

# Interim Ministry Resources

## Chapter 13 Identity

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# Resources

## 1) Fitness Driven Congregation

### A Community Network Approach to Fitness Ministry | Faith & Fitness

Sit to Be Fit, Faith Driven Fitness and LifeWeigh are wellness programs that have been offered throughout the “Our Whole Community” cluster of congregations.

<http://faithandfitness.net/node/2809>

### Images for A Community Network Approach to Fitness Ministry | Faith & Fitness

[www.fithandfitness.net/](http://www.fithandfitness.net/) Faith & Fitness Magazine

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

<http://faithandfitness.net/content/church-health-center-%E2%80%93-93-more-wellness-service>

### Faith And Fitness (FaithNFitness4) on Pinterest

<https://www.pinterest.com/FaithNFitness4/>

Images for faith and fitness pinterest

<https://www.pinterest.com/cntrymomma/faith-fitness/>

<https://www.pinterest.com/fitcoachmaria/faith-and-fitness/>

<https://www.pinterest.com/crnflakebean/faith-fitness/>

<https://www.pinterest.com/sarahpiquard/faith-fitness/>

<https://www.pinterest.com/wotpministries/faith-fitness/>

<https://www.pinterest.com/Sokie63/faith-fitness/>

<https://www.pinterest.com/josephmscott/faith-and-fitness/>

<https://www.pinterest.com/annettemkeaton/faith-fitness/>

<https://www.pinterest.com/rebekahkfit/faith-and-fitness-motivation-rebekahkfaith/>

<https://www.pinterest.com/ConcitaThomas/faith-fitness/>

<https://www.pinterest.com/lowcarbhiparty/faith-fitness/>

[https://www.pinterest.com/kasey\\_k/faith-and-fitness-encouragement/](https://www.pinterest.com/kasey_k/faith-and-fitness-encouragement/)

[Images for Images for pinterest/faith-and-fitness-encouragement](#)

### Fit & faithful - Living Lutheran

*Living Lutheran's* January cover story looks at how wellness programs enrich and extend congregations' ministries. By participating in these programs, parishioners can improve their health, build community and grow in their faith. From yoga to cardio activities to exercise drumming and more, this story covers the many ways wellness programs are becoming important parts of congregational life. [Read the article](#) and participate in discussion with a corresponding [study guide](#).

Seeds Monthly January 2019 For leaders of ELCA congregations and synods

<https://www.livinglutheran.org/2019/01/fit-and-faithful/>

<https://www.livinglutheran.org/2018/12/study-guide-fit-faithful/>

<https://livinglutheran.blob.core.windows.net/cdn/wp-content/uploads/2018/12/1901fitness.pdf>

Images for Fit & faithful - Living Lutheran

<https://www.livinglutheran.org/category/congregational-life/>

<https://www.livinglutheran.org/2016/01/enrich-prayer-life-yoga/>

### Is American Christianity Becoming a Workout Cult? - The Daily Beast

Some Christians are directly applying **CrossFit's** workouts and strategies to their faith. There are **Christian-oriented CrossFit gyms**, such as CrossFit 27:17, named after a verse from Proverbs (“As iron sharpens iron, so one man sharpens another”), and CrossFit For My Savior (“Because My Savior Was Fit for the Cross”).

<http://www.thedailybeast.com/articles/2014/04/27/is-american-christianity-becoming-a-workout-cult.html>

Images for Christian-oriented CrossFit gyms

<https://www.theboxmag.com/box-blogs/the-cross-in-crossfit-combining-faith-and-fitness-9710>

Images for crossfit-combining-faith-and-fitness

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

<http://cal-catholic.com/the-crossfit-ification-of-christianity/>

<https://faithrx.org/> FAITH RXD | Uniting Faith & Fitness

### Some churches find missional niche in health and wellness

COLUMBIA, S.C. (BNG)—Churches seeking ministry niches are eyeing health and **fitness** facilities and ministries. But the missional use of wellness is nothing new in American Christianity.

<https://www.baptiststandard.com/news/baptist/17456-some-churches-find-missional-niche-in-health-and-wellness>

Images for churches find missional niche in health and wellness

### The Fitness-Driven Church | Christianity Today

Across the country, congregations are whipping members into shape with highly marketed, faith-based health programs. What's right—and troubling—about the trend.

<http://www.christianitytoday.com/ct/2013/june/fitness-driven-church.html>  
[Images for Fitness-Driven Church | Christianity Today](#)  
<https://www.christianitytoday.com/ct/archives/>

#### What Does the Bible Say About Physical Fitness? - OpenBible.info

[https://www.openbible.info/topics/physical\\_fitness](https://www.openbible.info/topics/physical_fitness)  
[Images for Bible and Physical Fitness](#)  
<http://biblicalfitness.com/fitness-and-faith/>  
[Images for fitness-and-faith](#)  
<https://www.kingjamesbibleonline.org/Bible-Verses-About-Physical-Fitness/>  
[www.beliefnet.com/faiths/galleries/7-bible-verses-to-motivate-you-to-exercise.aspx](http://www.beliefnet.com/faiths/galleries/7-bible-verses-to-motivate-you-to-exercise.aspx)  
[Images for bible-verses-to-motivate-you-to-exercise](#)  
<https://www.compellingtruth.org/Bible-exercise-health.html>  
<https://www.unitedbiblesocieties.org/7-scriptures-health-exercise-sports/>  
[Images for scriptures-health-exercise-sports](#)

## 2) Flagship Congregation

#### Excellence in Ministry: Twelve Flagship Congregations Tell Their Story: Michael L. Sherer

Twelve churches present models for excellence and effectiveness in ministry.  
<http://www.amazon.com/Excellence-Ministry-Twelve-Flagship-Congregations/dp/0895368668>  
<https://www.livinglutheran.org/author/michael-l-sherer/>  
<https://www.amazon.com/Michael-L.-Sherer/e/B001KMMGB8>  
[https://www.goodreads.com/author/list/737101.Michael\\_L\\_Sherer](https://www.goodreads.com/author/list/737101.Michael_L_Sherer)  
[Images for Michael L. Sherer, author](#)  
[Images for Excellence in Ministry: Twelve Flagship Congregations Tell Their Story: Michael L. Sherer](#)

#### Flagship Church Label | Susan Beaumont and Associates

I have noticed a common set of characteristics (both good and bad) that show up when I'm working in a congregation that has classified itself, or been classified by others, as "one of our flagship churches". These congregations bear an incredible capacity for excellence. They are resource rich with highly talented staff teams. Clergy leaders from these congregations often go on to become Bishops or Executives within their middle judicatories. Flagship churches are generally regarded as pillars within their communities, offering some of the finest social justice and outreach ministries. Their board members are movers and shakers within the world of business and non-profits. Some think of themselves as resource congregations for other, smaller congregations in the area. However, few of the programs created by a flagship church are reproducible in a smaller church context.  
<http://www.susanbeaumont.com/2009/12/10/flagship-church-label/>  
[Images for Flagship Church Label | Susan Beaumont and Associates](#)

## 3) Friendly Congregation

#### Fourteen Characteristics of Genuinely Friendly Churches – ThomRainer.com

Here is the simple but profound difference I found in GFCs and all other churches: *A genuine friendly church has a guest return rate six times greater than other churches.*  
<http://thomrainer.com/2014/11/fourteen-characteristics-genuinely-friendly-churches/>  
[Images for Fourteen Characteristics of Genuinely Friendly Churches – ThomRainer.com](#)  
<http://thomrainer.com/2016/10/churches-really-arent-friendly-quests-rainer-leadership-265/>  
<http://thomrainer.com/2016/07/seven-things-church-quests-telling-us/> #5  
<http://thomrainer.com/2016/09/six-reasons-church-members-may-not-friendly-quests/>  
<http://thomrainer.com/2014/11/top-ten-ways-churches-drive-away-first-time-quests/> #2  
<http://thomrainer.com/2017/03/five-fascinating-lessons-secret-guest-church-worship-services/>  
<http://thomrainer.com/2013/03/ten-commandments-for-guest-friendly-church-members/>  
<http://thomrainer.com/2015/09/nine-essentials-for-guest-friendly-church-bulletins/>  
<http://www.lifeway.com/pastors/2017/06/28/six-simple-things-first-time-church-quests-like/> #1  
<http://www.bhpublishinggroup.com/products/becoming-a-welcoming-church>  
<http://www.outreachmagazine.com/author/thom/page/3>  
[Images for thom rainer \(author\)](#)

#### The Attractional Church: Growth Through a Refreshing, Relational, and Relevant Church Experience by Billy Hornsby Be Genuinely **Friendly**

The first thing you notice at New Life Church is that everyone is *friendly*. Not the kind of friendly where you feel forced to wear a smile and repeat an empty phrase or a rehearsed line, but the kind you get when you put old friends together in a room. There is a genuine sense that the people who go to New Life actually care about you and your family and what's happening in your life.  
<https://books.google.com/books?isbn=0446574678> Chapter Six The Power of Relationships  
<https://www.amazon.com/Attractional-Church-Refreshing-Relational-Experience/dp/B007PM0KS8>  
<http://ministrytodaymag.com/index.php/features/19072-the-attractional-church>

[Images for Billy Hornsby, author](#)

[Images for The Attractional Church: Growth Through a Refreshing, Relational, and Relevant Church Experience by Billy Hornsby Be Genuinely Friendly](#)

#### 4) Generations

##### **A House Divided: Bridging the Generation Gaps in Your Church by Bob Whitesel (Author) Kent R. Hunter (Author)**

Generational differences are nothing new in church. There have always been groups and subgroups within a congregation, divided according to age. Yet with the possible exception of their educational programs, congregations have generally practiced a "one-size-fits-all" approach to ministry and worship. Whichever group is dominant--generally the older members, although it can be the younger--sets the tone for musical styles, preaching emphases, and outreach focus. Frequently the non-dominant groups grow restless and dissatisfied, leaving the church to find better opportunities of service and worship elsewhere. The result is often stagnation and decline. Bob Whitesel and Kent R. Hunter wrote this book to provide congregations with a clear understanding of the problems caused by generation gaps as well as to offer ideas for transforming the church into a healthy, growing, tri-generational structure.

Key Features: Author recognition; Addresses a very timely issue in a creative way; Offers a specific strategy for implementation in local churches

Key Benefits: Readers will gain an understanding of the major differences between the three major age/generational groups in most congregations; Readers will be offered a specific and practical seven step strategy for developing a healthy tri-generational church; Readers will find ways to not only live in peace within the household of faith, but to minister more effectively to community and world.

<http://www.amazon.com/House-Divided-Bridging-Generation-Church/dp/0687091047>

[https://books.google.com/books/about/A\\_House\\_Divided.html?id=QrkBAAACAAJ](https://books.google.com/books/about/A_House_Divided.html?id=QrkBAAACAAJ)

<https://www.christianbook.com/house-divided-bridging-generation-your-church/9780687091041/pd/091041>

<https://churchhealthwiki.wordpress.com/tag/a-house-divided-book/>

<https://churchhealthwiki.wordpress.com/tag/barna/>

<https://www.indwes.edu/seminary/academics/faculty/bob-whitesel>

[http://www.abingdonpress.com/bob\\_whitesel](http://www.abingdonpress.com/bob_whitesel)

<https://churchhealthexpert.wordpress.com/about-bob-whitesel-d-min-ph-d/>

<https://www.wesleyan.org/267/qa-with-church-health-expert-author-bob-whitesel>

<http://www.seedbed.com/author/bobwhitesel/>

<https://www.amazon.com/Bob-Whitesel/e/B001ITVUPG>

[http://www.goodreads.com/author/show/241612.Bob\\_Whitesel](http://www.goodreads.com/author/show/241612.Bob_Whitesel)

[Images for Bob Whitesel \(Author\)](#)

<https://kentrhunter.wordpress.com/>

<https://www.thriftbooks.com/a/kent-r-hunter/402813/>

<http://churchdoctorministries.com/author/kent-r-hunter/>

<https://www.amazon.com/Kent-R.-Hunter/e/B001HMOV78>

[https://www.goodreads.com/author/list/241611.Kent\\_R\\_Hunter](https://www.goodreads.com/author/list/241611.Kent_R_Hunter)

[Images for Kent R. Hunter \(Author\)](#)

[Images for A House Divided: Bridging the Generation Gaps in Your Church by Bob Whitesel \(Author\) Kent R. Hunter \(Author\)](#)

##### **ARE YOU SERIOUS?! WHY IN THE WORLD DO YOU THINK THAT WAY?!**

Have you ever noticed that different **generations** have different viewpoints based on their life experience? Those who grew up in the depression have a higher value in keeping things just in case there might be a need. Those who are younger wonder why someone would waste their money in repairing a refrigerator when they can get a new one for less! Come and experience the wealth of insights from across the generations as we learn from each other and discover the experiences that shape the way we think and behave, especially when making financial decisions. But be warned, you might walk away with a new perspective on life!

