special Concerns in Small Church Ministry](#)
 - [Administration in the Small Church](#)
 - [Bi-Vocational Ministry](#)
 - [Children and Youth Ministry in the Small Church](#)
 - [Christian Education in the Small Church](#)
 - [Equipping Members for Ministry in the Small Church](#)
 - [Encouragement for Small Church Ministers](#)
 - [Evangelism in the Small Church](#)
 - [Giving and Stewardship in the Small Church](#)
 - [Mission in the Small Church](#)
 - [Pastoral Care in the Small Church](#)
 - [Rural and Small Town Ministry Settings](#)
 - [Size Transitions in the Small Church \(links to separate resource guide\)](#)
 - [Spiritual Formation in the Small Church](#)
 - [Worship in the Small Church](#)
- [Web Resources on the Small Church](#)
- [Related Ministry Resources](#)

<http://www.lifeandleadership.com/ministry-resources/church-leadership-strategies-small-churches.html>

[Images for Church Leadership Strategies, Small Churches - Ministry Resource](#)

Coaching Small Congregations Toward Positive Change – The Parish Paper

How to Use this Resource	Page 2
Study/Discussion Session #1	
A. Different types of change require different approaches	Page 4
B. Understand the anatomy of change resistance	Page 5
C. Practice safe-change principles	Page 6
D. Use effective motivation procedures	Page 7
E. Exert spiritual, not just organizational and psychological, leadership	Page 8
F. Provide a balanced theological perspective	Page 10
Study/Discussion Session #2	
A. Build a positive relationship with each parishioner	Page 12
B. Frequently state the value of this congregation and its traditions	Page 14
C. Remember that personality, not just methods, facilitates positive change	Page 15
D. Connect with the community in which the congregation serves	Page 16
E. Talk and preach about positive change	Page 17
F. Encourage the congregation to connect with the community	Page 18
G. Remember that community demographics do not determine a congregation's fate	Page 22
Study/Discussion Session #3	
A. Use initial weeks in the parish to set a change-receptive climate	Page 23
B. Roadmap for an informal change-process	Page 26
C. Formal change-process options	Page 38
Study/Discussion Session #4	
A. Bi-vocational clergy must operate differently than full-time clergy	Page 39
B. Seminary education is insufficient to produce effective small-church pastors	Page 39
C. What are the most rewarding feelings in small-church ministry?	Page 40
D. What are the greatest points of pain in small-church ministry?	Page 41
E. What are the greatest needs of pastors in small-church ministry?	Page 43
Appendix: Books and resources for small-church ministry	Page 46-56

[\[PDF\] Church Effective Nugget, Volume 27: Coaching Small Congregations toward Positive Change - The Parish Paper](#)

<http://www.theparishpaper.com/files/resources/Church%20Effectiveness%20Nuggets-%20Volume%2027.pdf>

<https://www.theparishpaper.com/sites/default/files/resources/Church%20Effectiveness%20Nuggets-%20Volume%2027.pdf>

<https://www.theparishpaper.com/free-resources> Church Effective Nugget, Volume 27: Coaching Small Congregations toward Positive Change

[Images for Coaching Small Congregations Toward Positive Change – The Parish Paper](#)

<http://www.wisconsinumc.org/connections/conference-news/the-parish-paper>

<http://www.wcucc.org/resource-center/church-management/parish-paper/>
<http://www.hcucc.org/the-parish-paper>
<https://www.theparishpaper.com/back-issue-index> Back Issue Index | The Parish Paper

Confessions of a Small Church Pastor by Chuck Warnock

Small church ideas, information, and inspiration from the most widely read blog dedicated to issues affecting churches with 300 or less in attendance.

<http://www.amazon.com/Confessions-of-a-Small-Church-Pastor/dp/B0029Z9Z0A>
<https://chuckwarnockblog.wordpress.com/tag/confessions-of-a-small-church-pastor/>
<https://www.christianitytoday.com/edstetzer/2010/september/transformational-small-churches-chuck-warnock.html>
Images for Chuck Warnock, author small church
[Images for Confessions of a Small Church Pastor by Chuck Warnock](#)

Developing Your Small Church's Potential (Small Church in Action) [Carl S. Dudley]

Dudley and Walrath show you the dynamic possibilities that await churches struggling to survive despite dwindling memberships and population changes. The authors present new ideas for making positive use of community transition, absorbing newcomers into the church family, reshaping the church's image, resolving cultural conflict, and developing programs to reflect community needs.

<http://www.christianbook.com/developing-your-small-churchs-potential/douglas-walrath/9780817011208/pd/701120X>
<http://www.amazon.com/Developing-Churchs-Potential-Church-Action/dp/081701120X>
<http://www.lifeandleadership.com/ministry-resources/church-leadership-strategies-small-churches.html>
<https://www.crosswalk.com/newsletters-only/live-it/integrate-old-timers-and-newcomers-alike-into-your-church-1135422.html>
<http://hirr.hartsem.edu/about/dudley.htm>
http://www.abingdonpress.com/carl_s_dudley
<https://www.amazon.com/Carl-S.-Dudley/e/B001IQWIDW>
http://www.goodreads.com/author/show/399006.Carl_S_Dudley
Images for Carl S. Dudley, author small church
[Images for Developing Your Small Church's Potential \(Small Church in Action\) \[Carl S. Dudley\]](#)
[Images for \(Small Church in Action\) series](#)

Effective Small Churches in the 21st Century [Carl S. Dudley]

Dudley's work in *Making the Small Church Effective* broke new ground in understanding the dynamics of life in the small congregation. In this revised edition, Dudley revisits the small church, posing new questions reflective of the considerable changes that have swept over small churches in the last two decades. Among the most significant recent developments are shifts in institutional loyalty and individual's sense of identity in relation to larger groups and organizations. Dudley 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 faith.

<http://www.amazon.com/Effective-Small-Churches-21st-Century/dp/0687090903>
<http://www.amazon.com/Making-Small-Church-Effective-Dudley/dp/0687230446>
<https://www.goodreads.com/book/show/2859976-effective-small-churches-in-the-twenty-first-century>
<https://www.barnesandnoble.com/w/effective-small-churches-in-the-21st-century-carl-dudley/1030921272>
<https://www.christianbook.com/effective-small-churches-the-21st-century/carl-dudley/9780687090907/pd/90903>

Effective Small Churches in the Twenty-First Century

Effective Small Churches in the Twenty-first Century - Carl S. Dudley

<http://learntobewise.com/book-reviews/making-the-small-church-effective-by-carl-s-dudley/>
<http://www.lifeandleadership.com/book-summaries/dudley-effective-small-churches.html>
<http://michaelmontgomery.com/papers/bestpractices.pdf>

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<https://www.rhna.org/resources/book-recommendations/>

<https://core.ac.uk/download/pdf/58825135.pdf> Pastoral Leadership Problems in Small, Established Churches of Under 100 People
Page 134

https://www.jstor.org/stable/3509898?seq=1#page_scan_tab_contents

<http://www.goodreads.com/book/show/2859976-effective-small-churches-in-the-twenty-first-century>

<https://books.google.com/books?isbn=1426722443>

https://books.google.com/books/about/Effective_Small_Churches_in_the_Twenty_f.html?id=IROUEywVe3YC

[Images for Effective Small Churches in the 21st Century \[Carl S. Dudley\]](#)

Dynamics of a Smaller Church - ruralchurch.US

In recent years, social scientists - sociologists, psychologists, and historians - have studied carefully the dynamics of local churches. They have gathered valuable and useful insights relative to the energies, resources, needs, and forces that activate congregations. This chapter summarizes these findings and gives suggestions for using this information to understand congregational life better where you serve.

<http://ruralchurch.us/wp-content/uploads/2008/08/GaryFarley-DynamicsOfASmallerChurch.pdf>
[Images for Dynamics of a Smaller Church - ruralchurch.US](#)

Dynamics of Small Church Ministry Master's Seminary Journal (Fall 1992 Volume 3)

Small churches in the United States and Canada are a large proportion of the total number of churches and therefore deserve closer attention. A small church's perception of itself is good in that it helps maintain a family atmosphere, but it can lend itself to pessimism in both pastor and people. Lay influence tends to be greater in a small church, a feature that can be cultivated to advantage through wise leadership. A small-church pastor must accept his administrative responsibilities as well as his relational ones. He must know how to involve his people and impart his vision to them. Small churches that want to grow must ask themselves several probing questions in order to succeed in doing so. Service in a small church can be very rewarding.

<http://smallchurch.com/articles/dynamics-of-small-church-ministry-92/>
Images for Dynamics of Small Church Ministry

Energizing Children's Ministry in the Smaller Church (ESCN) [Rick Chromey]

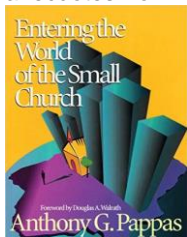
Energizing Children's Ministry in the Smaller Church helps you with your smaller church children's ministry make a huge and mega impact. Part of the ESCN product line.

<http://www.amazon.com/Energizing-Children%C2%92s-Ministry-Smaller-Church/dp/0784721920>
<https://www.goodreads.com/book/show/2826253-energizing-children-s-ministry-in-the-smaller-church>
https://books.google.com/books/about/Energizing_Children_s_Ministry_in_the_Sm.html?id=-jbXkhE2IAEC
<https://books.google.com/books?isbn=0784721920>
<https://www.pinterest.com/eumchildren/childrens-ministry-volunteer-resources/>
<https://www.pinterest.com/drumstickers6/leadership-in-childrens-ministry/>
<https://www.pinterest.co.uk/apcnet/kids-books-and-articles/>
<https://www.pinterest.ca/kthunktraining/kidmin-training-books/>
<http://www.rickchromey.com/energizing-the-smaller-church.html>
Images for Rick Chromey, author
Images for Energizing Children's Ministry in the Smaller Church (ESCN) [Rick Chromey]

Entering the World of the Small Church [Anthony G. Pappas]

This demonstrates amazingly, with unflinching honesty and a wonderfully redeeming sense of humor, a resource especially helpful in motivating change and growth by mobilizing the natural strengths of small churches. For you who have been looking for a reliable guide to interpret the world of the small church, look no further since this provides all the insights you need. Includes images and models and strategies that reflect the profound uniqueness of the small church. It clearly shows leaders how to lead within the dynamics and culture of the small congregation. This is theologically sound and eminently practical. A must reading for anyone who is or plans to be a leader in a small church. Excellent for small group study.

What does ministering in small churches require? Leaders who are willing to enter into that world with wholehearted, unconditional love for their congregations. Tony Pappas shows how to do just that in this new edition of an old favorite that broadens and deepens his classic instruction on understanding small church tribes on their own terms. Grounded in proven principles, rich with anecdotes from real-life situations, and brimming with practical strategies, this is a fresh "must-read" for every small church pastor.



<http://www.amazon.com/Entering-World-Church-Anthony-Pappas/dp/1566992362>
https://www.goodreads.com/book/show/738435.Entering_the_World_of_the_Small_Church
<https://rowman.com/ISBN/9781566992367/Entering-the-World-of-the-Small-Church>
<https://alban.org/archive/the-small-church/>
http://www.churchleadership.com/leadingideas/leaddocs/2005/050316_article.html
<https://books.google.com/books?isbn=1566995183>
https://books.google.com/books/about/Entering_the_World_of_the_Small_Church.html?id=H6UCBAAAQBAJ
Entering the World of the Small Church - Page 12 - Google Books Result
<http://www.lifeandleadership.com/ministry-resources/church-leadership-strategies-small-churches.html>
http://archives.anglican.ca/en/list?q=&p=1&ps=&sort=title_sort+asc&name_facet=Pappas%2C+Anthony+G.
<https://digitalcommons.georgefox.edu/cgi/viewcontent.cgi?article=1282&context=dmin>
EMS 102 L00.A - Criswell College
http://library2.smu.ca/bitstream/handle/01/24936/gonese_wilson_ASTmasters_2013.pdf?sequence=1&isAllowed=y
http://d3pi8hptl0qhh4.cloudfront.net/documents/dmin/Theo_Prac_Bibliography.pdf
https://www.bobyoungeresources.com/bibliography/bibliography_small-church.pdf
https://www.holstonpresbytery.org/files/7915/3443/0502/CRE_LVL_II_-_Evangelism_-_Self_Paced.pdf
<https://place.asburyseminary.edu/cgi/viewcontent.cgi?article=1832&context=ecommonsatsdissertations>
<http://www.elizabethpresbytery.org/Resource%20Center%20ON%20THE%20WEB/Alban%20Institute%20Resources%202012.pdf> Page3
http://www.judsonpress.com/author.cfm?author_id=141
<https://www.amazon.com/Anthony-Pappas/e/B001K8OPAM>
http://www.goodreads.com/author/show/391442.Anthony_G_Pappas

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[Images for Anthony G. Pappas, author small church](#)
[Images for Entering the World of the Small Church \[Anthony G. Pappas\]](#)

Healthy Esteem (Vital Ministry in the Small Membership Church) [Anthony G. Pappas]

Healthy Esteem provides practical steps for creating and maintaining healthy self-regard and respect in small congregations. Short easy to read book packed with practical advice and exercises for small membership churches to realize their strengths.