**[PDF] ALL INFO 2016.xlsx - Northwest Synod of Wisconsin**

[http://www.nswsi.org/webfiles/fnitools/documents/all\\_info\\_2016.pdf](http://www.nswsi.org/webfiles/fnitools/documents/all_info_2016.pdf)

[info@nswsi.org](mailto:info@nswsi.org)

[http://www.nswsi.org/webfiles/fnitools/documents/all\\_info\\_2016\\_links.pdf](http://www.nswsi.org/webfiles/fnitools/documents/all_info_2016_links.pdf)

**Conversation Starters**

[Images for different generations have different viewpoints based on their life experience](#)

##### **Becoming Fire: Spiritual Writing From Rising Generations by Alexander Levering Kern (Author)**

'Becoming Fire' is the first anthology to highlight - in diverse genres - a range of spiritual voices from "rising generations" (Generations X and Y, millennials, and the Hip Hop generation) alongside selected works from older mentors. Together these authors plumb the depths of religious experience, scripture and tradition to articulate powerful insights into young adult faith and the universal search for God, self, vocation, and transcendence in a broken world.

Through story and metaphor, the 48 authors gathered here address great themes in the spiritual life: prayer and desire, covenant and grace, creativity and calling, identity and freedom. Many of these writers speak passionately to the critical issues of our times: war in Iraq and Afghanistan, AIDS, globalization and consumption, racism and homelessness, and conflicts over human sexuality and religious authority. Still others tackle the urgent tasks of re-imagining theology, spiritual practice, writing, and worship for the 21st century. An essential resource for educators, ministers, writers and seekers, 'Becoming Fire' maps the landscape of

postmodern spirituality and charts exciting directions for emergent faith and prophetic witness. In an age when language and religious have become weapons, this volume speaks a subversion and healing word.

<https://www.amazon.com/Becoming-Fire-Spiritual-Writing-Generations/dp/097717820X>

<http://209.240.81.7/publications/online/becoming-fire/>

<http://www.ants.edu/publications/online/becoming-fire/>

<http://www.northeastern.edu/spirituallife/bio/>

<https://books.google.com/books?isbn=1329161440>

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<https://www.friendsjournal.org/author/Alexander%20Levering%20Kern>

<https://www.huffingtonpost.com/author/alexander-levering-kern-915>

Images for Alexander Levering Kern (Author)

Images for Becoming Fire: Spiritual Writing From Rising Generations by Alexander Levering Kern (Author)

### Beyond Baby Boomers: Two New Generations - Global Christian Center

The Baby Boomers (b. 1946-64) have been followed by the Busters (b. 1965-83) and the new "Millennial Generation" (b. 1984-2002). The Busters are today's 20s and 30s, largely children of Baby Boomers. Today's teens are the first part of the Millennial Generation which reaches downward to today's preschoolers.

<http://globalchristiancenter.com/church-resources/church-planting/24606-beyond-baby-boomers-two-new-generations>

Images for Beyond Baby Boomers: Two New Generations - Global Christian Center

Images for Baby Boomers (b. 1946-64)

Images for Busters (b. 1965-83)

Images for Millennial Generation (b. 1984-2002)

### Claiming the Beatitudes: Nine Stories from a New Generation [Anne Sutherland Howard]

Anne Howard interprets each beatitude through the story of a present-day student as well as Jesus' beatitudes. She brings the beatitudes into our experience now, beautifully, readably, so we can answer the question, "Where do you see God's presence in our world?" And, so, we can say, "yes, thanks" to God's invitation to participate.

-Glen Harold Stassen, Lewis B. Smedes Professor of Christian Ethics, Fuller Theological Seminary

Can the beatitudes come alive for us today? The moving stories and compelling reflections of *Claiming the Beatitudes* say "Yes!" The questions at the end of each chapter offer true-to-life challenges. The entire book is an invitation to conversation and conversion.

-Bishop Frederick Borsch, Professor of New Testament, Chair of Anglican Studies, Lutheran Theological Seminary at Philadelphia

In troubled times, hope often seems elusive, a vague promise of the future. But Anne Howard transforms hope into a tangible practice of faith by sharing the stories of young adults who take Jesus' beatitudes both literally and seriously. Read *Claiming the Beatitudes* and glimpse a transformational wisdom for church that grounds life in God's beauty, truth, and goodness.

-Diana Butler Bass, author, *Christianity for the Rest of Us* and *A People's History of Christianity*

<http://www.amazon.com/Claiming-Beatitudes-Nine-Stories-Generation/dp/1566993849>

<https://www.goodreads.com/book/show/6260870-claiming-the-beatitudes>

<https://rowman.com/ISBN/9781566993845/Claiming-the-Beatitudes-Nine-Stories-from-a-New-Generation>

<https://books.google.com/books?isbn=1566994861>

[https://books.google.com/books/about/Claiming\\_the\\_Beatitudes.html?id=QNYJAwAAQBAJ](https://books.google.com/books/about/Claiming_the_Beatitudes.html?id=QNYJAwAAQBAJ)

<http://www.spiritualityandpractice.com/book-reviews/view/18888/claiming-the-beatitudes>

[http://www.thelutheran.org/article/article.cfm?article\\_id=8032](http://www.thelutheran.org/article/article.cfm?article_id=8032)

<http://stpaulcathedral.blogspot.com/2009/11/book-review-claiming-beatitudes-nine.html>

[http://www.huffingtonpost.com/anne-howard/doing-the-beatitudes-for- b\\_1307475.html](http://www.huffingtonpost.com/anne-howard/doing-the-beatitudes-for- b_1307475.html)

[http://day1.org/1592-the\\_rev\\_anne\\_sutherland\\_howard](http://day1.org/1592-the_rev_anne_sutherland_howard)

<https://www.amazon.com/Anne-Sutherland-Howard/e/B001ZESO3K>

Images for Anne Sutherland Howard

Images for Claiming the Beatitudes: Nine Stories from a New Generation [Anne Sutherland Howard]

### Congregational Connections: Uniting Six Generations in the Church by Carroll Anne Sheppard and Nancy Burton Dilliplane

"Want to figure out why the Boomers and GenXers in your congregation just can't seem to get along?

*Congregational Connections: Uniting Six Generations in the Church* is a breakthrough guidebook for our new society of six generational segments. The authors offer congregational leaders insights into the conflicts that are arising and give case studies that demonstrate why these conflicts occur. In simple prose, they explain why Older and Younger members inhabit two different realities--defined by e-technologies and worldview. They also suggest how Christian congregations may begin to resolve these revolutionary pressures.

<http://bookstore.xlibris.com/Products/SKU-0102186050/Congregational-Connections.aspx>

<http://www.amazon.com/Congregational-Connections-Uniting-Generations-Church/dp/1465344470>

<https://books.google.com/books?isbn=1465344489>

<http://ci.thecrg.org/resources/congregational-connections-uniting-six-generations-in-the-church>

<https://www.chapters.indigo.ca/en-ca/books/congregational-connections-uniting-six-generations/9781465344489-item.html?ikwsec=Books&ikwidx=0>

[http://www.heartsandmindsbooks.com/reviews/you\\_lost\\_me\\_david\\_kinnaman/](http://www.heartsandmindsbooks.com/reviews/you_lost_me_david_kinnaman/)

<http://www.philadelphiatheologicalinstitute.org/about>

<https://www.trinitybuckingham.org/staff/>  
<http://www.revwriter.com/revwriter-resource/uniting-six-generations-in-the-church/#.WCTFSPorKUK>  
<http://pastorkeithanderson.net/item/the-churchs-generational-log-jam-is-making-everybody-cranky>  
<http://www.gracememorial.ang-md.org/docs/publications/Easter%203%20April%2019%202015.pdf>  
Images for Carroll Anne Sheppard, author  
Images for Nancy Burton Dilliplane, author  
Images for Congregational Connections: Uniting Six Generations in the Church by Carroll Anne Sheppard and Nancy Burton Dilliplane

CROSS-GENERATIONAL MINISTRY: A GIFT OF WISDOM AND WONDER -BEN NATZKE & LAURA RAMLOW

[CIRCLES OF FAITH](#)  
[EDU-WORSHIP OUTLINE](#)  
[HOMEGROWN FAITH](#)  
[VIBRANT FAITH](#)  
[MILESTONES MINISTRY](#)  
[SPIRIT & TRUTH PUBLISHING](#)  
[ELCA/GLOCAL RESOURCES](#)  
[LIFELONG FAITH](#)

<http://nswswi.org/walking-together> [info@nswswi.org](mailto:info@nswswi.org)  
<http://nswswi.org/about-us/our-staff> DEACON LAURA RAMLOW ASSISTANT TO THE BISHOP COMMUNICATION AND FAITH FORMATION  
<https://www.facebook.com/laura.ramlow.5>

#### Faith Formation for the 21st Century - Lifelong Faith

Churches are finding it more and more difficult to accomplish these goals in the 21st century world. First, the religious landscape has changed dramatically over the past two decades and we see this in our congregations and in our families. Consider the following trends and how they impact your congregation and your family or household:

A growing **generational** diversity in America and in our church as a result of people living longer. We now have five distinct generational profiles, each with their own religious and spiritual needs, and unique learning preferences and styles: the iGeneration (born since 2000), Millennials (1980-1999), Generation X (1961-1979), Baby Boomers (1946-1960), and Builders (born before 1946).

[http://www.lifelongfaith.com/uploads/5/1/6/4/5164069/faith\\_formation\\_for\\_the\\_21st\\_century\\_-\\_article.pdf](http://www.lifelongfaith.com/uploads/5/1/6/4/5164069/faith_formation_for_the_21st_century_-_article.pdf)  
Images for Faith Formation for the 21st Century - Lifelong Faith  
<http://www.lifelongfaith.com/>  
Images for growing generational diversity in America and in our church

#### Faith Formation 2020: Designing the Future of Faith Formation – Kindle Edition by John Roberto (Author)

How can Christian congregations provide vibrant faith formation to address the spiritual and religious needs of all ages and generations over the next 10 years? How can churches envision the shape of faith formation in the year 2020 and design initiatives to respond proactively to the challenges and opportunities in the second decade of the 21st century? Churches across the United States are facing significant challenges in their efforts to provide vibrant faith formation for all ages and **generations**. The new environment in which Christian faith formation operates will demand new thinking and new models, practices, resources, and technologies to address the spiritual needs of all generations. Faith Formation 2020: Designing the Future of Faith Formation guides churches in imagining new directions for faith formation and engages leaders in designing faith formation for the second decade of the 21st century. The book presents four scenarios for envisioning the future of faith formation with 1) people of vibrant faith and active engagement in the church community, 2) people who participate occasionally but are not actively engaged or spiritually committed, 3) people who are spiritual but not religious, and 4) people who are uninterested in the spiritual life and unaffiliated with religion. The book offers practical strategies, ideas, and resources for targeting the spiritual and religious needs of people in all four scenarios.

<https://www.amazon.com/Faith-Formation-2020-Designing-Future-ebook/dp/B007387MZ8>  
<https://www.barnesandnoble.com/w/faith-formation-2020-john-roberto/1113647878?type=eBook>  
<https://www.lifelongfaith.com/faith-formation-2020.html>  
[https://www.lifelongfaith.com/uploads/5/1/6/4/5164069/\\_ff\\_2020\\_handout\\_-\\_charlotte.pdf](https://www.lifelongfaith.com/uploads/5/1/6/4/5164069/_ff_2020_handout_-_charlotte.pdf)  
<https://forthesomedaybook.wordpress.com/2013/07/27/book-review-faith-formation-2020/>  
<http://www.innovationfaith.com/>  
<https://www.biola.edu/talbot/ce20/database/john-roberto>  
<https://imnedu.org/lifelongfaith-john-roberto/>  
<http://www.faithformation2020.net/>  
[https://www.uua.org/sites/live-new.uua.org/files/the\\_death\\_of\\_sunday\\_school\\_and\\_the\\_future\\_of\\_faith\\_formation\\_ksweeney\\_june2017.pdf](https://www.uua.org/sites/live-new.uua.org/files/the_death_of_sunday_school_and_the_future_of_faith_formation_ksweeney_june2017.pdf)  
Images for Faith Formation 2020: Designing the Future Faith Formation by John Roberto

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#### 5 Surprising Characteristics of Churches That Are Actually Reaching the Next Generation – Carey Nieuwhof

Here are 5 things I've seen in churches that are killing it with people in their 20s and 30s:

<http://careynieuwhof.com/2015/10/5-surprising-characteristics-of-churches-that-are-actually-reaching-the-next-generation/>  
Images for 5 Surprising Characteristics of Churches That Are Actually Reaching the Next Generation – Carey Nieuwhof  
<http://careynieuwhof.com/2012/10/seven-ways-for-young-leaders-to-overcome-the-slacker-generation-label/>



<http://careynieuwhof.com/tag/how-to-understand-the-different-generations-in-your-church/>  
<http://careynieuwhof.com/2016/06/different-take-reaching-millennials/>  
<http://careynieuwhof.com/tag/reaching-a-new-generation/>  
<https://www.amazon.com/Carey-Nieuwhof/e/B003GJCLCM>  
[Images for carey nieuwhof \(author\)](#)

#### For a New Generation: A Practical Guide for Revitalizing Your Church by Lee D. Kricher (Author), Andy Stanley (Foreword)

How do you make sure that your church gets connected and stays connected to the next generation? In *For a New Generation*, author and pastor Lee Kricher outlines five practical change strategies for church leaders and members who are committed to reversing or avoiding church decline.

This book is not about changing your church's statement of faith. It is about evaluating and changing, as needed, your church's programs, ministries and practices to ensure the long-term health and vitality of your church. It is based on the assumption that accepting the status quo in a rapidly changing world is the greatest threat to your church's core mission and, perhaps, to the very survival of your church.

<https://www.amazon.com/New-Generation-Practical-Revitalizing-Church-ebook/dp/B01863JSEQ>  
<https://books.google.com/books?isbn=0310525233>  
<http://careynieuwhof.com/2016/08/episode101/> Turning Around a Dying Church – Lee Kricher on Setting a Church Up for the Next Generation  
<https://www.amazon.com/Lee-Kricher/e/B00I2SCEHE>  
[https://www.goodreads.com/author/show/14678351.Lee\\_D\\_Kricher](https://www.goodreads.com/author/show/14678351.Lee_D_Kricher)  
[Images for Lee D. Kricher \(Author\)](#)

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Andy\\_Stanley](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Andy_Stanley)  
[https://twitter.com/AndyStanley?ref\\_src=twsrc%5Egoogle%7Ctwcamp%5Eserp%7Ctwgr%5Eauthor](https://twitter.com/AndyStanley?ref_src=twsrc%5Egoogle%7Ctwcamp%5Eserp%7Ctwgr%5Eauthor)  
<https://www.amazon.com/Andy-Stanley/e/B002GPZ0X4>  
[https://www.goodreads.com/author/show/30954.Andy\\_Stanley](https://www.goodreads.com/author/show/30954.Andy_Stanley)  
[Images for Andy Stanley, author](#)  
[Images for For a New Generation: A Practical Guide for Revitalizing Your Church by Lee D. Kricher \(Author\), Andy Stanley \(Foreword\)](#)

#### Generation - Wikipedia

A generation is "all of the people born and living at about the same time, regarded collectively." It can also be described as, "the average period, generally considered to be about thirty years, during which children are born and grow up, become adults, and begin to have children of their own."

<https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Generation>  
[Images for Generation](#)

#### Generation X | 27gen

**Gen X – Young and Restless** Posted on July 26, 2011

Generation X – the 30 to mid-40 year olds in your church – are an extremely resourceful and independent group.

As with any of the generations discussed in this series, it is hard to define Generation X. There are some dominant themes that characterize segments of the group, and will be beneficial for leaders with Gen Xers on their team:

Freedom – many Xers reject workaholics and expect personal satisfaction from their jobs; their other interests are just as important as work

Issues of survival – national and global issues such as world hunger, famine, poverty, AIDS, pollution, and so on are large and complex; Gen Xers don't expect these issues to be solved and indeed, see their own quality of life declining in their lifetimes

Feeling neglected – more than 40 percent of Gen Xers are children of divorce; often from a single parent home. Isolated from family, they turned to technology to develop relationships.

<http://27gen.com/2011/07/26/gen-x-young-restless/>  
[Images for Gen X – Young and Restless](#)

#### Generation X | 27gen

**Silent Generation** Posted on July 28, 2011

Characteristics like the following served these generations well during dark and troubled times in our nation's history; they continue to serve by being passed along to younger generations. For the G.I. and Silent Generations, hard work, self-discipline, and sacrifice have paid off. They survived the difficult years of war and economic depression and believe that the affluence of the 1950s and 1960s proved that striving and surviving were the right way to go. Hard working. Savers. Frugal. Patriotic. Loyal. Private. Cautious. Respectful. Dependable. Stable. Intolerant.

<http://27gen.com/tag/silent-generation/>  
[Images for Silent Generation](#)

#### [PDF] Generational Differences Chart

<http://www.wmfc.org/uploads/GenerationalDifferencesChart.pdf>  
[Images for \[PDF\] Generational Differences Chart](#)

#### Generational Sensibility for Leadership Development | UUA.org

Generational Sensibility—one of the recommended [leadership development competencies](#)—includes:

<http://www.uua.org/leadership/sensibilities/generations>  
[Images for Generational Sensibility for Leadership Development | UUA.org](#)

#### Generations Approach Church Differently - NCLS Research

The Old Testament, the ancient Greeks, philosophers, poets, historians and sociologists through the centuries have described life in terms of the ebb and flow of generations. It has been called the most important conception in history.

Based on the results from the 2006 National Church Life Survey (NCLS), this paper provides a brief introduction to some of the generational differences among church attenders. It covers: trends since 2001, a summary of generational similarities and differences, aspects of church most valued, vision for the future, hopes for the congregation or parish, attitudes to innovation and change.

<http://www.ncls.org.au/default.aspx?sitemapid=6267>  
[Images for Generations Approach Church Differently](#)

#### Generations in Faith Together | intergenerational | Pinterest

<https://fi.pinterest.com/pin/181481059963066505/>  
[Images for Generations in Faith Together | intergenerational | Pinterest](#)  
<https://www.pinterest.com/crkraft/generations-ideas/>

#### Generations in History

Overview of Generational Archetypes throughout History (PDF, 6 pages)

[http://www.lifecourse.com/assets/files/gens\\_in\\_history.pdf](http://www.lifecourse.com/assets/files/gens_in_history.pdf)  
[Images for Overview of Generational Archetypes throughout History](#)

#### Intergenerational | Fuller Youth Institute

<https://fulleryouthinstitute.org/blog/intergenerational>  
<https://fulleryouthinstitute.org/intergenerational-ministry/>  
[Images for Intergenerational | Fuller Youth Institute](#)

#### Intergenerational Church Toolkit | Christian Reformed Church

<https://www.crcna.org/FaithFormation/intergenerational-church-toolkit>  
[Images for Intergenerational Church Toolkit | Christian Reformed Church](#)

#### Memos to Church Leaders of the Silent Generation – Percept Group

*Excerpted from Death of the Church, by Mike Regele with Mark Schulz*

To the Silents, we would plead that you not allow us boomers to push you out of the way in our moralistic zeal. The best hope we have that boomers will provide the kind of gift to the church that is most needed is if we are kept in check. We must mature a few more years. But this is a tall task for the Silents for we outnumber you significantly. The challenge you face is exacerbated by your own fears. As indicated earlier, you have enjoyed a long ride on the coattails of the postwar economic boom engineered by the builders. As that world passes away, you will find yourselves watching the activity from the sidelines, as if the world simply forgot you were there. If your pain and anger continues to manifest itself in blocking behaviors, you will only intensify the pressure to push you aside. The challenge will be to move through your anger and accept that it has been a good ride, but the ride is over — let emerge what must. If you Silents can do this, then you will be in a position to mitigate some of the boomer zeal and perhaps even mentor us in the ways of graciousness that we will need in our elder years.

<http://www.perceptgroup.com/Products/DOC/silents.htm>  
[Images for Church Leaders of the Silent Generation](#)

#### 79 Bible verses about Generations - Knowing Jesus

<https://bible.knowing-jesus.com/topics/Generations>  
[Images for bible and generations](#)  
[https://www.openbible.info/topics/generation\\_to\\_generation](https://www.openbible.info/topics/generation_to_generation)  
<https://www.kingjamesbibleonline.org/Bible-Verses-About-Generation-To-Generation/>  
[Images for Bible-Verses-About-Generation-To-Generation](#)  
<https://bibleresources.org/bridging-the-generation-gap/>  
[Images for bible/bridging-the-generation-gap](#)  
<https://www.gotquestions.org/generational-curses.html>  
<https://store.generations.org/products/what-does-the-bible-say-about-that>

#### Silent Generation (1925-1942) - Kruse Kronicle - Typepad

The Silent Generation was born into a world of crisis. They were compliant children who honored the sacrifice of their elders. Born too early to partake in the glory of their elders and too late to fully embrace a radical new generation coming behind them, the Silent Generation often found itself trapped between loyalty to old institutions of a passing generation and the desire for institutions with a friendly face from a younger generation.

#### Contemplating the intersection of work, the global economy, and Christian mission

[http://krusekronicle.typepad.com/kruse\\_kronicle/2005/11/silent\\_generati.html](http://krusekronicle.typepad.com/kruse_kronicle/2005/11/silent_generati.html)  
[Images for Silent Generation \(1925-1942\)](#)



### The Emerging Generation - Probe Ministries

Pastors, church leaders, and individual Christians have an opportunity to make a positive impact on this emerging generation. Hopefully this has given you a better understanding of this generation and provided practical ideas for ministry.

<https://www.probe.org/the-emerging-generation/?print=print>

[Images for Emerging Generation](#)

### The Generational Lens – Gagen MacDonald

<https://www.gagenmacdonald.com/wp-content/uploads/2015/06/LetGoandLead-Bridgeworks.pdf>

[Images for Generational Lens](#)

### The Intergenerational Church: Understanding Congregations from WWII to www.com [Peter Menconi]

In *The Intergenerational Church*, Peter Menconi shows you why understanding today's generations is crucial for the survival and thrival of the local church. But understanding the generations is not enough. In this book, you will learn how to: - Minimize generational tension. - Get all the generations moving in the same direction. - Develop leaders from all generations. - Deliver intergenerational preaching. - Cultivate intergenerational worship and community. - Stimulate intergenerational mission and outreach.

<http://www.amazon.com/The-Intergenerational-Church-Understanding-Congregations/dp/1453734708>

<http://www.lifeandleadership.com/book-summaries/menconi-intergenerational-church.html>

<https://www.amazon.com/Peter-Menconi/e/B00J24ZEBU>

[http://www.goodreads.com/author/show/51457.Peter\\_Menconi](http://www.goodreads.com/author/show/51457.Peter_Menconi)

[Images for Peter Menconi, author](#)

[Images for The Intergenerational Church: Understanding Congregations from WWII to www.com \[Peter Menconi\]](#)

### The Six Living Generations in America - Marketing Teacher

In America, there are six living generations, which are six fairly distinct groups of people.

<http://www.marketingteacher.com/the-six-living-generations-in-america/>

<http://www.marketingteacher.com/answer-the-six-living-generations-in-america/>

<http://www.marketingteacher.com/exercise-the-six-living-generations-in-america/>

[Images for Six Living Generations in America](#)

<http://www.kahnconsulting.com/can-name-six-generations-consumers/>

<https://www.linkedin.com/pulse/six-living-generations-america-vera-k-fischer>

[https://www.har.com/blog\\_54532\\_the-six-living-generations-in-america](https://www.har.com/blog_54532_the-six-living-generations-in-america)

[www.qbjournal.org/six-thoughts-on-six-living-generations/](http://www.qbjournal.org/six-thoughts-on-six-living-generations/)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wlpWQBol2TM> Six Living Generations - Tuesday, June 16, 2015 - YouTube

### The Touch-Screen Generation - The Atlantic

Young children—even toddlers—are spending more and more time with digital technology. What will it mean for their development?

<http://www.theatlantic.com/magazine/archive/2013/04/the-touch-screen-generation/309250/>

[Images for Touch-Screen Generation - The Atlantic](#)

<https://www.psychologicalscience.org/news/the-touch-screen-generation.html>

[http://www.huffingtonpost.com/leslie-hendry/the-touchscreen-generatio\\_b\\_3006391.html](http://www.huffingtonpost.com/leslie-hendry/the-touchscreen-generatio_b_3006391.html)

[https://www.huffingtonpost.com/2013/03/22/touch-screen-generation\\_n\\_2932434.html](https://www.huffingtonpost.com/2013/03/22/touch-screen-generation_n_2932434.html)

<https://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/full/10.1111/apa.13707> Touchscreen generation: children's current media use, parental supervision methods and attitudes towards contemporary media

[Images for Touchscreen generation: children's current media use, parental supervision methods and attitudes towards contemporary media](#)

### Transcending Generations: A Field Guide to Collaboration in Parishes by Meredith Gould (Author)

*Transcending Generations* is a guide for church leaders seeking to communicate and collaborate with adults of all ages—beyond generations. In this new guide to being and doing church, sociologist and culture critic Meredith Gould focuses on issues shared by people of faith, regardless of chronological age, psychosocial development, or generational cohort.