<http://www.amazon.com/Healthy-Esteem-Ministry-Membership-Church/dp/0881773727>
<https://rowman.com/ISBN/9781566992367/Entering-the-World-of-the-Small-Church>
<https://alban.org/archive/being-the-church-today/>
<https://www.bookdepository.com/Healthy-Esteem-Tony-Pappas/9780881773729>
https://books.google.com/books/about/Entering_the_World_of_the_Small_Church.html?id=H6UCBAAAQBAJ
[Images for Healthy Esteem \(Vital Ministry in the Small Membership Church\) \[Anthony G. Pappas\]](#)
[Images for Vital Ministry in the Small Membership Church](#)

Inside the Small Church (Harvesting the Learnings) [Anthony G. Pappas]

Even as mega-churches capture the attention of many church watchers, small congregations continue to dominate America's religious landscape in both rural and urban settings. Although sometimes obscured by their larger siblings, these small churches play a prominent role and hold a unique place in both local and national cultures. How can leaders help to keep these often at-risk churches alive and to meet their potential for ministry?

Small-church expert Tony Pappas has gathered a cornucopia of essays into an indispensable book for anyone interested in the rich life of these small but significant congregations. Drawing on classic and updated articles by a variety of writers from his own small-church newsletter *The Five Stones*; from Alban journals *Action Information and Congregations*; and adding new pieces developed especially for this volume, Pappas provides timeless ideas on learning to value, pastor, develop, and lead the small church.

In addition to time-honored articles by the editor, other contributors to this volume include Sherry and Douglas Alan Walrath, Gary Farley, Lawrence W. Farris, Loren Mead, Caroline Westerhoff, Steven Burt, Carl Dudley, David Ray, James Lowery, and a host of others known for their work-and love-for the small church. Readers of *Inside the Small Church* will come away with a renewed love and appreciation for these vital congregations as well as with new skills for ministry.

<http://www.amazon.com/Inside-Small-Church-Harvesting-Learnings/dp/1566992516>
http://www.goodreads.com/book/show/2414542.Inside_the_Small_Church
<http://www.lifeandleadership.com/book-summaries/pappas-inside-the-small-church.html>
<http://www.lifeandleadership.com/ministry-resources/church-leadership-strategies-small-churches.html>
<https://epc.org/smallerchurchnetwork/resources/>
<http://www.ethicsdaily.com/inside-the-small-church-cms-873>
[Images for Inside the Small Church \(Harvesting the Learnings\) \[Anthony G. Pappas\]](#)
<https://rowman.com/Action/SERIES/RL/RL3HTL>
[Images for Harvesting the Learnings](#)

Mission: The Small Church Reaches Out (Small Church in Action) [Anthony Pappas, Scott Planting]

Are you guilty of assuming that small churches can't successfully be engaged in mission? A valuable resource for laity and clergy, this book will convince you otherwise-that small churches can be strong and vital in their mission outreach. Focusing on local ministry as the starting point for your own church's mission, the authors offer specific ideas to guide you through the process of revitalizing or building a mission outreach that makes a real difference in the lives of the people it touches.

<http://www.amazon.com/Mission-Small-Church-Reaches-Action/dp/0817011749>
https://www.holstonpresbytery.org/files/6215/3443/0509/Mission--the_Small_Church_Reaches_Out_Anthony_Pappas.pdf
[https://www.carnevalemanfredonia.it/christian_books/churches-and-church-leadership/9331-mission-the-small-church-reaches-out-\(small-church-in-action\)-anthony-pappas-download-epub.html](https://www.carnevalemanfredonia.it/christian_books/churches-and-church-leadership/9331-mission-the-small-church-reaches-out-(small-church-in-action)-anthony-pappas-download-epub.html)
<https://books.google.com/books/about/Mission.html?id=lwQiiVn7UroC>
<http://www.lifeandleadership.com/book-summaries/pappas-and-planting-mission-the-small-church-reaches-out.html>
http://www.gettextbooks.com/author/Anthony_J_Pappas
<https://www.amazon.com/Anthony-Pappas/e/B001K8OPAM>
http://www.goodreads.com/author/show/391442.Anthony_G_Pappas
[Images for Anthony Pappas, author small church](#)
<http://www.islandinstitute.org/staff/scott-planting>
[Images for Scott Planting, author small church](#)
[Images for Mission: The Small Church Reaches Out \(Small Church in Action\) \[Anthony Pappas, Scott Planting\]](#)
[Images for \(small church in action\) series](#)

Money, Motivation, and Mission in the Small Church (Small Church in Action) [Anthony Pappas]

There are no magic or instant solutions in Tony Pappas's ideas for financial stability in your small church. What you will find is a practical, on-the-job understanding of small church culture, what motivates its members, and fund-raising suggestions specifically tailored to the way small congregations live, think and act.

<http://www.amazon.com/Money-Motivation-Mission-Church-Action/dp/0817011463>
http://books.google.com/books/about/Money_motivation_and_mission_in_the_smal.html?id=1al-LNqZkO4C
[Images for Money, Motivation, and Mission in the Small Church \(Small Church in Action\) \[Anthony Pappas\]](#)

Evangelism in the Small Membership Church [Royal Speidel]

Evangelism has nothing to do with church size but everything to do with making disciples.

Evangelism is about introducing people to Jesus but also helping them to grow in Christ. Evangelism has nothing to do with church size, but everything to do with making disciples. Making disciples is a call from God for all churches whether that church is in a declining rural community, in a teaming inter-city, or a sprawling suburb. In fact, small membership congregations are often more effective in evangelism than their sister megachurches. This book will help pastors have “God eyes” for big possibilities in their churches by focusing on visualizing your goals; worship; creating a loving environment; passion and commitment; prayer; witness; time management; leadership recruitment; hospitality; assimilation of new members; and managing change and conflict.

Rev. Royal Speidel is the Distinguished Evangelist in Residence for the General Board of Discipleship of The United Methodist Church. Recently retired from the Northern Illinois Annual Conference, he is a recipient of the Denman Award for Evangelism and was recently named the “Pastor of the Year” by the Greater Chicago Sunday School Association.

<http://www.amazon.com/Evangelism-Small-Membership-Church-Ministry/dp/0687335795>

https://books.google.com/books/about/Evangelism_in_the_Small_Membership_Church.html?id=zxUSAgAACAAJ

<http://www.lifeandleadership.com/book-summaries/speidel-evangelism-in-the-small-membership-church.html>

<https://www.greatplainsumc.org/smallmembershipchurchresources> Abingdon

<https://www.ruralministry.net/books-on-rural-america-and-ministry>

<https://www.ministrymatters.com/binshare/53616c7465645f5fdf1deb03a61580e7bdbfb963beeda2a1>

<https://digitalcommons.liberty.edu/cgi/viewcontent.cgi?article=2131&context=doctoral>

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<https://www.cecplanters.com/outreachkit.pdf>

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https://www.iaumc.org/files/fileslibrary/Finance_Growth_by_Warren_McFate_12th_Edition.pdf

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<http://www.moumethodist.org/clergydetail/701624>

<https://www.christianbook.com/evangelism-in-the-small-membership-church/royal-speidel/9780687335794/pd/335795>

<https://www.amazon.com/Royal-Speidel/e/B0011YXB5I>

http://www.goodreads.com/author/show/788299.Royal_Speidel

[Images for Royal Speidel, author small church](#)

[Images for Evangelism in the Small Membership Church \[Royal Speidel\]](#)

5 Reasons Churches That Start Small Stay Small – Carey Nieuwhof

If you *don't* pay attention to these 5 factors, there is a very good chance your church *won't* grow. At least not substantially or sustainably.

<http://careynieuwhof.com/2014/09/5-reasons-churches-that-start-small-stay-small/>

[Images for 5 Reasons Churches That Start Small Stay Small – Carey Nieuwhof](#)

<http://careynieuwhof.com/2015/11/5-things-every-small-to-mid-sized-church-struggles-with/>

<http://careynieuwhof.com/2016/11/5-small-thinking-church-myths-you-need-to-kill-today/>

<http://careynieuwhof.com/2014/09/5-reasons-churches-that-start-small-stay-small/>

<https://www.amazon.com/Carey-Nieuwhof/e/B003GJCLCM>

https://twitter.com/cnieuwhof?ref_src=twsrc%5Egoogle%7Ctwcamp%5Eserp%7Ctwgr%5Eauthor

<http://churchleaders.com/author/careynieuwhof>

[Images for carey nieuwhof \(author\)](#)

From a Mustard Seed: Enlivening Worship and Music in the Small Church by Bruce G. Epperly (Author), Daryl Hollinger (Author)

In *From a Mustard Seed: Enlivening Worship and Music in the Small Church*, an experienced pastor-professor and an experienced church musician provide a model for faithful and excellent worship in congregations that average 75 or fewer people in weekly worship. While the limitations of small congregations are obvious to their members and leaders, the possibilities for creative music and worship are often greater than we can imagine. Epperly and Hollinger integrate theology, spiritual formation, and practical guidance for nurturing diverse, inspirational, and transforming worship in small congregations. Grounded in a solid theology of worship, they provide tried-and-true approaches to congregational music and singing, worship planning, liturgies that transform, and healthy partnerships between pastors and church musicians. God is present in small congregations, and the authors help pastors, church musicians, and active laypersons awaken to God's activity in every aspect of worship and music. They illuminate possibilities for opening to God in worship and music through their own stories, the stories of congregations and their pastors, practical counsel, spiritual practices, and theological reflection.

<http://www.amazon.com/Mustard-Seed-Enlivening-Worship-Church/dp/1566994063>

<https://www.goodreads.com/book/show/9052074-from-a-mustard-seed>

<https://www.barnesandnoble.com/w/from-a-mustard-seed-bruce-gordon-epperly/1119613496>

<https://alban.org/archive/singing-an-eclectic-repertoire/>

<https://alban.org/archive/a-spirit-of-hospitality/>

<https://books.google.com/books?isbn=1566995280>

[From a Mustard Seed: Enlivening Worship and Music in the Small Church](#)

<http://worship.calvin.edu/resources/resource-library/conversation-with-daryl-hollinger-on-from-a-mustard-seed/>

<http://elizabethpresbytery.org/wordpress/wp-content/uploads/2014/01/Worship.pdf>

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[https://scholarworks.iu.edu/dspace/bitstream/handle/2022/21948/Putri,%20Kartika%20\(DM%20Organ%20&%20Sacred%20Music\).pdf;jsessionid=E83A6C823C5919D100E1E2460B368193?sequence=1](https://scholarworks.iu.edu/dspace/bitstream/handle/2022/21948/Putri,%20Kartika%20(DM%20Organ%20&%20Sacred%20Music).pdf;jsessionid=E83A6C823C5919D100E1E2460B368193?sequence=1)

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https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bruce_G._Epperly

<http://www.brucepperly.com/>

http://www.goodreads.com/author/show/594288.Bruce_G_Epperly

Images for Bruce G. Epperly (Author)

<http://www.spiritualityandpractice.com/explorations/teachers/view/43/bruce-g-epperly>

<http://www.patheos.com/blogs/livingaholyadventure/author/brucepperly/>

<https://www.facebook.com/dhollingermusic/>

<http://www.dhollinger.com/>

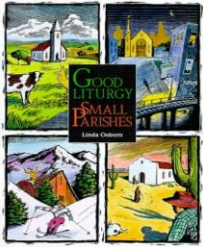
Images for Daryl Hollinger (Author)

Images for *From a Mustard Seed: Enlivening Worship and Music in the Small Church* by Bruce G. Epperly, Daryl Hollinger

Good Liturgy, Small Parishes: Linda Osborne

Linda Osborn provides a beautiful and practical resource for those who work in small parishes.

This book addresses the difficulties in implementing liturgical reform in parishes of a hundred or fewer households, providing encouragement and practical suggestions.



<http://www.amazon.com/Liturgy-Small-Parishes-Linda-Osborne/dp/1568541503>

https://books.google.com/books/about/Good_Liturgy_Small_Parishes.html?id=fxclAAAACAAJ

http://www.goodreads.com/author/show/1401580.Linda_Osborn

Images for Linda Osborne, author small parishes

Images for *Good Liturgy, Small Parishes: Linda Osborne*

Help for the Small-Church Pastor [Steve R. Bierly]

Churches of less than 150 remain the rule rather than the exception in American Christianity. However, seminaries don't equip their students in every way that's necessary to effectively lead smaller congregations - despite the fact that most seminary graduates will become small-church pastors. *Help for the Small-Church Pastor* offers pastors of small churches the guidance and encouragement they need. In this common-sense book, Steve Bierly draws from his eleven years in ministry to show what makes smaller congregations tick. *Help for the Small-Church Pastor* provides practical insights on uniquely 'small-church' issues, such as: The characteristics of small churches; How to work effectively as an 'insider' within the small church; How God is at work in powerful ways in smaller assemblies; How to motivate your church toward positive change and true growth; How to invest your own time and energy in the right directions; How your church can reach out to the community in ways that are practical and productive. "There are many ways for even the smallest congregation to be true to the church's calling," says Steve Bierly. *Help for the Small-Church Pastor* will steer you through the strengths and weaknesses of your small church to unearth its true riches.