In short, easy-to-read chapters and with her characteristic wit, Gould challenges readers to think in more nuanced ways about age to remove false barriers. Readers are guided through practical ways to move forward together while honoring authentic differences.

Includes questions for individual inquiry and group discussion.

<https://www.amazon.com/Transcending-Generations-Field-Collaboration-Parishes/dp/0814645623>

<https://www.goodreads.com/book/show/34448761-transcending-generations>

<https://litpress.org/Products/E4587/Transcending-Generations>

<https://www.cokesbury.com/product/9780814645628/transcending-generations/>

<https://imnedu.org/imn-library/transcending-generations-a-field-guide-to-collaboration-in-parishes/>

<https://books.google.com/books?isbn=0814645879>

<https://evandolive.com/2017/08/09/transcending-generations-endorsement/>

<https://www.linkedin.com/in/meredithgould>

<https://www.amazon.com/Meredith-Gould/e/B000APPI34>

[https://www.goodreads.com/author/show/216119.Meredith\\_Gould](https://www.goodreads.com/author/show/216119.Meredith_Gould)

[Images for meredith gould, author](#)

**Tribal Church: Ministering to the Missing Generation [Carol Howard Merritt]**

Carol Howard Merritt, a pastor in her mid-thirties, suggests a different way for churches to be able to approach young adults on their own terms. Outlining the financial, social, and familial situations that affect many young adults today, she describes how churches can provide a safe, supportive place for young adults to nurture relationships and foster spiritual growth. There are few places left in society that allows for real intergenerational connections to be made, yet these connections are vital for any church that seeks to reflect the fullness of the body of Christ.

Using the metaphor of a tribe to describe the close bonds that form when people of all ages decide to walk together on their spiritual journeys, Merritt casts a vision of the church that embraces the gifts of all members while reaching out to those who might otherwise feel unwelcome or unneeded. Mainline churches have much to offer young adults, as well as much to learn from them.

By breaking down artificial age barriers and building up intentional relationships, congregations can provide a space for all people to connect with God, each other, and the world.

<http://www.amazon.com/Tribal-Church-Ministering-Missing-Generation/dp/1566993474>  
[https://www.goodreads.com/book/show/2089331.Tribal\\_Church](https://www.goodreads.com/book/show/2089331.Tribal_Church)  
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<http://pres-outlook.org/2007/10/tribal-church-ministering-to-the-missing-generation/>  
<http://www.newchurch.org/about/news/impact365-2013.html>  
<http://covenantstpe.wordpress.com/2008/06/23/ministering-to-the-missing-generation/>  
[http://www.churchleadership.com/leadingideas/leaddocs/2007/281107\\_vignette.html](http://www.churchleadership.com/leadingideas/leaddocs/2007/281107_vignette.html)  
<http://sowhatfaith.com/2010/04/09/review-of-tribal-church/>  
[https://www.episcopalcafe.com/being\\_a\\_tribal\\_church/](https://www.episcopalcafe.com/being_a_tribal_church/)  
<https://alban.org/archive/ministering-to-the-missing-generation/>  
<http://www.christiancentury.org/article/2016-05/generation-generation>  
<http://www.christiancentury.org/blogs/archive/2014-07/intergenerational-living>  
<http://www.christiancentury.org/blogs/archive/2014-04/what-we-should-understand-about-generosity-new-generation>  
<http://www.christiancentury.org/blogs/archive/2013-08/why-doesn-t-anyone-care-about-generation-x>  
<http://www.christiancentury.org/blogs/archive/2011-12/generational-road-blocks>  
<http://www.christiancentury.org/blogs/archive/2011-11/ten-church-models-new-generation>  
<http://www.christiancentury.org/ministry/Church-in-the-Making>  
<http://www.christiancentury.org/blogs/archive/2012-11/avoiding-trappings-power>  
<http://www.christiancentury.org/blogs/archive/2015-11/how-do-we-get-people-church>  
<https://www.christiancentury.org/magazine>  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dk5mR8jLYqI> Carol Howard Merritt Friday March 18th Part 1 - YouTube  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Ri5A81WSJnY> Carol Howard Merritt Friday March 18th Part 2 – YouTube  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=G9Dj7rGtCyM> Carol Howard Merritt Friday March 18th Part 4 – YouTube  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qdPVvjX9aE> Carol Howard Merritt: How to Welcome Young Adults to Church – YouTube  
<http://www.huffingtonpost.com/author/carol-howard-merritt>  
<https://books.google.com/books?isbn=1566997143>  
<https://www.lmtonline.com/news/article/Presbyterian-Church-to-welcome-Bridge-Pastor-in-14414053.php>  
<http://www.carolhowardmerritt.org/about.html>  
<https://www.christiancentury.org/About%20Carol%20Howard%20Merritt>  
<https://www.pinterest.com/pin/69805862947652378/>  
<https://twitter.com/carolhoward?lang=en>  
<https://www.faithandleadership.com/carol-howard-merritt>  
<https://www.amazon.com/Carol-Howard-Merritt/e/B001JRXF9Q>  
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Page 175

[Images for carol howard merritt, author](#)  
[Images for Tribal Church: Ministering to the Missing Generation \[Carol Howard Merritt\]](#)

**[PDF] Understanding Generational Differences.pdf**

For the first time in history, four generations are working side by side. Different values, experiences, styles, and activities create misunderstandings and frustrations.

<http://opi.mt.gov/pub/rti/EssentialComponents/Leadership/Present/Understanding%20Generational%20Differences.pdf>  
[Images for Understanding Generational Differences](#)

**What Does the Bible Say About That? – Generations**

<https://store.generations.org/products/what-does-the-bible-say-about-that>  
[Images for Bible and Generations](#)  
[https://www.openbible.info/topics/generation\\_to\\_generation](https://www.openbible.info/topics/generation_to_generation)  
<https://billhigh.com/legacy/7-verses-about-generations/>  
<https://bible.knowing-jesus.com/topics/Generations>  
<https://www.biblestudytools.com/dictionary/generation/>

<https://www.kingjamesbibleonline.org/Bible-Verses-About-Generation-To-Generation/>  
<https://www.desiringgod.org/messages/one-generation-shall-praise-your-works-to-another>  
<https://bible.org/seriespage/10-raising-godly-generations-deuteronomy-61-25>  
<https://sarata.com/bible/verses/about/generation.html>  
<https://www.gotquestions.org/generation-in-the-Bible.html>  
<https://www.biblestudytools.com/topical-verses/bible-verses-about-generational-curses/>

### When Generations Collide: Who They Are. Why They Clash. How to Solve the Generational Puzzle at Work [Lynne C. Lancaster, David Stillman]

If your workplace feels like a battle zone and colleagues sometimes act like adversaries, you are not alone. Today four generations glare at one another across the conference table, and the potential for conflict and confusion has never been greater.

Traditionalist employees with their "heads down, onward and upward" attitude live out a work ethic shaped during the Great Depression. Eighty million Baby Boomers vacillate between their overwhelming need to succeed and their growing desire to slow down and enjoy life.

Generation Xers try to prove themselves constantly yet dislike the image of being overly ambitious, disrespectful, and irreverent. Millennials, new to the workforce, mix savvy with social conscience and promise to further change the business landscape.

This insightful book provides hands-on methods to close the generation gaps. With effective tools to recruit, retain, motivate, and manage each generation, you can now create teamwork, not war, in today's high performance workplace . . . where at any age, productivity is what counts.

<http://www.amazon.com/When-Generations-Collide-Clash-Generational/dp/0066621070>  
[https://www.goodreads.com/book/show/273521.When\\_Generations\\_Collide](https://www.goodreads.com/book/show/273521.When_Generations_Collide)  
<http://www.harpercollins.com/web-sampler/9780061755897>  
[http://books.google.com/books/about/When\\_Generations\\_Collide.html?id=bn\\_mxJboF0IC](http://books.google.com/books/about/When_Generations_Collide.html?id=bn_mxJboF0IC)  
[http://relay.acsevents.org/site/DocServer/Generation\\_Clashpoints.pdf?docID=50210](http://relay.acsevents.org/site/DocServer/Generation_Clashpoints.pdf?docID=50210)  
[http://washingtonandco.com/pdf/when\\_generations\\_collide.pdf](http://washingtonandco.com/pdf/when_generations_collide.pdf)  
<http://www.executiveforum.com/PDFs/LancasterSynopsis.pdf>  
<http://humanresources.about.com/od/conflictresolution/a/generationquiz.htm>  
<http://www.refresher.com/lftgenerations.html>  
[http://www.summary.com/book-reviews/\\_The-M-Factor/](http://www.summary.com/book-reviews/_The-M-Factor/)  
<http://888fulcrum.com/when-generations-collide/>  
[http://www.leadingedgealliance.com/issues\\_old/2002/spring/generations/](http://www.leadingedgealliance.com/issues_old/2002/spring/generations/)  
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<https://www.publishersweekly.com/978-0-06-662106-7> Nonfiction Book Review  
<http://www.oregon.gov/DAS/LO/docs/whengenerationscollide.pdf>  
<https://www.harpercollins.com/cr-108538/lynne-c-lancaster>  
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[http://www.goodreads.com/author/show/159433.Lynne\\_C\\_Lancaster](http://www.goodreads.com/author/show/159433.Lynne_C_Lancaster)  
Images for Lynne C. Lancaster, author  
<https://www.linkedin.com/in/stillmandavid>  
[https://www.isbns.net/author/David\\_Stillman](https://www.isbns.net/author/David_Stillman)  
<http://www.genzguru.com/>  
<https://www.harpercollins.com/cr-108539/david-stillman>  
<http://www.apbspeakers.com/speaker/david-and-jonah-stillman>  
<https://www.leadingauthorities.com/speakers/david-stillman>  
<https://tantor.com/author/lynne-c-lancaster.html>  
<https://www.linkedin.com/in/lynnelancasterspeaker>  
<https://www.amazon.com/David-Stillman/e/B01N37C923>  
[http://www.goodreads.com/author/show/117847.David\\_Stillman](http://www.goodreads.com/author/show/117847.David_Stillman)  
Images for David Stillman, author  
Images for When Generations Collide [Lynne C. Lancaster, David Stillman]

### Who Are These Silent, Building, Great People?

These characteristics, as well as others, are some of the characteristics that have shaped the **Builder Generation**. Just as the Cold War, the explosion of the space shuttle Challenger, the collapse of the Berlin Wall, and the bombing of federal building in Oklahoma City in 1995 defined my formative years, the above events and characteristics define the Builder Generation. I want others to be sensitive to the issues that shaped and molded my fellow GenXers and myself, we should reciprocate that to other generations.

<http://blog.ncbaptist.org/worthyofthecalling/who-are-these-silent-building-great-people/>  
Images for Who Are These Silent, Building, Great People?  
Images for Builder Generation

## 5) Grace Filled Congregation

### Grace for the Journey: Practices and Possibilities for In-between Times by George B. Thompson, Beverly A. Thompson

The stories of these two congregations are echoed in mainline churches across the country. Is it possible to imagine that **grace-filled** possibilities await these two congregations? And what about your congregation? Can you imagine what you might discover in your church's in-between time?

<https://books.google.com/books?isbn=156699537X>

Page 2

[Images for grace-filled possibilities await these congregations](#)

Every community of faith journeys through periods of transition. In *Grace for the Journey: Practices and Possibilities for In-Between Times*, authors Beverly and George Thompson invite congregations to open themselves to the **grace-filled** possibilities that accompany these in-between periods. Drawing on biblical examples and contemporary experience, the authors invite the community of faith to see transitional times as an opportunity to develop deeper spiritual awareness of God's call on its communal life—a call that open up fresh potential even as it calls us to consider what familiar things may need to change. As pastors and teachers with experience in congregations across the country, the Thompsons serve as your travel guides, accompanying you and your congregation as you walk through the wilderness of transitional times to the hope-filled possibilities on the horizon.

<https://www.amazon.com/Grace-Journey-Practices-Possibilities-between/dp/1566994209>

<https://rowman.com/ISBN/9781566995375/Grace-for-the-Journey-Practices-and-Possibilities-for-In-between-Times>

<http://www.lifeandleadership.com/book-summaries/thompson-grace-for-the-journey.html>

<http://www.lifeandleadership.com/ministry-resources/leading-transition-and-change-in-church.html>

<https://alban.org/archive/preaching-the-transition/>

<http://wipfandstock.com/author/view/detail/id/10576/>

<https://www.booktopia.com.au/books-online/non-fiction-books/religion-beliefs/christianity/chRC-p1.html?keywordsFilter=grace%20for%20the%20journey>

<https://www.facebook.com/george.b.thompson.3>

<https://www.amazon.com/George-B.-Thompson/e/B001JRZMTM>

[https://www.goodreads.com/author/show/1104766.George\\_B\\_Thompson\\_Jr](https://www.goodreads.com/author/show/1104766.George_B_Thompson_Jr)

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[Images for George B. Thompson, Beverly A. Thompson](#)

[Images for Grace for the Journey: Practices and Possibilities for In-between Times by George B. Thompson, Beverly A. Thompson](#)

### Shame-based vs. Grace-based Churches - Care Net

One contrasted "Shame-based vs. God-directed Service," and the other "Shame-based vs. Grace-based Church Families."