<http://www.amazon.com/Help-Small-Church-Pastor-Steve-Bierly/dp/0310499518>

<https://zondervanacademic.com/products/help-for-the-small-church-pastor>

http://books.google.com/books/about/Help_for_Small_Church_Pastors.html?id=Qy2sullpbuMC

Help for the Small-church Pastor: Unlocking the Potential of Your Congregation

<http://www.faithalone.org/journal/bookreviews/Bierly.htm>

<http://www.mtcnet.net/~bierly/booksart.htm>

<https://www.amazon.com/Steve-R.-Bierly/e/B000APF2PS>

http://www.goodreads.com/author/show/917040.Steve_R_Bierly

Images for Steve R. Bierly, author

Images for *Help for the Small-Church Pastor* [Steve R. Bierly]

How to Thrive as a Small-Church Pastor: A Guide to Spiritual and Emotional Well-Being [Steve R. Bierly]

Pastoring a small church is no small job. It can be physically, emotionally, and spiritually exhausting. Read this book for a relief . . . And a turning point. Steve R. Bierly offers the seasoned reassurance of one who has been in the trenches of small-church pastoring. He understands your unique needs and problems not just as a pastor, but as a person. And he shows that, by God's grace, you can fulfill your calling and thrive in the face of its challenges. With humor and fatherly wisdom, Bierly helps you reframe your perspectives on - God - Your ministry - Your relationships - Your personal needs . . . And more. Drawing on years of experience, he offers assurance that you're not alone, a fresh outlook on the successes of your ministry, and an upbeat, practical approach to spiritual, emotional, and physical well-being. *How to Thrive as a Small-Church Pastor* will help you face realistically the rigors of your vocation . . . and reclaim your first love of ministry.

Practical and encouraging wisdom to help small-church pastors understand why they often feel the way they do abounds in this book, as well as tips on how to recover personal well-being and the joy of a small-church ministry.

<http://www.amazon.com/How-Thrive-as-Small-Church-Pastor/dp/0310216559>

http://www.goodreads.com/book/show/2018087.How_to_Thrive_as_a_Small_Church_Pastor

<http://browseinside.harpercollins.ca/index.aspx?isbn13=9780310216551>

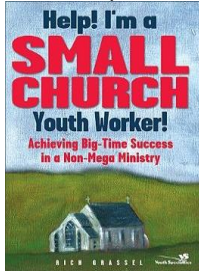
<http://www.zondervan.com/how-to-thrive-as-a-small-church-pastor>

<https://books.google.com/books?isbn=0310877555>

Images for How to Thrive as a Small-Church Pastor: A Guide to Spiritual and Emotional Well-Being [Steve R. Bierly]

Help! I'm a Small Church Youth Worker: Achieving Big-Time Success in a Non-Mega Ministry by Rich Grassel (Author)

Practical help for volunteer, part-time, and full-time youth workers in small churches. Eighty-five percent of the churches in America are classified as small. This book provides youth workers with processes and ideas that enable them to address their particular needs as part of small churches.



<http://www.amazon.com/Help-Small-Church-Youth-Worker/dp/031023946X>

https://www.goodreads.com/book/show/1865028.Help_I_m_a_Small_Church_Youth_Worker

<http://browseinside.harpercollins.ca/index.aspx?isbn13=9780310239468>

<https://books.google.com/books?isbn=031023946X>

https://books.google.com/books/about/Help_I_m_a_Small_Church_Youth_Worker.html?id=WGKHFt7VxcC

<http://www.lifeandleadership.com/book-summaries/grassel-help-im-a-small-church-youth-worker.html>

<https://digitalcommons.liberty.edu/cgi/viewcontent.cgi?article=1072&context=doctoral>

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<https://youthtoday.org/2003/11/pubs-and-videos-for-november-2003/> Faith Based

<https://www.facebook.com/rich.grassel>

Images for Rich Grassel (Author)

Images for Help! I'm a Small Church Youth Worker: Achieving Big-Time Success in a Non-Mega Ministry by Rich Grassel (Author)

Holy Places, Small Spaces: A Hopeful Future for the Small Membership Church [Bill Kemp]

Bill Kemp understands small-membership churches. He loves them and understands the importance of sacred memory in a particular time and place. Kemp also sees the great future of small-membership churches and their continuing importance in ministry and mission. Among many topics, Kemp addresses the important issue of passion for ministry. He charts changes that must take place in congregational leadership and congregational perception of ministry. He provides tools for congregations to evaluate current reality. This book is for congregational leaders-clergy and laity-and for leaders throughout the church system.

<http://www.amazon.com/Holy-Places-Small-Spaces-Membership/dp/0881774561>

<https://www.bookdepository.com/Holy-Places-Small-Spaces-Bill-Kemp/9780881774566>

<https://www.greerchurch.com/getting-church-gear/>

http://www.goodreads.com/author/show/158300.Bill_Kemp

Images for Bill Kemp, author small church

Images for Holy Places, Small Spaces: A Hopeful Future for the Small Membership Church [Bill Kemp]

How to Grow a Small Church - Ministrymaker

How do you grow a small church? Contrary to popular belief, the majority of churches in the United States have under one hundred members. Pastoring a small church can be a challenge, but there are a few simple things you can do to help your church grow.

The following tips apply to small, struggling churches as well as average size churches that have reached a plateau.

<http://ministrymaker.com/growing-a-small-church/>

Images for How to Grow a Small Church - Ministrymaker

<https://growchurch.net/how-to-grow-a-small-church-in-6-practical-steps>

<http://likeateam.com/17-important-keys-how-to-grow-a-small-church/>

Images for important-keys-how-to-grow-a-small-church

<https://outreachmagazine.com/features/18460-small-church-begins-to-grow.html>

<https://joemckeever.com/wp/grow-small-church/>

<http://travisstephens.me/thoughts-on-growing-a-small-church/>

Images for thoughts-on-growing-a-small-church

How to Strengthen Clergy/Staff Leadership & Relationship Skills – Parish Paper

When the pastor moves from seminary to a **small church**. Seminaries measure effectiveness by role fulfillment. Grades are the achievement criterion. How the students manage their relationships matters less than their exam scores. What a shock many students get in their first parish! A highly feeling-level, relational standard of measuring performance has replaced the highly role-oriented, cerebral way of succeeding.

[PDF]Ch. Effectiveness Nuggets--Volume 22--How to Strengthen Clergy/Staff Leadership & Relationship Skills - The Parish Paper

<http://www.theparishpaper.com/files/resources/Church%20Effectiveness%20Nuggets-%20Volume%2022.pdf>

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<https://www.theparishpaper.com/free-resources> Church Effective Nugget, Volume 22: How to Strengthen Clergy/Staff Leadership & Relationship Skills
[Images for How to Strengthen Clergy/Staff Leadership & Relationship Skills – Parish Paper When the pastor moves from seminary to a small church.](#)

How to Successfully Mature a Small Church by Richard Patrick McGee (Author)

There is a tremendous amount of Christian writings that defines a successful pastor as one who has increased numerical growth each year. The purpose of this paper is to encourage the small church pastor that obedience to the Great Commission, which includes reaching, baptizing, and teaching, is God's measuring standard for success. The evidence of success will be discipleship-making according to the opportunities that God has given each pastor. It emphasizes that God equally provides all pastors the spiritual tools necessary to mature His church. A case study of Grace Church illustrates how it matured over the last forty-five years.

<http://digitalcommons.liberty.edu/cgi/viewcontent.cgi?article=1089&context=doctoral>
<https://books.google.com/books?isbn=0549489592>
<http://www.amazon.in/How-Successfully-Mature-Small-Church/dp/1243452749>
[Images for How to Successfully Mature a Small Church by Richard Patrick McGee \(Author\)](#)

If It Could Happen Here: Turning the Small-Membership Church Around [Jeffrey H Patton]

Are small membership churches--as the conventional wisdom says--simply places where pastors bide their time while they wait for something better to come along? Are they places where long-standing family relationships are maintained, but little else? Are they places where attendance is dropping, the building is out of date, the programs are boring, and people don't want to change? If you believe this conventional wisdom, then this book is not for you. But if you see small-membership churches, especially those in rural areas, as opportunities for the radical message of Jesus to transform lives and communities, then this is a book you want to read.

<http://www.amazon.com/If-Could-Happen-Here-Small-Membership/dp/0687030331>
<http://www.abingdonpress.com/product/9780687030330#.WIkJcainGUk>
<https://books.google.com/books?isbn=1426729499>
<http://www.lifeandleadership.com/book-summaries/patton-if-it-could-happen-here.html>
http://www.pghpresbytery.org/small_churches/resources.htm
http://www.abingdonpress.com/jeffrey_h_patton
[Images for Jeffrey H Patton, author small church](#)
[Images for If It Could Happen Here: Turning the Small-Membership Church Around \[Jeffrey H Patton\]](#)

Imagining the Small Church: Celebrating a Simpler Path [Steve Willis]

Imagining the Small Church: Celebrating a Simpler Path bears witness to what God is doing in small churches. Steve Willis tells stories from the small churches he has pastored in rural, town, and urban settings and dares to imagine that their way of being has something to teach all churches in this time of change in the American Christian Church. Willis tells us in the introduction, 'This book boasts no ten or fifteen steps to a successful small church. Instead, I hope to encourage you to give up on steps altogether and even to give up on success, at least how success is usually measured. I also hope to help the reader imagine the small church differently; to see with new eyes the joys and pleasures of living small and sustainably.' The joys and sorrows Willis helps us see through the compelling stories of faith in the small church puts flesh and bones on the possibilities that lie ahead for congregations in the future as well as the here and now. From the foreword by Tony Pappas: 'In *Imagining the Small Church*, pastor, writer, and lover of small things Steve Willis takes us on a narrative and imaginative journey. Some readers will have a sense that what Willis is describing simply names what they have already known in their hearts about their small churches. For them the journey will cover some familiar ground, explore some territory from a fresh angle, but deposit them nearly home again, hopefully with just a bit more awareness and appreciation. For others, though, Willis will take them on a long journey to a far and foreign place. They probably won't bother to finish reading it, and they will miss his invitation to find pastoring a small church extremely rewarding and meaningful. They will find this a strange book weird, off-center, and impractical; unlivable in the twenty-first century and undesirable in any event. This is because Willis is taking on the ethos, the values of our age, and claiming that it needn't be so. We can live on a different basis. We can live on the basis of gospel values.' There will be a variety of paths as the Church seeks new ways of being in this time. Willis knows this. In *Imagining the Small Church*, he presents us with one that embraces a life of faith on the periphery and challenges church leaders to do the same.

<http://www.amazon.com/Imagining-Small-Church-Celebrating-Simpler/dp/1566994330>
<https://www.goodreads.com/book/show/17045553-imagining-the-small-church>
<https://www.barnesandnoble.com/w/imagining-the-small-church-steve-willis/1112874848>
<https://rowman.com/ISBN/9781566995559/imagining-the-small-church-celebrating-a-simpler-path>
<https://alban.org/archive/the-small-church/>
<https://www.membermission.org/being-the-church-today-a-talk/>
<https://www.100daysinappalachia.com/2017/10/sets-rural-churches-apart-not-politics-money-theology/>
<https://books.google.com/books?isbn=1566995558>
http://books.google.com/books/about/Imagining_the_Small_Church.html?id=vI2eMQEACAAJ
<http://www.newcastle.anglican.org/userfiles/file/Newcastle%20Website/Mission%20and%20Ministry/Local%20Ministry%20and%20Readers%20Training/Albanweekly4Feb2013.pdf>
<http://pres-outlook.org/2013/03/imagining-the-small-church-celebrating-a-simpler-path/>
<http://www.dailyyonder.com/the-power-of-staying-put/2017/04/06/18444/>
<https://www.churchleadership.com/leading-ideas/review-of-imagining-the-small-church-celebrating-a-simpler-path/>

http://www.churchleadership.com/leadingideas/leaddocs/2013/130508_article2.html
<http://williamcmills.blogspot.com/2012/11/book-review-imagining-small-church.html>
https://docs.google.com/document/d/1VDeamAtZ7owEXW4JEo1--_Kly3rH2mAHhkFhxyGUegc/edit
https://www.goodreads.com/author/list/2802970.Steve_Willis
[Images for Steve Willis, author small church](#)
[Images for Imagining the Small Church: Celebrating a Simpler Path \[Steve Willis\]](#)

In Praise of Small Churches - Calvin Institute of Christian Worship

Learn how church dynamics shift as congregations change size. A feature story exploring small churches, like All Nations Christian Reformed Church in Halifax, Nova Scotia, that are making the most of their size.

<http://cicwupbeat.calvin.edu/resources/resource-library/in-praise-of-small-churches/>
[Images for In Praise of Small Churches - Calvin Institute of Christian Worship](#)
<https://www.crosswalk.com/church/pastors-or-leadership/in-praise-of-small-churches-11626594.html>
<https://www.ministrymatters.com/all/entry/6201/in-praise-of-small-churches>
<https://preachinghelp.org/in-praise-of-small-churches>
<http://teampyro.blogspot.com/2014/09/in-praise-of-small-churches-and-yet.html>
<https://leadingfromthesandbox.blogspot.com/2013/09/in-praise-of-small-churches-and-their.html>
https://s3.amazonaws.com/bridgeelement/sites/44186a1a-25fc-11e7-b170-451e65916729/uploads/mediaposts/27164/1500907215883/Praise%20for%20Small%20Churches_Short.pdf
<https://www.congregationalconsulting.org/praise-small-congregations/>
<https://www.joshhunt.com/mail101.htm> In Praise of Small - Josh Hunt

In the Shadow of the Steeple: The Vital Role of the Smaller Church in a Megachurch World [Gene Williams]

In a world of big, bigger, and biggest it can be difficult for pastors of small churches to keep from getting discouraged. In the Shadow of the Steeple offers pastors encouragement and hope, reminding them of their ultimate purpose - to share Christ's love with the world. Gene Williams gives practical advice and uplifting insight for smaller church pastors, reminding them of the unique opportunities and advantages they have to reach the people who would never feel comfortable in a mega-church.'It is out of an understanding heart and long experience that [Gene Williams] writes In the Shadow of the Steeple. This is a book that is much needed. ...It will be greatly appreciated by all of those who, having spent their days encouraging others, need to sit down at the end of the day and derive a little encouragement for themselves. This book will do it.'-Dr. Stuart Briscoe, Minister and Author'Finally...a serious book that R-E-A-L-L-Y affirms the smaller church pastor while also affirming the validity of mega-churches as being real churches too. This book merits national praise and is required reading for both smaller churches and mega-church pastors. Every pastor knows other pastors who need this book now. -John Vaughan, Founder and President Church Growth Today

<http://www.amazon.com/In-Shadow-Steeple-Smaller-Megachurch/dp/0834121808>
https://books.google.com/books/about/In_the_Shadow_of_the_Steeple.html?id=KH9oMkEcU-cC
<http://www.lookoutmag.com/whats-good-about-the-smaller-church/>
<http://www.lifeandleadership.com/book-summaries/williams-in-the-shadow-of-the-steeple.html>
<http://www.lifeandleadership.com/book-summaries/tag/ministry-resources?currentPage=35>
https://www.huffingtonpost.com/pastor-gilford-t-monrose/role-of-the-church_b_1896969.html
<http://youthspecialties.com/blog/small-church-ministry-megachurch-world/>
https://www.nobts.edu/_resources/pdf/academics/syllabi/S2016/EVAN6221DayS2016Inet.pdf Page 14
<https://place.asburyseminary.edu/cgi/viewcontent.cgi?article=1378&context=ecommonsatsdissertations> Page 217
https://digitalcommons.luthersem.edu/cgi/viewcontent.cgi?article=1009&context=phd_theses Page 305
<http://www.michaeljamesbreen.com/celebrating-small-church-big-mission/>
<https://www.amazon.com/Gene-Williams/e/B001JSB9VG>
https://www.goodreads.com/author/list/15305.Gene_Williams
[Images for Gene Williams, author small church](#)
[Images for In the Shadow of the Steeple: The Vital Role of the Smaller Church in a Megachurch World \[Gene Williams\]](#)

Key Lessons in Reviving a Small Church in Decline

I asked Jimmy Hinton to provide insight into the turnaround process in the small church where he ministers in Somerset, Pennsylvania. He graciously provided these insights, reminding us that small churches don't have to die. They can make a return to growth but it is going to take work!

Worth Fighting For: Key Lessons in Reviving a Small Church in Decline

<http://matttabbs.com/2013/05/15/worth-fighting-for-key-lessons-in-reviving-a-small-church-in-decline/>
[Images for Key Lessons in Reviving a Small Church in Decline](#)
<https://sojo.net/articles/10-ways-revive-dying-church>
<https://www.acts29.com/reviving-a-dying-church/>
<https://www.recklesslyalive.com/13-ways-to-revive-the-dying-american-church/>
[Images for ways-to-revive-the-dying-american-church](#)

Ministering Effectively in the Small Church: Culture and Community by Dean Grabill

A proper attitude, a shared agenda, and an atmosphere for growth—master and nurture these and you too might find that smaller churches are beautiful. In fact, the numerical size of the congregation you pastor may become dwarfed by the largeness of its heart.

[Images for Ministering Effectively in the Small Church: Culture and Community by Dean Grabill](#)

[PDF] Ministering to the Needs of Small and Declining Churches

The following is a list of observations that I have made over the years in regard to the challenges of preparing ministers for the life and ministry of small churches in the Reformed tradition. More and more, due to the recent economic recession, large churches are not hiring assistant pastors and pastors at established churches are not moving (a process that would create openings for aspiring pastors graduating out of the seminary). Therefore, in recent years, I have seen more of our graduates being attracted to the opportunities afforded by the small (and often "more" rural) churches and I have encouraged students to consider such opportunities while giving due consideration to some of the attendant cautions mentioned below.

<http://www.rts.edu/Site/Resources/FacultyArticles/Ministering-to-the-Needs-of-Small-and-Declining-Churches.pdf>

[Images for Ministering to the Needs of Small and Declining Churches](#)

Mission Possible: Reaching the Next Generation through the Small Church [Dr. Terry W. Dorsett]

Dr. Terry Dorsett has worked with one of America's largest congregations and has also been the pastor of small churches in Vermont, the least-churched state in America. In *Mission Possible: Reaching the Next Generation through the Small Church*, he shares his thoughts on how to reach the next generation of worshippers. It's no secret that many churches are struggling to reach the next generation. The thirty-and-under age group has become one of the hardest to reach in America. Some larger churches have developed innovative ways of reaching this age group, but many smaller churches are simply unable to use those types of innovative methods. Even so, they still want and need to reach the next generation. Dr. Dorsett has discovered, through both personal experience and extensive research, easy-to-use methods and ideas that any church can put into practice, regardless of size or budget. He believes that there is nothing a larger church can do that a smaller church is unable to accomplish. What is important is that every church, regardless of size, fulfills the call God has for them in the community where God has placed them.

<http://www.amazon.com/Mission-Possible-Reaching-Generation-Through/dp/1462713793>

<https://www.goodreads.com/book/show/19431899-mission-possible>

<https://books.google.com/books?isbn=1462713793>

<http://www.churchleaders.com/youth/youth-leaders-articles/151482-perry-noble-7-things-i-believe-about-the-next-generation.html>

<https://www.blogtalkradio.com/moveintoaction/2012/08/06/mission-possible-with-author-and-pastor-dr-terry-dorsett-1>

<https://pdfs.semanticscholar.org/7aef/56a42e7a1507ebcefa7be0fcc5d2f8b4a059.pdf>

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https://twitter.com/terrydorsett?ref_src=twsrc%5Egoogle%7Ctwcamp%5Eserp%7Ctwgr%5Eauthor

<http://thoughtsfromdr.blogspot.com/>

<https://www.linkedin.com/in/terrydorsett>

<https://drterrywdorsettbooks.wordpress.com/>

<https://www.amazon.com/Dr.-Terry-W.-Dorsett/e/B00405U4NY>

http://www.goodreads.com/author/show/7550051.Dr_Terry_W_Dorsett

http://www.goodreads.com/author/show/4356886.Terry_W_Dorsett

[Images for Dr. Terry W. Dorsett, author](#)

[Images for Mission Possible: Reaching the Next Generation through the Small Church \[Dr. Terry W. Dorsett\]](#)

Models of ministry – PC (USA) OGA - Presbyterian Church (USA)

Many PC (USA) presbyteries are finding creative solutions to the challenges of calling leadership to serve **small congregations**. Follow the links below to find stories, models, resources, and contacts to learn more.

[Tentmaking or bi-vocational ministry](#)

[Orderly exchange with Formula Partner Churches](#)

[Cooperative ministries, cooperative parishes](#)

[Pastors for new immigrants](#)

[Commissioned Ruling Elders](#)

<http://oga.pcusa.org/section/mid-council-ministries/ministers/models-ministry/>

[Images for calling leadership to serve small congregations](#)

[Images for Tentmaking or bi-vocational ministry](#)

[Images for Orderly exchange with Formula Partner Churches](#)

[Images for Cooperative ministries, cooperative parishes](#)

[Images for Pastors for new immigrants](#)

[Images for Commissioned Ruling Elders](#)

Mustard Seed Churches: Ministries in Small Churches [Robert B. Coote]

Handbook to help small churches to develop ministries for growth.

<http://www.amazon.com/Mustard-Seed-Churches-Ministries-Small/dp/0800624084>

<https://www.ruralministry.net/books-on-rural-america-and-ministry>

<http://goba.org/church-revitalization-bibliography>

<https://place.asburyseminary.edu/cgi/viewcontent.cgi?article=2284&context=syllabi>

<http://gtu.edu/academics/faculty-directory/a-b/coote-robert-b>

<http://wipfandstock.com/author/view/detail/id/8151/>

<https://www.amazon.com/Robert-B.-Coote/e/B001K86BKO>

https://www.goodreads.com/author/show/985815.Robert_B_Coote

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[Images for Robert B. Coote, author mustard seed churches](#)

[Images for Mustard Seed Churches: Ministries in Small Churches \[Robert B. Coote\]](#)

Pastoral Care in the Small Membership Church by James L. Jr. Killen (Author) (Ministry in the Small Membership Church Series)

James Killen's *Pastoral Care in the Small Membership Church* is a powerful resource for pastors serving small churches. The writer presents a wealth of practical wisdom, advice, and learning gleaned from a lifetime of ministry in this specialized setting. Reading this book will help any small-church pastor feel more comfortable with the pastoral care challenges she/he face. Killen does an especially good job of discussing the dynamics of small-church culture that both facilitate and frustrate development of the loving community that God intends small-membership churches to be. This book is relevant to the pastors of all ranges of training and experience.

<http://www.amazon.com/Pastoral-Small-Membership-Church-Ministry/dp/0687343267>

<https://www.goodreads.com/book/show/3555724-pastoral-care-in-the-small-membership-church>

<http://www.abingdonpress.com/product/9780687343263#.WQIzTlIyuUk>

<https://www.barnesandnoble.com/w/pastoral-care-in-the-small-membership-church-james-l-killen/1101825916>

http://books.google.com/books/about/Pastoral_Care_in_the_Small_Membership_Ch.html?id=hEk45XamZqwC

https://books.google.com/books/about/Pastoral_Care_in_the_Small_Membership_Ch.html?id=qZo7S7ILVaUC

<https://www.garrett.edu/sites/default/files/assets/323-H%20-%20Congregational%20Care%20-%20CherLue%20Vang%20-%20Syllabus%202019.pdf>

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http://www.hmongumc.org/uploads/6/1/5/3/61535429/ecos_323_-_syllabus_-_prof._preston_revised_hmong.pdf

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<https://nccumc.org/mediacenter/new-resources/new-resources-august-2012/>

<https://www.preaching.com/author/james-l-killen-jr/>

<http://www.amazon.com/Pastoral-Small-Membership-Church-Ministry/product-reviews/0687343267>

<http://www.goodreads.com/book/show/3555724-pastoral-care-in-the-small-membership-church>

<https://www.amazon.com/James-L.-Killen/e/B001IU0EXO>

http://www.goodreads.com/author/show/5668834.James_L_Killen_Jr

[Images for James L. jr. Killen \(author\)](#)

[Images for Pastoral Care in the Small Membership Church by James L. Jr. Killen \(Author\)](#)

[Images for Ministry in the Small Membership Church Series](#)

Preaching with the Small Congregation [Laurence A. Wagley]

Note the preposition in the title: it is both odd and apt. Laurence Wagley encourages pastors of small churches to adopt a participatory approach to preaching. Wagley wants the small church to magnify its strengths: its intimacy, its emphasis on preaching and worship, its flexibility, and its capacity to involve people. He thinks pastors can build on these strengths by using dialogue with church members as their sermon method. Wagley applies the theory articulated by Reuel Howe twenty years ago and more recently by advocates of story preaching and inductive preaching. But he takes it a step further. They argue for a dialogical quality in a monological sermon; he argues for real, uncoached dialogue as the sermon.

<http://www.amazon.com/Preaching-Small-Congregation-Laurence-Wagley/dp/0687339111>

<http://preachingsource.com/journal/preaching-with-the-small-congregation/>

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<https://www.preaching.com/resources/book-reviews/wagley-book-discusses-preaching-to-smaller-congregations/>

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<https://www.rhmc.org/resources/book-recommendations/>

<https://www.christianitytoday.com/pastors/1990/summer/90I3086.html>

<https://www.amazon.com/Laurence-A.-Wagley/e/B001HPVAMO>

http://www.goodreads.com/author/show/1479001.Laurence_A_Wagley

[Images for Laurence A. Wagley, author](#)

[Images for Preaching with the Small Congregation \[Laurence A. Wagley\]](#)

Releasing the Power of the Smaller Church (ESCN) [Shawn McMullen]

Releasing the Power of the Smaller Church provides leaders and volunteers in smaller churches with practical principles and workable ideas for more than a dozen areas of ministry. Each chapter addresses a felt need of smaller churches and is written by someone who has credibility with leaders and volunteers in smaller churches.