<https://www.care-net.org/churches-blog/shame-based-vs.-grace-based-churches>

[Images for Shame-based vs. Grace-based Churches - Care Net](#)

### Shame-Less Congregations, Grace-Filled Congregations by Karen A. McClintock (Author)

In *Shame-Less Lives, Grace-Full Congregations*, author Karen McClintock invites readers to become shame-less, so they can assist others in a congregational system to find a life of joy and grace. McClintock explores shame as a theological and psychological emotion, defining it as "a feeling of unworthiness in the sight of God or significant others." While guilt says, "I made a mistake," shame says, "I am a mistake," she explains.

With skilled storytelling and gentle humor, McClintock takes readers on a journey in which we learn to recognize the many forms shame takes and explore and heal the shame of our own upbringing, particularly the shame-laden messages within our own religious teachings and practices. She illustrates the ways shame-laden leaders interact with congregations and ways congregational shame influences clergy and laity within the system. She shows us how to recognize shame in the behavior of other leaders and clergy around us, to reduce shame-reinforcing theology, and to provide alternative messages of hope and healing. She also guides us in liberating others from their shame, be they friends, colleagues, or people in a congregation where we worship and serve. McClintock advises readers that eradicating shame may take a few weeks, months, years, or a lifetime. This book is not written so that we can be free of all shame. It is written so we can become shame-less by acknowledging old patterns and consciously changing them, because shame-less leaders create shame-less congregations.



<http://www.amazon.com/Shame-Less-Lives-Grace-Full-Congregations-McClintock/dp/1566994241>

<http://www.lifeandleadership.com/book-summaries/mcclintock-shame-less-lives-grace-full-congregations.html>

[https://play.google.com/store/books/details/Karen\\_A\\_McClintock\\_Shame\\_Less\\_Lives\\_Grace\\_Full\\_Con?id=5\\_xYAwAAQBAJ](https://play.google.com/store/books/details/Karen_A_McClintock_Shame_Less_Lives_Grace_Full_Con?id=5_xYAwAAQBAJ)

[Shame-Less Lives, Grace-Full Congregations - Google Books Result](#)

<http://karenmcclintockauthor.com/shame-less-lives-grace-full-congregations/>

<https://alban.org/archive/shame-less-and-grace-full/>

<https://albanroundtable.wordpress.com/2012/01/16/resources-and-comments-in-response-to-shame-less-and-grace-full/>

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<http://www.elizabethpresbytery.org/Resource%20Center%20ON%20THE%20WEB/Alban%20Institute%20Resources%202012.pdf>

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<http://www.lifeandleadership.com/book-summaries>

<http://karenmcclintockauthor.com/contact/>  
<http://fortresspress.com/author/karen-mcclintock>  
[http://healthycongregation.com/?page\\_id=11](http://healthycongregation.com/?page_id=11)  
[http://healthycongregation.com/?page\\_id=78](http://healthycongregation.com/?page_id=78)  
<https://www.amazon.com/Karen-A.-McClintock/e/B001JS11U0>  
[http://www.goodreads.com/author/show/817494.Karen\\_A\\_McClintock](http://www.goodreads.com/author/show/817494.Karen_A_McClintock)  
[Images for Karen A. McClintock \(Author\)](#)  
[Images for Shame-Less Congregations, Grace-Filled Congregations by Karen A. McClintock \(Author\)](#)

### Ten markers of grace filled people and congregations

There are ten characteristics of congregations that are grace filled. These ten markers set them apart from the vast majority of congregations in the world. All are directed toward other people but come out of hearts that have been radically transformed by the grace of Jesus in their own lives. Congregations that have these markers are like magnets to believers who have never experienced this kind of grace and to spiritual seekers who encounter a new kind of Christian in those who exhibit these Jesus traits. Think about these markers in your life and their power when multiplied throughout a congregation.

<http://leadingfromthesandbox.blogspot.com/2011/08/ten-markers-of-grace-filled-people-and.html>  
[Images for Ten markers of grace filled people and congregations](#)

### The Cycle of Grace: Living in Sacred Balance: Trevor Hudson, Jerry P. Haas

Are you soul-weary? Do you struggle to make time for God in the midst of a packed schedule? Or do you sometimes stay so busy doing things for God that you can't relax and just be? Jesus faced amazing pressure and overwhelming demands throughout his ministry, but he did not experience the burnout so common today among Christian ministers and laypersons. You can learn the rhythm of living that Jesus demonstrates the Cycle of Grace throughout the Gospels. Use this workbook and accompanying video about the Cycle of Grace either individually or in a small group. *THE CYCLE OF GRACE* examines 4 components of a grace-filled life: Acceptance Sustenance Significance Fruitfulness Trevor Hudson, a dynamic pastor, author, and speaker, introduces each part of the Cycle of Grace in a short video segment (available on YouTube). The video segments are titled as follows: Cycle of Grace 1: Acceptance Cycle of Grace 2: Sustenance Cycle of Grace 3: Significance Cycle of Grace 4: Fruitfulness Cycle of Grace 5: A Grace-filled Way to Live In the workbook Jerry Haas provides practical exercises for individuals and groups, complete with suggestions for journaling and preparing for group sessions. This 6-week study will help you know that God loves you nurture your spiritual life understand who you are called to be in the world learn how to restore balance to your life. The workbook includes a Leader's Guide and several useful appendixes. A must-have resource for clergy and lay leaders, *The Cycle of Grace* is also an excellent text for seminary and college classes preparing students for ministry.

<https://www.amazon.com/Cycle-Grace-Living-Sacred-Balance/dp/0835811980>  
<https://www.goodreads.com/book/show/17805094-the-cycle-of-grace>  
<https://www.barnesandnoble.com/w/the-cycle-of-grace-trevor-hudson/1114018275?type=eBook>  
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[https://books.google.com/books/about/The\\_Cycle\\_of\\_Grace.html?id=m2CjCwAAQBAJ](https://books.google.com/books/about/The_Cycle_of_Grace.html?id=m2CjCwAAQBAJ)  
<https://centerforcongregations.org/public-event/finding-cycle-grace>  
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<http://lovelifegivingwater.com/identity/understanding-the-cycle-of-grace/>  
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<https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLafZeN8qXXByUvmbXJALbgTOMyNjYkms> Cycle of grace - YouTube  
[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Ren9-c\\_zG0A&t=27s](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Ren9-c_zG0A&t=27s) Circle of Grace training - YouTube  
[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0X6m\\_itTrsU](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0X6m_itTrsU) Cycle of Grace 1. Acceptance - YouTube  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KtzH5SiZeiU> Cycle of Grace 2. Sustenance - YouTube  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=g7LRf1vDk4> Cycle of Grace 3. Significance - YouTube  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=z2wK0ghuJ2k> Cycle of Grace 4. Fruitfulness - YouTube  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=E9-U9drJm4s> Cycle of Grace 5. A Grace-filled Way to Live - YouTube  
<https://www.pinterest.co.uk/amp/pin/236439049159566846/> The Cycle of Grace: Living In Sacred Balance  
<https://www.amazon.com/Trevor-Hudson/e/B001JSDVLW>  
[https://www.goodreads.com/author/list/179901.Trevor\\_Hudson](https://www.goodreads.com/author/list/179901.Trevor_Hudson)  
[Images for Trevor Hudson](#)  
<https://www.amazon.com/s?ie=UTF8&page=1&rh...27%3AJerry%20Haas>  
[https://www.goodreads.com/author/show/2744707.Jerry\\_P\\_Haas](https://www.goodreads.com/author/show/2744707.Jerry_P_Haas)  
[Images for Jerry P. Haas, author](#)  
[Images for The Cycle of Grace: Living in Sacred Balance: Trevor Hudson, Jerry P. Haas](#)  
[30 Best Grace-Filled Quotes images](#)  
<https://www.pinterest.com/cathgracedays/grace-filled-quotes/>  
[Images for pinterest/grace-filled-quotes](#)  
<https://www.pinterest.com/nickigreen/living-a-grace-filled-thankful-life/>

### What Does the Bible Say About Grace? - OpenBible.info

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<https://walkinlove.com/blogs/walk-in-love/10-verses-about-grace>  
<https://biblereasons.com/grace/>  
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<https://www.kingjamesbibleonline.org/Bible-Verses-About-Grace/>

## 6) Growing Congregation

### [PDF] facts on growing congregations - UCC Files

Congregations that reported at least 2% growth in average weekly worship attendance from 2009 to 2014 (19% of surveyed churches) had the following characteristics or attributes when compared with congregations that did not experience this level of growth:

<http://uccfiles.com/pdf/FACTs-on-Growing-Congregations.pdf>  
[Images for facts on growing congregations](#)

### Learning from America's Largest and Fastest-Growing Churches

What do OUTREACH 100 churches have in common? Why have they grown so rapidly? What innovations are they embracing that account for their adaptability and health?

#### Dr. Ed Stetzer on the Outreach 100 - SermonCentral.com

<http://www.sermoncentral.com/articleb.asp?article=Ed-Stetzer-Outreach-100>  
[Images for Learning from America's Largest and Fastest-Growing Churches](#)  
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<http://www.christianitydaily.com/articles/8570/20161015/list-top-100-largest-fastest-growing-churches-released-outreach-magazine.htm>  
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[Images for top-25-fastest-growing-large-umc](#)  
<https://www.pcusa.org/resource/fastest-growing-presbyterian-churches/>  
[Images for fastest-growing-presbyterian-churches](#)

### 6 characteristics of growing churches – Covenant - The Living Church

What are the common characteristics of growing churches? What are indicators of decline? Kirk Hadaway is the Episcopal Church's chief statistician and researcher, and he has just published *New FACTs on Episcopal Church Growth and Decline*.

<http://livingchurch.org/covenant/2015/04/15/6-characteristics-of-growing-churches/>  
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### 12 Kinds of Churches – Which One is Yours? – Will Mancini

#### 4 KINDS OF GROWING CHURCHES

<http://www.willmancini.com/2011/01/12-kinds-of-churches-which-one-is-yours.html>  
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### What Does the Bible Say About Church Growth?

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<https://www.biblestudytools.com/topical-verses/bible-verses-about-growth/>  
<https://bible.knowing-jesus.com/topics/Growth-Of-The-Church>



## 7) Happy Congregation

### How to Be Happy at Redeemer - Redeemer Report

In fact, you will only be happy at Redeemer if your first priority is not your own happiness, but the joy of seeing skeptical people encounter the gospel and be brought to new life in Christ.

[http://www.redeemer.com/redeemer-report/article/how\\_to\\_be\\_happy\\_at\\_redeemer](http://www.redeemer.com/redeemer-report/article/how_to_be_happy_at_redeemer)

Images for How to Be Happy at Redeemer - Redeemer Report

### Nine Characteristics of Happy Churches – ThomRainer.com

After working with hundreds of churches, I saw several patterns develop. One of those patterns correlated directly with the happiness of the church.