<http://www.amazon.com/Releasing-Power-Smaller-Church-ESCN/dp/0784721467>

https://www.goodreads.com/book/show/1134391.Unleashing_the_Potential_of_the_Smaller_Church

<https://books.google.com/books?isbn=0784721467>

https://books.google.com/books/about/Releasing_the_Power_of_the_Smaller_Church.html?id=0co3tpVYTboC

<http://www.outreachmagazine.com/resources/small-church-america/small-church-articles/4245-small-church-big-impact.html>

<http://www.smallchurchleaders.org/contributors/shawn-mcmullen.html>

<http://www.christianpost.com/news/releasing-the-power-of-the-smaller-church-25729/>

<http://www.lifeandleadership.com/book-summaries/mcmullen-releasing-the-power-of-the-smaller-church.html>

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<https://www.nechristian.edu/rcc>

<http://www.lookoutmag.com/>

<https://smallchurch.com/>

<http://www.rhmag.org/resources/book-recommendations/>

<http://www.christiannewswire.com/news/396302151.html> Energizing Smaller Churches Network Launches Conference Series to Train and Encourage American Church Leaders

http://www.goodreads.com/author/show/557414.Shawn_McMullen

Images for Shawn McMullen, author small church

Images for *Releasing the Power of the Smaller Church (ESCN)* [Shawn McMullen]

Unleashing the Potential of the Smaller Church (ESCN) [Shawn McMullen]

Drawing from the experiences of ministers in smaller churches from coast to coast, leaders and members alike will find motivation and resources for vision casting and strategic planning in the ministry setting of the smaller church and community. This book addresses topics including outreach, evangelism, missions, youth ministry, children's ministry, working with volunteers, and planning for growth.

<http://www.amazon.com/Unleashing-Potential-Smaller-Church-ESCN/dp/B008SM06LK>

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<http://www.lookoutmag.com/whats-good-about-the-smaller-church/>

<http://www.rhmag.org/resources/book-recommendations/>

<http://www.christiannewswire.com/news/396302151.html> Energizing Smaller Churches Network Launches Conference Series to Train and Encourage American Church Leaders

http://www.goodreads.com/author/show/557414.Shawn_McMullen

Images for shawn mcmullen, author small church

Images for *Unleashing the Potential of the Smaller Church (ESCN)* [Shawn McMullen]

Religious Education in the Small Membership Church by Dr. Nancy T. Foltz (Author)

Religious Education in the Small Membership Church is a comprehensive resource aimed at making religious education more effective all along the line in small churches. From a living ecology of solid theory and proven research, this book develops exciting possibilities and helpful procedures to maximize religious education opportunities in small church settings.

<https://www.amazon.com/Religious-Education-Small-Membership-Church/dp/1625640277>

<https://www.barnesandnoble.com/w/religious-education-in-the-small-membership-church-nancy-t-foltz/1000490781>

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<https://place.asburyseminary.edu/cgi/viewcontent.cgi?article=2115&context=ecommonsatsdissertations>

<https://digitalcommons.liberty.edu/cgi/viewcontent.cgi?article=1051&context=doctoral>

<https://www.amazon.com/Nancy-T.-Foltz/e/B001KJ01Q8>

http://www.goodreads.com/author/show/1368338.Nancy_T_Foltz

Images for Dr. Nancy T. Foltz (Author) small church

Images for *Religious Education in the Small Membership Church* by Dr. Nancy T. Foltz (Author)

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Sand Bur Consulting Tools

Small Churches:

"Beyond Survival" Bibliography

<http://www.sandburconsulting.com/resources.html>

Images for Small Churches: "Beyond Survival" Bibliography

Shepherding the Small Church: A Leadership Guide for the Majority of Today's Churches (Gold Medallion-Finalist) by Glenn C. Daman.

Despite the growing number of megachurches in the U.S., 75 percent of churches still have a weekly attendance of 150 or less. Glenn Daman, himself the pastor of two small churches, reminds readers that "the vitality of a congregation is not found in its size or its programs or budget. The vitality of a congregation is found in its fulfillment of God's purpose for the church." Offering neither trivial cliches nor quick fixes, *Shepherding the Small Church* acts as a manual for leaders, offering point-by-point suggestions for small church ministry, mission, unity, and more. Chapter-by-chapter suggestions and several appendixes of helpful assessment tools help pastors and lay leadership work through the book together.

http://books.google.com/books/about/Shepherding_the_Small_Church.html?id=M7M-BPZv-OoC

<http://www.amazon.com/Shepherding-Small-Church-Leadership-Medallion-Finalist/dp/0825425004>

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<https://www.bookdepository.com/Shepherding-Small-Church-Glenn-C-Daman/9780825425004>

<https://www.christianbook.com/shepherding-the-small-church-second-edition/glenn-daman/9780825425004/pd/425007?event=EDD>

<http://www.smallchurchleaders.org/information/glenn-daman.html>

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<http://www.kregel.com/autores/glenn-c-daman>

<https://www.amazon.com/Glenn-Daman/e/B001JS7UXM>

https://www.goodreads.com/author/show/600117.Glenn_C_Daman

[Images for glenn c. daman, author](#)

[Images for *Shepherding the Small Church: A Leadership Guide for the Majority of Today's Churches \(Gold Medallion-Finalist\)* by Glenn C. Daman.](#)

Single-Digit Youth Groups: Working with Fewer Than Ten Teens [Marcey Balcomb]

Even if your church has fewer than 10 teens, your numbers are never too small to offer a relevant youth ministry that powerfully impacts their lives. In fact, smaller numbers allow you to devote more time and concentrate greater attention on your precious few. You can actually give more to less.

Single Digit Youth Groups points out many additional benefits that can only be found in a compact group...equipping you with up-to-date actionable plans for: Starting a Small Youth Ministry, Establishing Meaningful Rituals, Recruiting Adult Assistance, Creative Youth Activities for Less than 10 Teens, Committing to a Group Covenant.

Single Digit youth resources are designed to engage every teen in the room, at every level of maturity, without alienating all the rest. Even in a small church, you can retain and develop the full potential of your special few.

Small churches and churches with small numbers of youth will be delighted that someone has finally written just for them! Marcey Balcomb helps them discover the joys and power of a single-digit youth group and provides the practical help they need.

Fully half the book is filled with awesome activities for single-digit youth groups (41 great activities, to be exact).

In addition, the book gives information about essential and helpful forms for use in a single-digit youth ministry. These make short work of administration so leaders can spend more time in ministry.



<http://www.amazon.com/Single-Digit-Youth-Groups-Working-Fewer/dp/0687740428>

<http://www.amazon.com/Single-Digit-Youth-Groups-Activities-Mission/dp/0687334217>

<https://www.goodreads.com/book/show/3070213-single-digit-youth-groups>

<https://www.barnesandnoble.com/w/single-digit-youth-groups-marcey-balcomb/1112696159>

<https://www.bookdepository.com/Single-digit-Youth-Groups-v-2-Marcey-Balcomb/9780687334216>

<https://www.linkedin.com/in/marcey-balcomb-a39902a>

<https://www.amazon.com/Marcey-Balcomb/e/B001IXO78Y>

https://www.goodreads.com/author/show/809851.Marcey_Balcomb

[Images for Marcey Balcomb, author](#)

[Images for *Single-Digit Youth Groups: Working with Fewer Than Ten Teens* \[Marcey Balcomb\]](#)

Small Church, Big Impact – OutreachMagazine.com

And here's the good news: Many smaller churches across America are committed and they are thriving. They're in the center of God's will, making a difference in people's lives. They may not be receiving a flood of new residents into their communities. They may not be welcoming scores of new visitors to their services. But for these congregations, it's not about attendance. It's about making good use of what they have. It's about taking their hill—their community, no matter how small—for Christ.

<http://www.outreachmagazine.com/resources/small-church-america/small-church-articles/4245-small-church-big-impact.html>

[Images for Small Church, Big Impact – OutreachMagazine.com](#)

Small Church.com | A Big Place for Small Churches

Why a website for small churches?

The current trend in literature and seminars is toward the church growth movement. I do not oppose the church growth movement, since the literature and seminars tremendously challenge areas with a large population. However, the needs in rural ministries are much different. Growth is usually slow and consistent and is based on relationships rather than programs. Having been raised and involved in large ministries, I have found the challenges of rural ministry very different. I have also noticed the lack of information and resources available to small ministries. It is my desire for this internet ministry to fill that void. In 2004, Holly Springs Bible Fellowship started underwriting the cost of this website.

<http://smallchurch.com/>

[Images for Small Church.com | A Big Place for Small Churches](#)

Small-Church Growth Strategy Handbook | Episcopal Church

This handbook represents a dynamic set of tools designed to affirm and strengthen vitality in small-membership churches (generally those with an average Sunday attendance of seventy or less). Small-membership churches represent approximately half of all Episcopal congregations.

<http://www.episcopalchurch.org/library/document/small-church-growth-strategies-handbook>

<http://www.episcopalchurch.org/library/document/small-church-growth-strategy-handbook>

[Images for Small-Church Growth Strategy Handbook | Episcopal Church](#)

Small Churches Are Beautiful [Jackson W. Carroll]

This book consists of a series of essays, most of which were written by church researchers and bureaucrats, but a few were authored by local pastors. Although the chapters were individually produced, the book represents output from a group process.

<http://www.amazon.com/Small-Churches-Beautiful-Jackson-Carroll/dp/0060613203>

https://www.jstor.org/stable/1386172?seq=1#page_scan_tab_contents

<https://core.ac.uk/download/pdf/58825135.pdf>

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<https://divinity.duke.edu/faculty/jackson-w-carroll>

http://www.abingdonpress.com/jackson_w_carroll

<https://www.ministrymatters.com/all/author/jackson-w-carroll>

<http://wipfandstock.com/author/view/detail/id/12011/>

<https://www.amazon.com/Jackson-W.-Carroll/e/B001IZRERS>

https://www.goodreads.com/author/show/176284.Jackson_W_Carroll

[Images for Jackson W. Carroll, author](#)

[Images for Small Churches Are Beautiful \[Jackson W. Carroll\]](#)

Small Churches Are the Right Size [David R. Ray]

Small churches are the right size for being effective channels of the word of God, says David R. Ray. In this book, he shows that the five basic areas of church life – worship, education, mission, caring, and institutional maintenance – can be carried out as effectively (and sometimes more so) in small congregations as in larger ones.

While large churches tend of necessity to be highly structured and bureaucratic, small churches have the opportunity to be intimate, people-conscious communities. The small church can, suggests Ray, offer individualized educational opportunities, urge the entire congregation to become involved in mission, and create a family-oriented caring network, all of which will strengthen the church as a whole. For sociologists of religion, denominational leaders, and especially for clergy and laity in small churches, this book offers hope for a bright and healthy future.

<http://www.amazon.com/Small-Churches-Are-Right-Size/dp/0829806202>

<https://www.churchleadership.com/leading-ideas/eleven-characteristics-of-effective-smaller-churches/>

<http://michaelmontgomery.com/papers/bestpractices.pdf>

<https://maryharristodd.wordpress.com/resource-list/>

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http://www.goodreads.com/author/show/695679.David_R_Ray

[Images for David R. Ray, author small church](#)

[Images for Small Churches Are the Right Size \[David R. Ray\]](#)

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The Indispensable Guide for Smaller Churches: David R. Ray

The Indispensable Guide for Smaller Churches is filled with solid theology on the one hand and practical applications on the other. Ray shares the best of his discoveries during more than 30 years as pastor, denominational leader, and consultant to small churches. This title complements Ray's earlier books *The Big Small Church Book* and *Wonderful Worship in Smaller Churches*. He expands on the subject by treating subjects such as communal theology as a tool for understanding smaller churches.

<http://www.amazon.com/Indispensable-Guide-Smaller-Churches/dp/0829815074>

https://www.goodreads.com/book/show/1884157.The_Indispensable_Guide_for_Smaller_Churches

<https://www.christianbook.com/the-indispensable-guide-for-smaller-churches/david-ray/9780829815078/pd/815078>

<https://books.google.com/books?id=1Q8NAAAACAAJ>

https://books.google.com/books/about/The_Indispensable_Guide_for_Smaller_Chur.html?id=1Q8NAAAACAAJ

[Images for The Indispensable Guide for Smaller Churches: David R. Ray](#)

Small Churches CAN Dream Big

Ken Schmidt, seminary intern, Zion American Lutheran, Granton, and Zion Lutheran, Pine Valley

With the increase in NONES (non-religious) and the decline in worship attendance/membership of most Lutheran churches, it is easy to get discouraged. It is easy to fear that through all the changes in culture and our world, we can no longer imagine amazing things we can do as God's church. Good news! You are still a part of God's church and your congregation is full of gifted people.

The Holy Spirit still works through you and God continues to bless others through you. So what is stopping you from dreaming BIG? Through conversations and through dwelling in God's Word, let's dream together! Let's dream BIG, regardless of the size of your church. Come to our workshop to learn how to dream with your congregation!

2014 Walking Together - June 7, 2014 Northwest Synod of Wisconsin



[View program descriptions. - Northwest Synod of Wisconsin](#)

http://www.nwswi.org/webfiles/fnitools/documents/workshop_descriptions_4.30.2014.pdf

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[Images for Small Churches CAN Dream Big
http://www.oslutheran.com/staff.html](http://www.oslutheran.com/staff.html)

Small Churches Face Challenge of Declining Membership

Many small churches are dying. Over the years, many smaller, community churches, due to attrition by death or the transfer of membership to larger congregations, have ceased to exist, and many others are now finding themselves on the threshold of closing. We should ask: What is necessary to keep these churches open?

<http://www.rockymounttelegram.com/opinion/letters/small-churches-face-challenge-declining-membership-871131>
[Images for Small Churches Face Challenge of Declining Membership](#)

Small Congregation, Big Potential: Ministry in the Small Membership Church [Lyle E Schaller]

There are many questions that leaders of small-membership congregations ask themselves about their church's future. Lyle Schaller suggests that two in particular should rise to the top of the list. First, what's the right size of for a church? Is the small congregation averaging two or three dozen people at worship a legitimate order of God's creation? You bet it is, says Schaller. Second, should these congregations make their plans on the basis of few resources and fewer options, or should they see themselves as possessed of pools of talent and expanding possibilities? If you are convinced that the former is true, then this book is not for you. If, however, you are among those who believe that small-membership churches are distinctive places of Christian witness and service, spreading the gospel and living in service to the world in ways that other, larger churches are not, then this book is for you. In it you will find the right questions to ask as you seek to lead a small-membership congregation, and solid, practical guidance for doing so.

<https://www.amazon.com/Small-Congregation-Big-Potential-Membership/dp/0687036569>
<https://www.barnesandnoble.com/w/small-congregation-big-potential-lyle-e-schaller/1111008380>
http://books.google.com/books/about/Small_Congregation_Big_Potential.html?id=UITw9wvyrFAC
https://books.google.com/books/about/Small_Congregation_Big_Potential.html?id=kC0uoWIEdpIC
<https://www.ruralministry.net/books-on-rural-america-and-ministry>
<http://www.ministrymatters.com/all/entry/5884/remember-lyle-e-schaller-the-interventionist>
https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Lyle_E._Schaller
http://www.abingdonpress.com/lyle_e_schaller
<http://leadnet.org/lyle-e-schaller-1923-2015-intellectual-pillar-of-leadership-network/>
<https://www.thriftbooks.com/a/lyle-e-schaller/265357/>
<https://www.amazon.com/Lyle-E.-Schaller/e/B0011R1J9K>
https://www.goodreads.com/author/list/179868.Lyle_E_Schaller

[Images for lyle e schaller author](#)

[Images for Small Congregation, Big Potential: Ministry in the Small Membership Church \[Lyle E Schaller\]](#)

The Small Church Is Different! [Lyle E. Schaller]

"This book is written," says Lyle E. Schaller, "from a perspective that assumes the small membership church is consistent with the natural order of creation...The large church is not an enlarged version of the small congregation, and the small membership church is not a miniature replica of the big church." So, the small church is different. But in what ways? Schaller points to the small church's emphasis on people and kinship ties, its tendency to be intergenerational, and its unique methods of financing itself. Because these churches are born small and remain small, the author addresses the many advantages of this size rather than considering it as a problem that needs to be remedied. Schaller looks at the four major areas of concern affecting small churches: their self-esteem, youth ministries, the "special appeals" nature of fundraising they often employ, and their various strategies for growth. He then looks at the ways the small church can be adequately staffed and discusses the key role of the Sunday church school in the small church's affairs. Rounding out this important book is an analysis of the various trends in the small church and its hopes for the future.

<http://www.amazon.com/The-Small-Church-Is-Different/dp/0687387175>
http://books.google.com/books/about/The_small_church_is_different.html?id=jql6xWSDp5sC
<https://www.tms.edu/m/tmsj3g.pdf> the dynamics of small church ministry - The Master's Seminary
<http://www.lifeandleadership.com/book-summaries/schaller-the-small-church-is-different.html>
<http://www.nadministerial.org/article/701/for-nad-pastors/articles/schaller-and-the-small-church>
[Images for The Small Church Is Different! \[Lyle E. Schaller\]](#)

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The Small Membership Church: Scenarios for Tomorrow (Ministry for the Third Millennium Series) [Lyle E Schaller]

One of America's leading church consultants shows why he believes the small membership church has a bright and promising future if the leaders will adapt to new roles in the culture. Lyle Schaller presents 44 alternative scenarios that can lead to a better use of resources and more focused energies in ministry.

<http://www.powells.com/biblio?isbn=9780687387182>
http://books.google.com/books?id=RI8NAAAACAAJ&source=gbs_book_similarbooks
https://books.google.com/gi/books/about/The_Small_Membership_Church.html?hl=fr&id=MglhngEACAAJ&output=html_text
<http://www.amazon.com/The-Small-Membership-Church-Millennium/dp/0687387183>
[Images for The Small Membership Church: Scenarios for Tomorrow \(Ministry for the Third Millennium Series\) \[Lyle E Schaller\]](#)
[Images for Ministry for the Third Millennium Series](#)

Wisdom from Lyle E. Schaller: The Elder Statesman of Church Leadership by Lyle E. Schaller (Author), Warren Bird (Editor)

10. How Do I Build on the Strengths of a **Small-Attendance Church**?

<https://books.google.com/books?isbn=1426761627>

[Images for How Do I Build on the Strengths of a Small-Attendance Church?](#)

<http://www.amazon.com/Wisdom-Lyle-Schaller-Statesman-Leadership/dp/1426749104>

http://leadnet.org/resources/advance/lyle_schallers_wisdom_for_today

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<http://www.lifeandleadership.com/book-summaries/tag/church-identity>

<http://leadnet.org/staff/warren-bird/>

<https://www.linkedin.com/in/wbird>

<http://leadnet.org/staff/warren-bird/>

<https://www.amazon.com/Warren-Bird/e/B002BLN1V6>

http://www.goodreads.com/author/list/85146.Warren_Bird

[Images for warren bird \(author\)](#)

Small Congregations | UUA.org

Unitarian Universalist (UU) congregations with fewer than 150 members are considered "small" in our faith community. If your congregation is in this category, you probably know well that the needs of congregations of 10, 25, 50, 75, 100 and 150 are very different. The following resources contain the answers to the most frequently asked questions I've received. Please feel free to contact me or your District Staff for more information and resources. For each of the categories below consider contacting your District Staff person for support and perhaps to benefit from what other congregations in your region have learned.

<http://www.uua.org/growth/small/index.shtml>

<https://www.uua.org/sites/live-new.uua.org/files/documents/congservices/smallcongs/growthresources.pdf>

[Images for Small Congregations | UUA.org](#)

Small Is Beautiful: New 'pastoral residency' program supports new pastors in small churches

In American culture, "small" often has a bad connotation, while "big" equals good or successful. But small churches have much to celebrate, Johns said, and it's part of the pastor's job to make sure churches have good self-esteem.

By celebrating small victories or milestones, touching up the offices with a new coat of paint or ending worship services on a positive, praiseful note, pastors can help small churches see themselves in a positive way.

<http://www.pcusa.org/news/2010/9/17/small-beautiful/>

[Images for Small Is Beautiful: New 'pastoral residency' program supports new pastors in small churches](#)

Small, Strong Congregations: Creating Strength and Health for Your Congregation by Kennon L. Callahan (Author)

Create a small, strong congregation that is dedicated to advancing God's mission. "The twenty-first century is the century of small, strong congregations. More people will be drawn to small, strong congregations than any other kind of congregation. Yes, there are mega-congregations. Their number is increasing greatly. Nevertheless, across the planet, the vast majority of congregations will be small and strong, and the vast majority of people will be in these congregations."

With uncommon wisdom Kennon L. Callahan – today's most noted church consultant - moves ahead of conventional thinking and in *Small, Strong Congregations* offers his unique vision of the church of the future.

This important book chronicles the emergence of a vast number of congregations that are questioning the bigger-is-better notion in church membership. These congregations are deliberately small, active, and happy in their dedication to creating strong church communities that advance God's mission. Step by step, Kennon Callahan shows pastors and other church leaders how they can develop the values and specific qualities helpful to shape and strengthen their own small congregations.

Written to be a hands-on guide, *Small, Strong Congregations* offers practical suggestions for creating mission and service, compassion and shepherding, community and belonging, self-reliance and self-sufficiency, worship and hope, teams and leaders, space and facilities, and giving and generosity. This wise resource is filled with illustrative examples that show clearly how myriad small churches have created solid, vigorous congregations.

<http://www.amazon.com/Small-Strong-Congregations-Strengths-Congregation/dp/0787949809>

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<http://emmanuel.org.za/wp-content/uploads/2011/09/CallahanKennon-SmallStrongCongregations.pdf>

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<http://www.lifeandleadership.com/book-summaries/callahan-small-strong-congregations.html>

<http://archive.toolboxforfaith.org/tag/kennon-callahan/page/2/>

<http://www.missionleadersnetwork.com/about-kennon-l-callahan/>

<https://www.amazon.com/Kennon-L.-Callahan/e/B001HCZUYG>

https://www.goodreads.com/author/list/156195.Kennon_L_Callahan

[Images for Kennon L. Callahan \(Author\)](#)

[Images for Small, Strong Congregations: Creating Strength and Health for Your Congregation by Kennon L. Callahan \(Author\)](#)

Smaller Churches Can Get "Un-Stuck" - Dan Reiland

Here's a process you can adapt for you and your church.

<http://danreiland.com/smaller-churches-can-get-un-stuck/>
[Images for Smaller Churches Can Get "Un-Stuck" - Dan Reiland](#)
<http://danreiland.com/small-churches-can-big-ministry/>
<http://danreiland.com/why-smaller-churches-dont-grow/>
<http://www.lpd-efcc.ca/wp-content/uploads/2014/07/Why-Smaller-Churches-Dont-Grow.pdf>
<https://ministrytodaymag.com/leadership/vision/20343-dan-reiland-big-ministry-in-small-churches>
<http://globalchristiancenter.com/administrative-leadership/church-leadership/24826-leading-and-growing-small-churches-part-i>
<http://globalchristiancenter.com/administrative-leadership/church-leadership/24823-leading-and-growing-small-churches-part-ii>
<http://visionchurches.com/resources/3-dangers-small-churches-face/>
<https://www.facebook.com/PastorDanReiland/>
<https://www.amazon.com/Dan-Reiland/e/B001HPDEAA>
https://www.goodreads.com/author/show/686272.Dan_Reiland
[Images for Dan Reiland, author](#)

[PDF] Smaller Congregation: Pathways in Challenging Times

This special report defines the "smaller congregation," explains how small congregations can be vital, and examines the challenges and options facing small congregations—including the options of shifting to part-time clergy, merging two or more congregations, clustering, securing lay pastors or local clergy, growing, or "ending well."

<http://www.congregationalconsulting.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/06/SmallerCongregationChallengingTimes.pdf>

[Images for Smaller Congregation: Pathways in Challenging Times](#)

So You Are the New Pastor of a Small Church, Now What?

Were you recently appointed as the new pastor of a small church?

Over the summer, I've met with new pastors, freshly ordained, who have been appointed to very [small churches](#) in rural areas, or some churches in urban pockets that have been in decline for years.

What are some possible ways the small church pastor can help grow the church through evangelism?

<https://www.evangelismcoach.org/so-you-are-the-new-pastor-of-a-small-church-now-what/>

[Images for So You Are the New Pastor of a Small Church, Now What?](#)

Stewardship for Small Churches: Eight great stewardship ideas

Look over the following list of eight ideas for cultivating a stronger sense of stewardship in the small church. Make a note of any that you have tried and what the response was in the congregation. Was it positive? Choose one of the newer items on the list and plan to try it in the next four months. Remember: Stewardship is more than financial giving. It is a sense of thanksgiving for all that God has given us, including care giving for the world around us! Try one of these ideas in your church soon.

<http://www.buildingchurchleaders.com/articles/2006/021306a.html>

[Images for Stewardship for Small Churches](#)

10 Reasons Why Small Churches Stay Small - ChurchLeaders

The "ten reasons" that follow are not necessarily in the order of importance or prevalence. This is the way they occurred to me, and the order seems right.

http://www.churchleaders.com/pastors/pastor-articles/140506-why_small_churches_tend_to.html

<https://www.sermoncentral.com/pastors-preaching-articles/joe-mckeever-10-reasons-small-churches-tend-to-stay-small-722>

[Images for 10 Reasons Why Small Churches Stay Small - Church Leaders](#)

The Grasshopper Myth: Big Churches, Small Churches and the Small Thinking that Divides Us by Karl Vaters (Author)

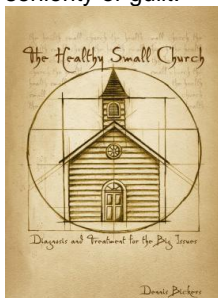
90% of the churches in the world have less than 200 people. What if that's not a bad thing? What if smallness is an advantage God wants us to use, not a problem to fix? In *The Grasshopper Myth*, Karl Vaters takes on some of the unbiblical beliefs we've held about church growth, church size and God's will for the last several decades. Then he offers a game plan for a New Small Church. The title comes from the story in Numbers 13. When the Hebrews were at the edge of the Promised Land, ten of the twelve spies come back with this report: "All the people we saw there are of great size. ...We seemed like grasshoppers in our own eyes, and we looked the same to them." - Numbers 13:32-33 The grasshopper myth is the false impression that our Small Church ministry is less than what God says it is because we compare ourselves with others. The solution is for Small Churches to see themselves the way God sees them. A church of innovation, not stagnation. A church that leads instead of following. A church that thinks small, but never engages in small thinking. If big churches are the cruise ships on the church ocean, small churches can be the speedboats. They can move faster, maneuver more deftly, squeeze into tighter spaces and have a ton of fun doing it. They just have to see themselves that way. If you read this book (make that when you read it, cuz if you've come this far you're hooked, right?) you'll find your presuppositions challenged, your heart encouraged and your life and ministry transformed. Let's rediscover a New Small Church.