<http://thomrainer.com/2013/02/nine-characteristics-of-happy-churches/>

Images for Nine Characteristics of Happy Churches – ThomRainer.com

<https://www.lhm.org/dailydevotions/default.asp?date=20131223>

<http://thomrainer.com/2016/02/ten-comments-from-happy-church-quests/>

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“Happiness”

#10

### What Does the Bible Say About Happiness? - OpenBible.info

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[https://www.openbible.info/topics/true\\_happiness](https://www.openbible.info/topics/true_happiness)

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<https://tifwe.org/biblical-definition-of-happiness/>

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

<http://biblereasons.com/happiness/>

## 8) Healthy Congregation

### Characteristics of a Healthy Church | The Network

We offer the following characteristics of healthy churches that are seen in the biblical history of God's people. Healthy churches:

<http://network.crcna.org/elders/characteristics-healthy-church>

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<https://healthychurch.org/tag/healthy-church/>

<https://churchanswers.com/blog/seven-traits-healthy-churches-today/>

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<https://thedisclplers.com/8-essential-qualities-of-healthy-churches/>

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<http://70030.netministry.com/apps/articles/?articleid=32733&columnid=3881> The Twelve Characteristics of the Healthy Church

<http://www.leadershiptransformations.org/characteristics-of-a-healthy-church.htm>

<https://bgav.org/4-key-characteristics-of-healthy-churches/>

<https://www.imb.org/2016/08/31/2016083112-characteristics-healthy-church/>

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<https://factsandtrends.net/2016/03/29/7-characteristics-of-healthy-small-churches/>

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<http://malphursgroup.com/5-characteristics-healthy-church/>

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<https://bible.org/seriespage/16-characteristics-healthy-churches-1-peter-51-5>

<http://visayasministries.org/characteristics-of-healthy-churches/>

<https://www.umcna.org/characteristics> North AL: Characteristics of a Healthy Church

<https://www.visionroom.com/rick-warren-shares-8-characteristics-healthy-church/>

<https://www.sermoncentral.com/sermons/10-characteristics-of-healthy-churches-dr-craig-nelson-sermon-on-discipleship-54506>

[www.nspeidiocese.ca/stewardship/CharacteristicsOfHealthyChurches.pdf](http://www.nspeidiocese.ca/stewardship/CharacteristicsOfHealthyChurches.pdf)

[http://www.moravian.org/images/BCMPDFs/Characteristics\\_of\\_Healthy\\_Congregations.pdf](http://www.moravian.org/images/BCMPDFs/Characteristics_of_Healthy_Congregations.pdf)

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<https://www.christianpost.com/news/five-characteristics-of-healthy-church-leaders-57016/>

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[www.thediocese.net/customer-content/www/cms/files/toolbox\\_development.pdf](http://www.thediocese.net/customer-content/www/cms/files/toolbox_development.pdf) [PDF] Eight Essential Qualities of Healthy Churches

<https://www.christianitytoday.com/pastors/2007/july-online-only/le-7I3-7I334a.html> What Does a Healthy Church Look Like? (Part 1)

<https://www.amazon.com/Natural-Church-Development-Essential-Qualities/dp/1889638005>

<https://www.coach22.com/discover-coaching/resources/growinghealthychurches.htm>

<https://growinghealthychurches.com/brown1115/>

<http://blog.cloversites.com/is-your-church-healthy>

[www.communitypca.net/burts-blurbs/2016/11/2/a-healthy-church](http://www.communitypca.net/burts-blurbs/2016/11/2/a-healthy-church)

<https://www.london.anglican.org/kb/seven-marks-of-a-healthy-church/>

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<https://www.lifeway.com/en/articles/pastor-church-evangelism-discipleship-twenty-five-signs-of-a-healthy-church-part-1>  
<http://beamezion.org/resources/churchgrowth/QualityCharacteristicsofHealthyCongregations.pdf>  
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[http://www.flumc.org/OCT/healthy\\_congregation.htm](http://www.flumc.org/OCT/healthy_congregation.htm)  
<https://www.gotquestions.org/healthy-church.html> How can I recognize a healthy church? | GotQuestions.org  
[http://download.elca.org/ELCA%20Resource%20Repository/MD\\_Conf\\_Starting\\_Healthy.ppt](http://download.elca.org/ELCA%20Resource%20Repository/MD_Conf_Starting_Healthy.ppt)  
<http://beamezion.org/resources/churchgrowth/QualityCharacteristicsofHealthyCongregations.pdf>  
<https://nccumc.org/bishop/files/hcoverview.pdf> [PDF]Healthy Congregations - NC Conference  
<https://www.uua.org/leadership/uuu/2006/13113.shtml> 1002 UUU - The Marks of a Healthy Congregation | UUA.org  
<http://csis.radicalthinking.net/Portals/CSIS/Communications/ForYourConsideration/January%202015.pdf> [PDF]3 Characteristics of Healthy ELCA Congregations FOR YOUR CONSIDERATION  
[www.congregationalconsulting.org/three-marks-of-healthy-congregations/](http://www.congregationalconsulting.org/three-marks-of-healthy-congregations/)  
<https://www.healthycongregations.com/>  
<http://www.mnsdistrict.org/engaged-in-mission/2015/11/5/healthy-congregations-healthy-workers>  
 Images for engaged in mission healthy congregations

### Discipled Warriors: Growing Healthy Churches That Are Equipped for Spiritual Warfare by Chuck Lawless (Author)

Using solid biblical exegesis, Chuck Lawless presents a well-rounded, proven model for fighting the enemy through the development of a spiritually healthy church. This unique book suggests workable strategies and resources for developing disciples prepared for spiritual warfare.

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<http://chucklawless.com/books/>  
 Images for Chuck Lawless (Author)

Images for Discipled Warriors: Growing Healthy Churches That Are Equipped for Spiritual Warfare by Chuck Lawless (Author)

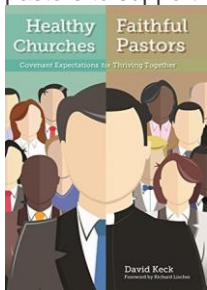
### Growing Healthy Churches

Healthy Churches, Led by Healthy Leaders, Changing the World

<https://growinghealthychurches.com/>  
 Images for growing healthy churches

### Healthy Churches, Faithful Pastors: Covenant Expectations for Thriving Together [David A. Keck]

Congregations want to support their pastors, but don't know how. Pastors love their congregations, but they don't know what to ask of their congregations to garner needed support. Everyone wants to thrive together, but so often we get stuck. This clear and engaging guide helps pastors and congregations bridge communication gaps and set mutual goals and expectations. Reverend Keck grounds his framework of expectations on both scholarly research and on interviews he's conducted with pastors and lay people. He finds many common difficulties in churches arise from failing to discuss priorities and expectations, and from not effectively working through the problems that arise when expectations aren't met. For pastors and congregants to arrive at common expectations, they need to understand each other—their respective needs, hopes, and distinctive callings. This book provides concrete steps to aid congregants and pastors communicate their mutual expectations. Keck presents fifty "expectation statements"—examples of what pastors and congregations can expect of one another; a vital resource to anyone who seeks to initiate a discussion of expectations in their own church. Elucidating goals and expectations allows congregations and pastors to support one another and flourish and fosters church health and harmony.



<http://www.amazon.com/Healthy-Churches-Faithful-Pastors-Expectations/dp/1566994403>  
<https://www.goodreads.com/book/show/23307115-healthy-churches-faithful-pastors>  
<http://www.barnesandnoble.com/w/healthy-churches-faithful-pastors-david-keck/1119850541>  
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[https://books.google.com/books/about/Healthy\\_Churches\\_Faithful\\_Pastors.html?id=DFrAAwAAQBAJ](https://books.google.com/books/about/Healthy_Churches_Faithful_Pastors.html?id=DFrAAwAAQBAJ)  
<https://alban.org/book/healthy-churches-faithful-pastors-covenant-expectations-for-thriving-together/>  
<http://gwypdf.aplantglass.com/healthy-churches-faithful-david-keck-90219219.pdf>

<https://www.questia.com/magazine/1G1-394683891/healthy-churches-faithful-pastors-covenant-expectations>  
[https://www.peaksprbytery.org/images/resources\\_documents/COM/Updated\\_Forms\\_2019/COM\\_PNC-Training-I.pdf](https://www.peaksprbytery.org/images/resources_documents/COM/Updated_Forms_2019/COM_PNC-Training-I.pdf) Page 2  
<https://digitalcommons.liberty.edu/cgi/viewcontent.cgi?article=2716&context=doctoral> Page 136  
<http://www.christiancentury.org/reviews/2014-11/healthy-churches-faithful-pastors-david-keck>  
[http://www.pghpresbytery.org/news/sheldon\\_shares/2014/ss\\_100214.htm](http://www.pghpresbytery.org/news/sheldon_shares/2014/ss_100214.htm)  
[http://www.goodreads.com/author/show/220830.David\\_Keck](http://www.goodreads.com/author/show/220830.David_Keck)  
[Images for David A. Keck, author](#)  
[Images for Healthy Churches, Faithful Pastors: Covenant Expectations for Thriving Together \[David A. Keck\]](#)

### Healthy Congregations: A Systems Approach by Peter L. Steinke (Author)

In this sequel to *How Your Church Family Works*, Peter Steinke takes readers into a deeper exploration of the congregation as an emotional system. He outlines the factors that put congregations at risk for anxiety and conflict. Learn ten principles of health, how congregations can adopt new ways of dealing with stress and anxiety, as well as how spiritually and **emotionally healthy leaders** influence the emotional system. Featuring a new preface and a fresh redesign, this book is a classic work by one of the most respected names in congregational consulting.

<http://www.amazon.com/Healthy-Congregations-A-Systems-Approach/dp/156699330X>  
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<https://www.healthycongregations.com/>  
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[Images for Peter L. Steinke \(Author\)](#)  
[Images for Healthy Congregations: A Systems Approach by Peter L. Steinke \(Author\)](#)  
[Images for emotionally healthy congregation leaders - steinke](#)

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### HEALTHY CONGREGATIONS AND VISION FOR THE FUTURE

<http://nswswi.org/> Home E.P.I.C.  
<http://nswswi.org/epic> HEALTHY CONGREGATIONS AND VISION FOR THE FUTURE Powerpoint  
 EPIC (Effective Practices for Innovative Congregation Councils)  
<https://www.facebook.com/events/152141672104440/> [info@nswswi.org](mailto:info@nswswi.org)  
[Images for HEALTHY CONGREGATIONS AND VISION FOR THE FUTURE](#)

### Ten Rules of Thumb for Healthy Churches in America - ThomRainer.com

Nevertheless, I provide you these ten rules of thumb as a starting point. You can then wisely discern how well and specifically they apply to your situation.

<https://thomrainer.com/2013/03/ten-rules-of-thumb-for-healthy-churches/>  
[Images for Ten Rules of Thumb for Healthy Churches in America - ThomRainer.com](#)  
<https://www.churchlawandtax.com/blog/2013/june/thom-rainers-top-10-rules-of-thumb-for-healthy-churches.html>  
<https://www.visionroom.com/10-rules-of-thumb-for-healthy-churches-in-america/>  
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<http://www.churchleaders.com/outreach-missions/outreach-missions-articles/139401-seven-secrets-of-healthy-churches.html>  
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<http://archives.adventistreview.org/article/1245/archives/issue-2007-1518/seven-secrets-of-healthy-churches>  
[Images for thom rainer \(author\)](#)

### The Emotionally Healthy Church, Expanded Edition: A Strategy for Discipleship That Actually Changes Lives by Peter Scazzero (Author), Leighton Ford (Foreword), Warren Bird (Contributor)

*The Emotionally Healthy Church*, Updated and Expanded Edition, the newly updated and expanded edition of the groundbreaking bestseller *The Emotionally Healthy Church*, features a fuller, deeper look at the six principles contained in the original and includes a crucial, additional chapter: Slow Down to Lead with Integrity. New Life Fellowship in Queens, New York, had it all: powerful teaching, dynamic ministries, an impressive growth rate, and a vision to do great works for God. Things looked good—but beneath the surface, circumstances were more than just brewing. They were about to boil over, forcing Peter Scazzero to confront needs in his church and himself that went deeper than he'd ever imagined. What he learned about the vital link between emotional health,

relational depth, and spiritual maturity can shed new light on painful problems in your own church. In this revised and expanded edition of his Gold Medallion Award-winning book, Scazzero shares refreshing new insights and a different and challenging slant on what it takes to lead your congregation to wholeness and maturity in Christ. Our churches are in trouble, says Scazzero. They are filled with people who are • unsure how to biblically integrate anger, sadness, and other emotions • defensive, incapable of revealing their weaknesses • threatened by or intolerant of different viewpoints • zealous about ministering at church but blind to their spouses' loneliness at home • so involved in "serving" that they fail to take care of themselves • prone to withdraw from conflict rather than resolve it

Sharing from New Life Fellowship's painful but liberating journey, Scazzero reveals exactly how the truth can and does make you free—not just superficially, but deep down. This expanded edition of *The Emotionally Healthy Church* not only takes the original six principles further and deeper, but also adds a seventh crucial principle. You'll acquire knowledge and tools that can help you and others: • look beneath the surface of problems • break the power of past wounds, failures, sins, and circumstances • live a life of brokenness and vulnerability • recognize and honor personal limitations and boundaries • embrace grief and loss • make incarnation your model to love others • slow down to lead with integrity

This new edition shares powerful insights on how contemplative spirituality can help you and your church slow down—an integral key to spiritual and emotional health. *The Emotionally Healthy Church, Updated and Expanded Edition* includes story after story of people at New Life whose lives have been changed by the concepts in this book. Open these pages and find out how your church can turn a new corner on the road to spiritual maturity.