<https://www.amazon.com/Grasshopper-Myth-Churches-Thinking-Divides/dp/0988443902>
<https://www.goodreads.com/book/show/18683714-the-grasshopper-myth>
<https://www.goodreads.com/work/quotes/26523308-the-grasshopper-myth-big-churches-small-churches-and-the-small-thinkin>
<http://newsmallchurch.com/the-grasshopper-myth/>
<http://smallchurchcentral.com/index.php/vaters-interview/>
<http://davejacobs.net/book-review-the-grasshopper-myth-by-karl-vaters/>
<http://stephenbarkley.com/2015/06/29/the-grasshopper-myth-karl-vaters/>
<http://www.davidmatthew.org.uk/rvgrasshopper.html>
<http://bobhighlands.faith/phone/the-grasshopper-myth-veters.html>
<https://www.studyleadership.com/products/the-grasshopper-myth/>
<http://www.wfxevents.com/speaker/karl-vaters/>
<https://thecrg.org/resources/the-grasshopper-myth-big-churches-small-churches-and-the-small-thinking-that-divides-us>
<https://careynieuwhof.com/tag/the-grasshopper-myth/>
<http://www.200churches.com/blog/episode-41-karl-vaters-talks-small-church-ministry-in-croatia>
<https://www.growahealthychurch.com/karl-vaters-small-church/>
<https://abundantsprings.church/small-church-resources>
<http://qideas.org/contributors/karl-vaters/>
<https://www.pinterest.com/pin/544583779921722661/>
<http://www.cornerstonepastorsnetwork.org/2015/12/10/prc-with-karl-vaters/>
<http://www.lawrencewilson.com/karl-vaters-pastor-interview/>
<http://www.expastors.com/author/karl-vaters/>
<http://kentmurawski.com/grasshoppermyth>
https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCrcGS0_tkxklJyB7wn9-aZA Karl Vaters - YouTube
[Images for Karl Vaters - YouTube](#)
<http://newsmallchurch.com/videos/> Videos for Small Church Leaders - New Small Church
<http://podbay.fm/show/912753163/e/1428382895?autostart=1> Small Church, Mid-sized Church or Megachurch, Which is Better? An interview with Karl Vaters
<https://ccffv.sermon.net/main/main/9737330>
<http://www.christianitytoday.com/karl-vaters/>
<http://www.christianitytoday.com/karl-vaters/about/books.html>
<http://www.christianitytoday.com/karl-vaters/small-church-ministry/>
<http://www.christianitytoday.com/karl-vaters/2017/september/online-church.html>
<http://www.christianitytoday.com/karl-vaters/archives/>
<https://twitter.com/karlvaters?lang=en>
<https://www.amazon.com/Karl-Vaters/e/B00AWGCU2S>
https://www.goodreads.com/author/show/7035463.Karl_Vaters
[Images for grasshopper myth karl vaters](#)
[Images for The Grasshopper Myth: Big Churches, Small Churches and the Small Thinking that Divides Us by Karl Vaters \(Author\)](#)

The Healthy Small Church: Diagnosis and Treatment for the Big Issues [Dennis Bickers]

Small churches can be found in every denomination and among every ethnic group but often these churches struggle to survive in the shadow of the larger churches around them. And many of these churches are afflicted with unhealthy issues such as feelings of unimportance, a lack of vision, exclusivity, limited resources, and unbalanced leadership. It is because of these ailments that many churches fail to survive. But it is possible for an unhealthy church to become a healthy church capable of experiencing growth - both physically and spiritually. In his new book, *The Healthy Small Church*, small church pastor Dennis Bickers diagnoses the issues that threaten the life of the smaller church and prescribes practical remedies for treating these issues. He reminds churches that transformation and healing are never easy but always worth it. He emphasizes that to maintain a healthy church one must be aware of the symptoms and act accordingly to prevent new problems from arising. *The Healthy Small Church* offers pastors and church leaders a great diagnostic tool for small churches that want to be healthy and stay that way. It includes a number of diagnostic questions at the end of the book that they can use to determine the health of their church. Become a healthy church that: Has a positive self-image; Shares a common vision that creates a sense of purpose and unity; Maintains community while still warmly welcoming new visitors; Practices the importance of faithful stewardship and financial support; Understands ministry to be the responsibility of all the members of the church; Encourages everyone to serve according to his or her spiritual gifts - not by seniority or guilt.



<http://www.amazon.com/Healthy-Small-Church-Diagnosis-Treatment/dp/0834122405>
<https://www.goodreads.com/book/show/3128178-the-healthy-small-church>
<https://www.barnesandnoble.com/w/the-healthy-small-church-dennis-bickers/1112757545>
<http://www.slideserve.com/Lucy/the-healthy-small-church-diagnosis-and-treatment-for-the-big-issues-by-dennis-bickers>
<http://www.smallchurchleaders.org/resources/books.html>
<http://www.lifeandleadership.com/book-summaries/bickers-the-healthy-small-church.html>
<https://www.greatplainsumc.org/smallmembershipchurchresources>
<https://www.ruralministry.net/books-on-rural-america-and-ministry>
<https://epc.org/smallerchurchnetwork/resources/>
<https://place.asburyseminary.edu/cgi/viewcontent.cgi?article=1832&context=ecommonsatsdissertations>
<http://bivocationalministry.blogspot.com/>
<http://thoughtsfromdrt.blogspot.com/2012/06/book-review-guest-post-from-dennis.html>
<https://twitter.com/dennisbickers?lang=en>
<http://www.abcgrr.org/bivocation/bnwsltr/1oct07.htm>
<https://www.linkedin.com/in/dennis-bickers-0962ba49>
http://www.goodreads.com/author/show/1335619.Dennis_Bickers
 Images for dennis bickers, author
 Images for The Healthy Small Church: Diagnosis and Treatment for the Big Issues [Dennis Bickers]

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Intentional Ministry in a Not-So-Mega Church: Becoming a Missional Community by Dennis Bickers

Intentional Ministry in a Not-So-Mega Church is designed to help leaders of **smaller churches** guide their people in making their primary focus ministering to and meeting the needs of those outside their church. Drawing from more than twenty years of experience as a small-church pastor, Dennis Bickers explores the qualities of transformational leadership and explains what it takes for leaders to create a climate in their churches that promotes and facilitates necessary change. From willingness and vision to risk-taking and commitment, Bickers challenges leaders to become the agents of change their churches need as they seek to answer and act on the question: Who are we here for? How can a small church reach out to meet the needs of the greater community and positively impact today's culture? An experienced bi-vocational pastor, Bickers insightfully discusses maintenance vs. missional mentalities; explains and explores transformational leadership; and reveals how to capture God's vision, create a climate of change, understand our world, and more.

<https://www.amazon.com/Intentional-Ministry-Not-So-Mega-Church-Missional/dp/0834124343>
<http://www.goodreads.com/book/show/6693532-intentional-ministry-in-a-not-so-mega-church>
<https://christianbook.com/intentional-ministry-church-becoming-missional-community/dennis-bickers/9780834124349/pd/124349?event=CBCER1#CBD-PD-Description>
<http://www.lifeandleadership.com/book-summaries/bickers-intentional-ministry-in-a-not-so-mega-church.html>
<https://vimeo.com/160091316> 2016 Pastors Conference - Keynote Address: Dennis Bickers
https://books.google.co.uk/books/about/Intentional_Ministry_in_a_Not_so_Mega_Ch.html?id=37rJOgAACAAJ
<http://www.lulu.com/spotlight/dbickers>
http://www.judsonpress.com/author.cfm?author_id=769
<https://caskeycenter.com/ministry-bibliography/>
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https://centerforcongregations.org/sites/default/files/The_Missional_Church.pdf
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 Images for Intentional Ministry in a Not-So-Mega Church: Becoming a Missional Community by Dennis Bickers

Missional Perspective
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The Little Church That Could: Raising Small Church Esteem [Steven E. Burt, Hazel Ann Roper]

Small Churches Face Unique Challenges. Many of those challenges stem not from lack of inspiration or resources but from poor self-esteem. Filled with case studies and practical helps, this guide addresses everything from congregational life cycles to size-related dynamics. The authors avoid generic, one-size-fits all solutions and provide customized answers based on solid thinking and sound theological understanding.

Small congregations often feel left behind because of the challenges they face. Here's a prescription for staying healthy and growing. Providing customized advice based on sound theology and case studies, Burt and Roper address everything from congregational life cycles to size-related dynamics. Their practical insights will help your church build self-esteem and confidence in God's will.

<http://www.amazon.com/The-Little-Church-That-Could/dp/0817013709>
<https://www.barnesandnoble.com/w/little-church-that-could-steven-e-burt/1123420555?ean=9780817013707>
<http://www.chicagopresbytery.org/2011/09/11/review-raising-small-church-esteem/>
<http://www.smallchurchleaders.org/information/books.html>
<https://www.amazon.com/Steven-E.-Burt/e/B001K8R46O>
https://www.goodreads.com/author/list/5686151.Steve_Burt
 Images for Steven E. Burt
<https://www.epc.org/z410network>
<http://www.vnews.com/Hazel-Roper-obituary-Berwick-ME-8889460>
 Images for Hazel Ann Roper

[Images for The Little Church That Could: Raising Small Church Esteem \[Steven E. Burt, Hazel Ann Roper\]](#)

The Small Church Primer: Strengths, Weaknesses, Worship, and Music in the Small-Membership Church

Although this article largely deals with some of the problems and struggles of small churches, not all small churches, of course, are struggling. Not all the problems discussed affect all small churches. Some are places of dynamic and effective ministry, nurture, outreach, and disciple making. The intent of this article is to examine some of the problems encountered by small churches as discussed by small-church leaders and members in the class I attended.

Small Church Music – McIntyre | Small Church.com

<http://smallchurch.com/for-pastors/small-church-music-mcintyre/>

<http://anglicansablaze.blogspot.com/2010/12/small-church-primer-strengths.html>

<https://www.umcdiscipleship.org/resources/the-small-church-primer-strengths-weaknesses-worship-and-music-in-the-Images-for-Strengths,-Weaknesses,-Worship,-and-Music-in-the-Small-Membership-Church>

[Images for Strengths, Weaknesses, Worship, and Music in the Small-Membership Church](#)

The Small Membership Church: A Mustard Seed, not an Acorn

Why is the Small Membership Church a mustard seed, and not an acorn? The Gospel of Matthew tells us “The kingdom of heaven is like what happens when a farmer plants a mustard seed in a field. Although it is the smallest of all seeds, it grows larger than any garden plant and become a tree. Birds even come and nest on its branches.” (Matt. 13:31.32 CEV) There are several reasons why this parallel is important. First, small is biblical. The smallest seed produces a place where there are far-reaching implications and comfort is offered. The Small Membership Church is like this - children raised in the small church have populated the country with the faith they were raised upon!

<http://christianwire.org/article/4610>

[Images for The Small Membership Church: A Mustard Seed, not an Acorn](#)

The Strategically Small Church: Intimate, Nimble, Authentic, and Effective [Brandon J. O'Brien, Jim Belcher]

Brandon O'Brien helps pastors and church leaders understand that a smaller church is sometimes better than a big one. He demonstrates the strengths of small congregations, including that today's church "shoppers" want services that are local, personal, and intimate. Also, small churches provide space to nurture close relationships across age and lifestyle barriers, and they facilitate a higher level of commitment from laypeople. And small church budgets are often more effective because of greater efficiency. *The Strategically Small Church* will encourage small-church pastors in their ministries and challenge them to play to their strengths.

<http://www.amazon.com/The-Strategically-Small-Church-Authentic/dp/0764207830>

<http://www.barnesandnoble.com/w/the-strategically-small-church-brandon-j-obrien/1111419076>

<https://books.google.com/books?isbn=1441212140>

<https://printsasiaimages.com/book/strategically-small-church-the-intimate-nimble-authentic-and-effective-brandon-j-o-0764207830>

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<https://divinity.duke.edu/sites/divinity.duke.edu/files/images/COURSE%20OF%20STUDY%20Course%20Description%20and%20Text%20Book%20Selection.pdf>

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<http://www.smallchurchleaders.org/book-reviews/the-strategically-small.html>

https://www.garrett.edu/sites/default/files/assets/124-E%20Transformative%20Leadership_Turner2020.pdf

<http://www.providencecc.edu/academics/faculty/jim-belcher/>

<https://www.amazon.com/Brandon-J.-OBrien/e/B0038HR4M4>

[Images for Brandon J. O'Brien, author](#)

<https://www.amazon.com/Jim-Belcher/e/B002D1B04Y>

https://www.goodreads.com/author/quotes/2993632.Jim_Belcher

[Images for Jim Belcher, author](#)

[Images for The Strategically Small Church: Intimate, Nimble, Authentic, and Effective \[Brandon J. O'Brien, Jim Belcher\]](#)

The Tough Truth about Our Small Churches | Ministry Matters™

What Jason experienced as love, community, and charming, homespun fidelity in his small church I have more often found to be deadly, club-like interiority, insufferable triviality, and hostility toward newcomers. The small congregation can be a marvelous work of God, a people who stick to the basic tasks of Christ's mission and keep the main thing the main thing. However, in the United Methodist Church, the small church can also exercise a stranglehold upon the denomination.