<http://www.amazon.com/Emotionally-Healthy-Church-Expanded-Edition/dp/0310293359>

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<http://www.emotionallyhealthy.org/>

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yDA\\_YtKJSmA](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yDA_YtKJSmA) Pete Scazzero Interview on The Emotionally Healthy Church - YouTube

[https://books.google.com/books?id=T\\_NleJFHvMUC](https://books.google.com/books?id=T_NleJFHvMUC)

<http://9marks.org/review/emotionally-healthy-church-peter-scazzero/>

<https://www.exponential.org/resource-ebooks/the-emotionally-healthy-church-planter/>

<http://www.churchleaders.com/outreach-missions/free-resources-outreach-missions/164529-free-ebook-emotionally-healthy-church-planter-pete-scazzero.html>

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<http://bridgetown.ajesuschurch.org/series/the-emotionally-healthy-church/>

<https://www.amazon.com/Peter-Scazzero/e/B001H6MMFW>

[http://www.goodreads.com/author/show/145491.Peter\\_Scazzero](http://www.goodreads.com/author/show/145491.Peter_Scazzero)

Images for Peter Scazzero (Author)

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Images for Leighton Ford, author

<https://www.leightonfordministries.org/>

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<http://www.christianitytoday.com/ct/2000/october2/7.56.html>

<http://www.christianitytoday.com/pastors/2016/october-web-exclusives/leighton-ford-kingdom-seeker.html>

<https://www.amazon.com/Warren-Bird/e/B002BLN1V6>

[http://www.goodreads.com/author/show/85146.Warren\\_Bird](http://www.goodreads.com/author/show/85146.Warren_Bird)

Images for Warren Bird, author

Images for *The Emotionally Healthy Church, Expanded Edition: A Strategy for Discipleship That Actually Changes Lives* by Peter Scazzero (Author), Leighton Ford (Foreword), Warren Bird (Contributor)

## The Marks of a Healthy Congregation - UUA

Prepared for UUA.org by Jone Johnson Lewis, reporter; Margy Levine Young, editor

Speaker: Peter L. Steinke

In answer to other questions about time, urgency, and those individuals who see the need for change early, Steinke noted that resistance and rejection are part of the process, and it's not possible to avoid misery.

Leaders will attract bullets.

A congregation has to ask whether the anxiety of those whose tendency is to nay-say (usually about 16%) is going to determine the congregation's future. And if one or a few have a vision and can find others with the same vision, they should begin to take action. If their vision's not accepted, they may not be re-elected – but that's the risk of leadership. He added that change missionaries need to mobilize change agents to foster the change; this has the advantage of delegating the anxiety and "sharing the bullets."

<http://www.uua.org/governance/leadership/uuu/2006/13113.shtml>

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<https://www.christiancentury.org/contributor/peter-l-steinke>

Images for Peter L. Steinke (author)

## The Pastor and the Healthy Church » Alban

Healthy churches find ways to address the challenges they face without degenerating into toxic conflict.

### Alban at Duke Divinity School » The Pastor and the Healthy Church

<https://alban.org/archive/the-pastor-and-the-healthy-church/>

#### Images for Pastor and the Healthy Church » Alban

<https://alban.org/archive/the-marks-of-a-healthy-congregation/>

<https://alban.org/archive/vital-worship-healthy-congregations/>

<https://alban.org/book/healthy-churches-faithful-pastors-covenant-expectations-for-thriving-together/>

<https://alban.org/archive/promoting-healthy-congregations/>

<https://www.pinterest.com/pin/269582727673117911/> CTC Healthy Church Initiative

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

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<http://www.elizabethpresbytery.org/Resource%20Center%20ON%20THE%20WEB/Alban%20Institute%20Resources%202012.pdf>

### What Does a Healthy Church Look Like? (part 1) | CT Pastors

So here, with contradictions and redundancies intact, are various ways to identify and maintain a healthy church.

<http://www.christianitytoday.com/pastors/1997/summer/71334a.html>

#### Images for What Does a Healthy Church Look Like? | CT Pastors

<http://www.christianitytoday.com/pastors/1997/summer/71334b.html> What Does a Healthy Church Look Like? (part 2) | CT Pastors

<https://www.christianitytoday.com/ct/archives/>

<https://www.christianitytoday.com/news/archives/>

## 9) Identity

### Affective Competence and Missional Identity – Alban Institute

One of the givens regarding healthy congregations is that they have a clear identity. Imagine a congregation that understood its missional identity to be an affectively competent community of people in order to more vibrantly reflect all that the Creator intended humanity to be.

<https://alban.org/archive/affective-competence-and-missional-identity/>

#### Images for Affective Competence and Missional Identity – Alban Institute

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

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

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

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

<http://www.elizabethpresbytery.org/Resource%20Center%20ON%20THE%20WEB/Alban%20Institute%20Resources%202012.pdf>

<https://alban.org/about-alban/congregations-magazine/>

### Church-Going Insider or Gospel-Carrying Outsider: A different view of congregations by Judith McWilliams Dickhart (Author)

Dickhart details how congregations can become strong as they focus **identity** and programming on members' daily ministries.

<http://www.amazon.com/Church-going-insider-gospel-carrying-outsider-congregations/dp/096366302X>

#### Images for Church-Going Insider or Gospel-Carrying Outsider: A different view of congregations by Judith McWilliams Dickhart (Author)

Images for Dickhart details how congregations can become strong as they focus identity and programming on members' daily ministries.

<http://www.elca.org/Growing-In-Faith/Vocation/Ministry-in-Daily-Life/SPLASH/Soak-up-information.aspx>

<http://www.jardigitalworks.com/mdl/books.html>

<http://lifeoffaith.info/resources/books/>

[https://www.azdiocese.org/dfc/newsdetail\\_2/3151074](https://www.azdiocese.org/dfc/newsdetail_2/3151074) Top 25+ books for the Missional Church

### [PDF] Church Identity Worksheet - Israel Galindo

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

#### Images for Church Identity Worksheet - Israel Galindo

### Commentary on 1 Corinthians 1:10-18 - Working Preacher

For **identity** markers, we still look to things like race, age, economic circumstances, education, and geographical region to create meaningful boundaries and to identify our tribes. If our congregations manage to build community -- to have, in Paul's words, "the same mind and purpose" - across the standard identity markers, they are "practicing diversity." We think of them as a remarkable social experiment. Paul, however, would regard such a community, gathered by the Spirit in the name of Christ, to be simply a church.

[http://www.workingpreacher.org/preaching.aspx?commentary\\_id=1998](http://www.workingpreacher.org/preaching.aspx?commentary_id=1998)

#### Images for Commentary on 1 Corinthians 1:10-18

### Family, Faith & Hidden Heroes Help Case Keenum Lead a Huddle By Lindsey Young - Posted Oct 30, 2017

"My faith is the number one thing that makes me, me. It is what my **identity** is in; it's not in this game," Keenum says. "So, I know that, although I do put everything I have into this game, it's not a life-or-death thing for me."



"I want to do the very best I can, all the time, and I want to honor God when I do that," Keenum continues. "And I think I do when I leave it all on the field." After signing with the Vikings during the offseason as a free agent, Keenum has done just that.

<http://www.vikings.com/news/article-1/Family-Faith--Hidden-Heroes-Help-Case-Keenum-Lead-a-Huddle/7f50b137-ef11-4daf-918c-f81e922f6f1a>

[Images for Family, Faith & Hidden Heroes Help Case Keenum Lead a Huddle](http://bleacherreport.com/articles/2753351-how-case-keenum-went-from-unwanted-free-agent-to-leader-of-the-nfc-favorites)

<http://bleacherreport.com/articles/2753351-how-case-keenum-went-from-unwanted-free-agent-to-leader-of-the-nfc-favorites>

<http://www.vikings.com/news/article-1/Kimberly--Case-Keenum-Brought-Together-by-Faith-Football--a-Snow-Cone-/525bc10d-e3c7-485b-a740-b1423a79c0f0>

### Identity: Who You Are in Christ by Eric Geiger (Author)

In Nazi concentration camps, the will of Jewish prisoners was broken by stripping away their personal identification and giving them just a number rather than a name. Satan operates the same way, always trying to undo the faith of believers by twisting the reality of who they are as followers of Christ.

*Identity* by young pastor Eric Geiger (coauthor of the multi-awarded national bestseller *Simple Church*) helps Christians clearly understand who they really are as defined by various Scriptures and unpacks the practical response that goes along with each wonderfully dramatic, empowering, and liberating truth.

Readers will consider like never before the Bible's descriptions of God followers as priests, brides, servants, friends, aliens, and ambassadors. Both challenged and encouraged, they will discover their deepest self and greatest purpose in *Identity*.



<https://www.amazon.com/Identity-Who-You-Are-Christ/dp/0805446893>

<http://www.goodreads.com/book/show/5433414-identity>

<http://www.barnesandnoble.com/w/identity-eric-geiger/1100313014>

<https://www.lifeway.com/en/product/identity-P005101174>

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<https://ericgeiger.com/2013/11/living-our-identity/>

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<http://www.lifeway.com/Article/eric-geiger-champions-churches-resources>

<https://www.amazon.com/Eric-Geiger/e/B001KHN25M>

[http://www.goodreads.com/author/show/216012.Eric\\_Geiger](http://www.goodreads.com/author/show/216012.Eric_Geiger)

Images for Eric Geiger (Author)

[Images for Identity: Who You Are in Christ by Eric Geiger \(Author\)](#)

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### Myths about Communicating Congregational Identity - Alban Institute

Conveying a congregation's identity and values clearly and through a variety of means of communication will help the congregation connect to the community around it. At the same time, clear expressions of values and identity will also have a deep impact on the congregation itself. The people involved in a congregation are shaped by what they hear about that congregation. Their expectations for the life of faith and for their involvement in the community are influenced by the ways in which the congregation talks about itself and its values.

<https://alban.org/archive/myths-about-communicating-congregational-identity/>

[Images for Myths about Communicating Congregational Identity - Alban Institute](#)

<http://www.amazon.com/Reaching-Out-Networked-World-Congregations/dp/1566993687>

<https://alban.org/archive/imagining-congregational-identity/>

<https://alban.org/archive/what-makes-a-congregation-a-real-faith-community/>

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

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

### PowerPointless: Video screens in worship | The Christian Century

In recent years PowerPoint has become a dominant force in worshiping communities across the theological and liturgical spectrum. In churches smitten with the Microsoft wonder, its power to affect the sensibilities of worshipers and thus to shape congregational **identity** is almost never discussed.

A tacit assumption is that PowerPoint computer presentations are merely a means to an end, a value-neutral tool used for innocent, perhaps even noble purposes: enlarging text for the hard of seeing; reducing the demand for and thus the production of printed materials; and bringing younger people, who spend much of their lives in front of screens—TV, computer, cell phone,



PDA—into worship. But PowerPoint is not value-neutral. As information design analyst Edward Tufte has argued, PowerPoint promotes a kind of cognitive style that routinely disrupts, dominates and trivializes content.

<http://www.christiancentury.org/article/2006-07/powerpointless>

[Images for PowerPointless: Video screens in worship | The Christian Century](#)

<https://www.christiancentury.org/magazine>

#### Priefer pleased with Vikings latest group of special teamers – Star Tribune

“One of the things that we’ve been talking about all spring is going along with the **identity** of our team that Coach [Mike] Zimmer has established for us — the toughness, the passion for the game and being a smart football player. ... What Coach Zimmer talks about as our identity, we are also taking on that identity as our special teams unit,” Priefer said. “We’ve talked a lot about it, I think our guys are buying into it and we’re excited about the end of spring going on into training camp next month.”

<http://www.startribune.com/priefer-pleased-with-vikings-latest-group-of-special-teamers/308153021/>

[Images for identity of our team the toughness, the passion for the game and being a smart football player](#)

[Images for mike priefer vikings](#)

#### Renewing the Passion: a guide to spiritual revival [Ted Schroeder, Kathryn I. Love]

This manual shows the several perspectives on how we can best fulfill the call to action. It examines the history of the “Awakening **Identity**” in the Lutheran church, offers Bible studies along with planning tools and prayer and prayer models. It also provides different models of worship to experience spiritual renewal.

<http://www.amazon.com/Renewing-Passion-guide-spiritual-revival/dp/6000212224>

[http://resources.elca.org/Evangelism-Renewing\\_the\\_Passion\\_A\\_Guide\\_to\\_Spiritual\\_Revival.html](http://resources.elca.org/Evangelism-Renewing_the_Passion_A_Guide_to_Spiritual_Revival.html)

<http://store.afcanada.com/store/contributor/2126/Ted-Schroeder>

[http://www.goodreads.com/author/show/373321.Ted\\_Schroeder](http://www.goodreads.com/author/show/373321.Ted_Schroeder)

[http://www.goodreads.com/author/show/5579728.Kathryn\\_I\\_Love](http://www.goodreads.com/author/show/5579728.Kathryn_I_Love)

[Images for Renewing the Passion: a guide to spiritual revival \[Ted Schroeder, Kathryn I. Love\]](#)

[Images for “Awakening Identity” in the Lutheran church](#)

#### Steeple & people: Doors open to congregation stories - The Lutheran Magazine

Here is the church. Here is the steeple.