<https://www.ministrymatters.com/all/article/entry/4096/the-tough-truth-about-our-small-churches>

[Images for The Tough Truth about Our Small Churches | Ministry Matters™](#)

Thriving (Small Membership) Churches

Rev. Martin Halom, St. John's Lutheran, Bloomer, and Rev. Melinda Halom, Bethel Lutheran, New Auburn

Is your church the talk of the town? Could it be? Come hear about the stories of how Bethel-New Auburn and St. John's-Bloomer have a renewed sense of purpose and mission! Whether you have a new pastor or not, new life can be in your future and your church can be the talk of the town in a positive way. "Blaze, Spirit, blaze, set our hearts on fire."

2014 Walking Together - June 7, 2014 Northwest Synod of Wisconsin

http://www.nswwi.org/webfiles/fnitools/documents/workshop_descriptions_4.30.2014.pdf

info@nswwi.org

[Images for Thriving \(Small Membership\) Churches](#)

http://www.stjohns-bloomer.org/?page_id=5

<http://www.bethellutherannewauburn.com/>

Turnaround and Beyond: A Hopeful Future for the Small Membership Church [Ronald K Crandall]

Since its publication in 1995, Ron Crandall's *Turnaround Strategies for the Small Church* has become required reading for anyone striving to revitalize the ministry of a small membership congregation. That book was built on extensive interviews and studies conducted in dozens of small membership churches, across several denominations that had experienced significant turnaround. In a new study, Crandall has now returned to those congregations to see what it takes to make the turnaround work over a period of years. He has also interviewed leaders from several new congregations to enrich the book's view of what makes for a successful turnaround in the small membership congregation. Learning much from both churches who maintained significant growth in numbers and ministry, and those that failed to do so, he offers even more helpful insight to any congregational leader seeking to take a small membership church into a new phase of witness and mission.

<http://www.amazon.com/Turnaround-Beyond-Hopeful-Future-Membership/dp/0687646995>

<https://www.goodreads.com/book/show/6817850-turnaround-and-beyond>

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<https://bookstore.upperroom.org/Author/Default.aspx?AuthorId=58143>

https://www.amazon.com/s?ie=UTF8&page=1&rh=n%3A283155%2Cp_27%3ARon%20Crandall

http://www.goodreads.com/author/show/2910153.Ron_Crandall

[Images for Ronald K Crandall, author](#)

[Images for Turnaround and Beyond: A Hopeful Future for the Small Membership Church \[Ronald K Crandall\]](#)

Turnaround Strategies for the Small Church [Ron Crandall, Herb Miller]

In *Turnaround Strategies for the Small Church*, the author shows what kind of leadership, evangelism, and outreach will bring about a desirable turnaround. He provides specific actions that will develop the skills of those who minister in the life of a small church, and helps pastors and other church leaders evaluate their ministry objectively, thereby enhancing their daily practice of ministry. [Author also]: includes chapters on leadership, evangelism, and community outreach; presents twelve key factors for turning around a congregation; focuses on how to educate pastors for small church calls and assignments; names obstacles to the turnaround and presents steps for overcoming barriers; evaluates and illustrates special approaches to discipleship.

http://books.google.com/books/about/Turn_Around_Strategies_for_the_Small_Church.html?id=zgOFNgAACAAJ

<http://www.amazon.com/Turnaround-Strategies-Small-Church-Crandall/dp/0687004675>

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<https://www.christianbook.com/turnaround-strategies-for-the-small-church/ronald-crandall/9780687004676/pd/7004675>

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<https://www.ruralministry.net/books-on-rural-america-and-ministry>

[Images for Turnaround Strategies for the Small Church \[Ron Crandall, Herb Miller\]](#)

25 Turnaround Strategies for Small-Membership Congregations – Parish Paper

How to Use This Resource

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Study/Discussion/Planning Session #1

I. The Small-Church Paradox

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II. How Can Small Churches Move toward Their Full Potential?

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III. Leading a Small Church Is More Complex than Leading a Large One

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IV. Small Churches Have a Unique Leadership Structure

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V. Small Churches Exhibit Unique Behavior Patterns

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VI. Small Churches Serve under Unique Sociological Pressures

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VII. Small Churches Face Unique Growth Obstacles

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VIII. Small Churches Have Unique Ministry Abilities

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Study/Discussion/Planning Sessions #2, 3, 4, 5, & 6

IX. Twenty-five Turnaround Strategies for Small Churches

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X. The Bottom Line

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IX. Twenty-five Turnaround Strategies for Small Churches

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Church Effectiveness Nuggets: Volume 14 - 25 Turnaround Strategies for Small-Membership Congregations – Parish Paper

<http://www.theparishpaper.com/files/resources/Church%20Effectiveness%20Nuggets-%20Volume%2014%20.pdf>

<https://www.theparishpaper.com/sites/default/files/resources/Church%20Effectiveness%20Nuggets-%20Volume%2014%20.pdf>

<https://www.theparishpaper.com/free-resources> Church Effective Nugget, Volume 14: 25 Turnaround Strategies for Small-Membership Congregations

[Images for 25 Turnaround Strategies for Small-Membership Congregations – Parish Paper](#)

<http://www.wisconsinumc.org/Resources/Documents/ParishPaper/ParishPaper-Apr17.pdf> Small Is Big Again: Reclaiming Small Church Ministry – The Parish Paper

<http://www.ucciaconf.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/12/PP-4-2017-Reclaiming-Small-Church-Ministry.pdf>
<http://www.wisconsinumc.org/connections/conference-news/the-parish-paper> April 2017 - "Small Is Big Again: Reclaiming Small Church Ministry"

Images for Reclaiming Small Church Ministry

<https://www.macucc.org/parishpaper> 2018 [Finding Significance as a Small Church \(March\)](https://www.macucc.org/files/files/parish_paper/2018/pp+++3+++2018+finding+significance+as+a+small+church.pdf)

https://www.macucc.org/files/files/parish_paper/2018/pp+++3+++2018+finding+significance+as+a+small+church.pdf

<https://www.theparishpaper.com/back-issue/keys-growing-small-church>

http://www.abcgrr.org/Current_PM/Aug2012/P-P-Keys-to-Growing-a-Small-Church.pdf

<http://www.wisconsinumc.org/connections/conference-news/the-parish-paper> August 2012 - "Keys to Growing a Small Church"

Images for Growing a Small Church

<http://www.wisconsinumc.org/connections/conference-news/the-parish-paper>

<http://www.wcucc.org/resource-center/church-management/parish-paper/>

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27 best Small churches images on Pinterest

<https://www.pinterest.com/charliec522/small-churches/>

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<https://www.pinterest.co.uk/annlucett/small-churches/>

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Understanding the Small Church (pt. 1) | Small Church Leadership Network

Being effective in the small church comes when the leadership first accepts the people for who they are and learns to value the way they express their faith. Too often new pastors come in with the idea that they must drastically alter the people and drag them kicking and screaming into the modern church movement. This not only results in frustration in both the leadership and the people, but it involves a rejection of many of the key values that bind the small church together.

<http://www.smallchurchleaders.org/the-small-church-shepherd/understanding-the-small.html>

<http://www.smallchurchleaders.org/the-small-church-shepherd/understanding-the-small-2.html>

Images for Understanding the Small Church (pt. 1) | Small Church Leadership Network

What's Good About the Smaller Church? | Lookout Magazine

Small churches operate differently from big churches. The church of Christ on earth may be essentially, intentionally, and constitutionally one, but church families don't all have the same traits. Small congregations (less than 250 in worship) have unique traits they can use to contribute significantly to Christ's church on earth.

<http://www.lookoutmag.com/whats-good-about-the-smaller-church/>

Images for What's Good About the Smaller Church? | Lookout Magazine

Where 20 or 30 Are Gathered: Leading Worship in the Small Church (Vital Worship, Healthy Congregations) [Peter G. Bush, H. Christine O'Reilly]

While worship is the primary purpose of all churches, worship in the small church is distinctive. Whether a house church, a new church plant, a rural church along a country road, or a city church whose neighborhood demographics have shifted, these small faith communities present unique opportunities and challenges for worship leaders. Peter Bush and Christine O'Reilly draw on their passion and experience equipping lay people to plan and lead worship to answer the question, what makes for effective worship. This book speaks to the challenges and opportunities of leading worship in a family-sized congregation, whether in rural, suburban, or urban contexts. The authors discuss the characteristics of small churches, the variety of ways they are organized, the joys and challenges of worship and preaching in small congregations, and best worship practices.

<http://www.amazon.com/Where-20-Are-Gathered-Congregations/dp/1566993229>

http://www.goodreads.com/book/show/1460110.Where_20_or_30_Are_Gathered

http://books.google.com/books/about/Where_20_Or_30_Are_Gathered.html?id=m5EUAAAACAAJ

<http://worship.calvin.edu/resources/publications/where-20-or-30-are-gathered/>

<http://www.ctmresourcing.org.au/where-20-or-30-are-gathered>

http://www.goodreads.com/author/show/1264314.Peter_George_Bush

Images for Where 20 or 30 Are Gathered: Leading Worship in the Small Church (Vital Worship, Healthy Congregations) [Peter G. Bush, H. Christine O'Reilly]

<http://www.evangelicalfellowship.ca/Page.aspx?pid=6470>

<http://www.saintnicks.com/upload/churchgrowth/TAG%20Team%20Planning%20Guide.PDF>

<http://www.lifeandleadership.com/ministry-resources/church-leadership-strategies-small-churches.html>

<https://alban.org/archive/vital-worship-healthy-congregations/>

<https://rowman.com/Action/SERIES/RL/RL3VWO/Vital-Worship-Healthy-Congregations>

<https://www.librarything.com/series/The+Vital+Worship,+Healthy+Congregations+Series>
[Images for Vital Worship, Healthy Congregations](#)

Worship in Small Membership Churches - Robin Knowles Wallace, Terry R. Heck.

Small membership churches are the perfect size for a variety of worship experiences. The authors use their many years of worshipping in and working with small membership churches to focus on creating transforming worship within small membership churches and their particular strengths. Wallace and Heck state: Living in the tension, of small numbers and large hopes, of knowing our congregations and wanting to include others, of long-time faith and newborn Christians, gives us energy for the work of encountering the living God through the risen Christ in the power of the Holy Spirit in worship. This book provides readers with a variety of tools for worship in small congregations, such as resources for worship planning, plans for the church year, altar settings, hospitality, children's sermons, ushering, serving communion, and many of the best practices in worship. Taking seriously the gifts of ministry in small membership congregations will change how members participate in the body of Christ.

<https://www.amazon.com/Worship-Small-Membership-Churches-Wallace/dp/0881775002>
<https://www.goodreads.com/book/show/2710826-worshipping-in-the-small-membership-church>
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Worshipping in the Small Membership Church - Google Books Result
<http://www.lifeandleadership.com/ministry-resources/church-leadership-strategies-small-churches.html>
<https://bookauthority.org/books/best-membership-books>
<https://www.christianbook.com/apps/easyfind?Ntk=author&Ntt=Robin%20Knowles%20Wallace>
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[Images for robin knowles wallace, author](#)
http://www.goodreads.com/author/show/4120559.Terry_R_Heck
[Images for Terry R. Heck, author](#)
[Images for Worship in Small Membership Churches - Robin Knowles Wallace, Terry R. Heck.](#)

Youth Ministry in Small Churches by Rick Chromey (Author)

Build a successful youth ministry in a small church. You can develop an effective youth ministry with only a few teenagers. Learn about the special dynamics of a small church. Discover what a small church can do that a big church can't. See the opportunities of ministry in a small church. And get practical answers to tough questions like these: Why is small church youth ministry so tough? Should I cancel a meeting if only one or two kids show up? Where can I find good no- or low-cost resources? Should I combine junior and senior high groups? How can I find volunteers when everybody's so busy? What activities really work with small groups? Plus, you'll get 28 ready-to-use, involving activities to use with just a few kids.



<https://www.amazon.com/Youth-Ministry-Small-Churches-Chromey/dp/093152976X>
https://www.goodreads.com/book/show/1865027.Youth_Ministry_in_Small_Churches
<http://downloads.groupp.com/gp/download/samples/9780764440519/9780764440519.pdf>
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<https://www.thriftbooks.com/a/rick-chromey/224306/>
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[Images for Rick Chromey \(Author\)](#)
[Images for Youth Ministry in Small Churches by Rick Chromey \(Author\)](#)