A quiet town by anyone’s standards, Daykin, Neb., offered shelter from the cold January night after a long drive over icy roads.

The church has been there for a long time. An hour southwest of Lincoln, Neb., this might be a place where people escape to the country. “Most of those people haven’t discovered Daykin yet,” said Pastor Elizabeth Liggett with a twinkle in her eye.

No matter. Here one sees a steady, stable **identity** to sustain residents through dry seasons and the winds of change. Daykin is known as “the windmill capital,” an identity that conveys grain and wind, energy and transition. The town struggles with grain prices and changing times.

Set amid the windmills—most are actually gone—is the church steeple. St. John Lutheran Church struggles along with the people, but its symbol of identity remains strong.

[http://www.thelutheran.org/article/article.cfm?article\\_id=5287](http://www.thelutheran.org/article/article.cfm?article_id=5287)

[Images for Steeples & people: Doors open to congregation stories - The Lutheran Magazine](#)

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

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

#### Story Matters: Claiming Our Biblical Identity for the Sake of the World

Story Matters is a new ELCA resource (currently in a pilot phase in a number of congregations) designed by folks involved with Faith Practices, the Book of Faith Initiative, and Mission Development.

Goal: To help congregations discover and articulate, in a deep and biblically based conversation, their unique identity and mission so that that each congregation might: Discern their congregational story, Explore and live into their story, Deepen their faith by living into their baptismal promises, Engage together in missional planning, Be challenged by this engagement to live out their mission.

#### [PDF]Story Matters - ELCA Resource Repository

[http://download.elca.org/ELCA%20Resource%20Repository/Story\\_Matters\\_Summary.pdf](http://download.elca.org/ELCA%20Resource%20Repository/Story_Matters_Summary.pdf)

[Images for Story Matters: Claiming Our Biblical Identity for the Sake of the World](#)

[http://download.elca.org/ELCA%20Resource%20Repository/Story\\_Matters\\_Final.pdf](http://download.elca.org/ELCA%20Resource%20Repository/Story_Matters_Final.pdf)

<http://download.elca.org/elca%20resource%20repository/forms/allitems.aspx>

#### What Does the Bible Say About Identity? - OpenBible.info

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

[Images for Bible and Identity](#)

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

<https://connor.anglican.org/wp-content/uploads/2014/09/Bible-says-about-Identity.pdf>

[https://www.openbible.info/topics/our\\_identity\\_in\\_christ](https://www.openbible.info/topics/our_identity_in_christ)

<https://www.biblestudytools.com/topical-verses/bible-verses-about-our-identity-in-christ/>

<https://www.onlygirl4boyz.com/17-bible-verses-that-will-remind-you-of-your-identity-in-christ/>

<https://rosilindjukic.com/what-does-the-bible-say-about-your-identity-in-christ/>

<https://resoundinghislove.com/identity-in-christ/>

<https://biblereasons.com/identity-in-christ/>  
<https://www.soulshpherd.org/identity-in-christ-verses-in-the-bible/>  
<https://www.desiringgod.org/topics/identity-in-christ>  
<https://www.aloveworthlivingfor.com/blog/verses-to-remind-you-who-you-are/identity-in-christ>

### Who Is the Church? An Ecclesiology for the Twenty-First Century by Cheryl M. Peterson (Author)

Many congregations today are beset by fears, whether over loss of members and money, or of irrelevancy in an increasingly pluralistic society. To counter this, many congregations focus on strategy and purpose—what churches “do”—but Cheryl Peterson submits that mainline churches need to focus instead on “what” or “who” they are—to reclaim a theological, rather than sociological, understanding of themselves.

To do this, she places the questions of the church's identity and mission into a conversation with the primary ecclesiological paradigms of the past century: the neo-Reformation concept of the church as a “word event” and the ecumenical paradigms of the church as “communion.” She argues that these two paradigms assume a context of cultural Christendom that no longer exists—focused on the church that is gathered—rather than the missional church that is sent out.

Peterson suggests instead that we understand the church as a people created by the Spirit to be a community, and that we must claim a narrative method to explore the church's **identity**—specifically, the story of the church's origin in the Acts of the Apostles. Finally, here is a way of thinking of church that reconciles the best of competing models of church for the future of mainline Protestant theology.



<http://store.fortresspress.com/store/productgroup/531/Who-Is-the-Church-An-Ecclesiology-for-the-Twenty-First-Century>  
<http://www.amazon.com/Who-Church-Cheryl-M-Peterson/dp/0800698819>  
<https://www.goodreads.com/book/show/15863502-who-is-the-church>  
<http://fortresspress.com/product/who-church-ecclesiology-twenty-first-century>  
[http://ms.augsburgfortress.org/downloads/FortressPress/FP\\_Spring\\_2019\\_List.pdf?redirected=true](http://ms.augsburgfortress.org/downloads/FortressPress/FP_Spring_2019_List.pdf?redirected=true)  
<https://digitalcommons.fuller.edu/cgi/viewcontent.cgi?article=1325&context=dmin>  
[Who Is the Church?: An Ecclesiology for the Twenty-First Century](#)  
<http://www.tlsohio.edu/component/content/article/52-frontpage/267-new-faculty-book-who-is-the-church>  
<http://www.patheos.com/blogs/carynrisswold/2013/01/honorable-mention-who-is-the-church/>  
<http://scholar.csl.edu/cgi/viewcontent.cgi?article=1154&context=cj>  
<http://bishopmike.com/2013/10/21/cheryl-peterson-and-ecclesiology/>  
<https://www.capital.edu/academics/faculty/cheryl-peterson/>  
<http://fortresspress.com/author/cheryl-m-peterson>  
<http://www.tlsohio.edu/faculty/20-faculty/faculty-profiles/50-peterson>  
[Images for Cheryl M. Peterson \(Author\) who is the church](#)  
[Images for Who Is the Church? An Ecclesiology for the Twenty-First Century by Cheryl M. Peterson \(Author\)](#)  
<https://www.pinterest.com/pin/246923992051279355/> [Who Is the Church?: An Ecclesiology for the Twenty-First Century](#)

Page 26  
Page 128

### Your Brain Goes to Church: Neuroscience and Congregational Life [Bob Sitze]

The ever-provocative author and presenter Bob sitze explores the question: What does the human brain have to do with the beliefs, practices, and structures of congregations? Weaving together clear, accessible explanations about the workings of the human brain. Sitze shows how a congregation's **identity** and behaviors are shaped by the work of individual members' brains as well as “the collected brain” of the congregation. Study groups will enjoy the “Big Question” Sitze asks throughout the book, as well as the discussion questions and follow-up activities included at the end of each chapter.

<http://www.amazon.com/Your-Brain-Goes-Church-Congregational/dp/1566992990>  
<https://rowman.com/ISBN/9781566997089/Your-Brain-Goes-To-Church-Neuroscience-And-Congregational-Life-Neuroscience-And-Congregational-Life>  
<https://books.google.com/books?isbn=1566997089>  
[https://books.google.com/books/about/Your\\_Brain\\_Goes\\_To\\_Church\\_Neuroscience\\_A.html?id=veRhAwAAQBAJ](https://books.google.com/books/about/Your_Brain_Goes_To_Church_Neuroscience_A.html?id=veRhAwAAQBAJ)  
<https://www.linkedin.com/in/bobsitze>  
<https://www.amazon.com/Bob-Sitze/e/B001JS0ZYI>  
[http://www.goodreads.com/author/show/65728.Bob\\_Sitze](http://www.goodreads.com/author/show/65728.Bob_Sitze)  
[Images for Bob Sitze, author](#)  
[Images for Your Brain Goes to Church: Neuroscience and Congregational Life \[Bob Sitze\]](#)

## 10) Image

### Energizing the Congregation: Images That Shape Your Congregation's Ministry by Carl S. Dudley (Author), Sally A. Johnson (Author)

According to Carl Dudley and Sally Johnson, the discovery of strong and compelling congregational self-images binds church members together and energizes ministry. They describe five images of churches' relationships to their communities over time -

the Survivor, Prophet, Pillar, Pilgrim, and Servant styles -thus allowing churches to gain the knowledge necessary to build on their strengths and address their weaknesses.

<http://www.amazon.com/Energizing-Congregation-Images-Churchs-Ministry/dp/0664253598>

<https://www.goodreads.com/book/show/2859980-energizing-the-congregation>

<https://books.google.com/books?isbn=0664253598>

[http://books.google.com/books/about/Energizing\\_the\\_Congregation.html?id=UlyVguZFDtIC](http://books.google.com/books/about/Energizing_the_Congregation.html?id=UlyVguZFDtIC)

<http://www.thethoughtfulchristian.com/Products/0664253598/energizing-the-congregation.aspx>

<http://www.lifeandleadership.com/book-summaries/dudley-and-johnson-energizing-the-congregation.html>

<http://www.resourcingchristianity.org/grant-product/energizing-the-congregation-images-that-shape-your-church%E2%80%99s-ministry>

[http://presbyteryov.org/resource\\_center/discover-your-spiritual-type/](http://presbyteryov.org/resource_center/discover-your-spiritual-type/)

<https://www.christianbook.com/energizing-the-congregation-carl-dudley/9780664253592/pd/25359>

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

<https://www.amazon.com/Carl-S.-Dudley/e/B001IQWIDW>

[https://www.goodreads.com/author/list/399006.Carl\\_S\\_Dudley](https://www.goodreads.com/author/list/399006.Carl_S_Dudley)

Images for Carl S. Dudley (Author)

[https://www.christianbook.com/Christian/Books/easy\\_find?Ntk=author&Ntt=Sally%20Johnson](https://www.christianbook.com/Christian/Books/easy_find?Ntk=author&Ntt=Sally%20Johnson)

Images for Sally A. Johnson (Author)

Images for Energizing the Congregation: Images That Shape Your Congregation's Ministry by Carl S. Dudley (Author), Sally A. Johnson (Author)

### How to Change the Image of Your Church (Creative Leadership Series) [Lyle E. Schaller, John D. Webb]

John David Webb presents an excellent overview of how images and communications processes play a major role in either enabling or disabling a congregation. That is to say, that symbols create symbol systems which create a communication story. The positive or negative nature of these symbol systems and these communication stories plays a defining role in a congregation's ability to thrive, regardless of external conditions.

<http://www.amazon.com/Change-Church-Creative-Leadership-Series/dp/0687116139>

<https://www.hiu.edu/about-hiu/directory-detail.php?staff=john-webb>

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Lyle\\_E.\\_Schaller](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Lyle_E._Schaller)

[http://www.abingdonpress.com/lyle\\_e\\_schaller](http://www.abingdonpress.com/lyle_e_schaller)

<http://www.ministrymatters.com/all/entry/5884/remember-lyle-e-schaller-the-interventionist>

<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/B001IR1J9K>

[https://www.goodreads.com/author/list/179868.Lyle\\_E\\_Schaller](https://www.goodreads.com/author/list/179868.Lyle_E_Schaller)

Images for lyle e schaller author

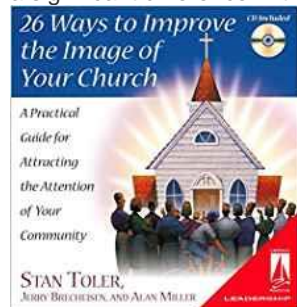
Images for How to Change the Image of Your Church [Lyle E. Schaller, John D. Webb]

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

Images for Creative Leadership Series

### 26 Ways to Improve the Image of Your Church: A Practical Guide for Attracting the Attention of Your Community (Lifestream Resources) by Stan Toler (Author), Jerry Brecheisen (Author), Alan Miller (Author)

Is your church worthy of the spotlight? What comes to mind when people in your community think of your church? Or do they think of your church at all? Do they even know that it exists? In an age of unprecedented competition, the church struggles for attention. What a local church ministry looks like often overshadows what it is and what it does. 26 Ways to Improve the Image of Your Church will teach you how to: Create a friendly atmosphere by using ushers and greeters creatively Plan worship services carefully, coordinating music, sound, and lighting Improve the appearance of your church buildings and grounds Publicize the church by using newsletters, press releases, free radio space Meet important needs in the community by starting outreach ministries. This kit includes a CD with interactive forms and letters, such as: Letters to follow-up with visitors A worship folder you can customize for your church Sample press releases Promotional brochures And much more! Just a few small changes can make a significant difference in the number of visitors you will attract and retain! Are you ready for the spotlight?



<https://www.amazon.com/Ways-Improve-Image-Your-Church/dp/0834120526>

<https://trove.nla.gov.au/work/28818183?selectedversion=NBD24945447>

<https://www.amazon.com/Stan-Toler/e/B001HCX8L8>

Images for Stan Toler (Author)

[https://www.isbns.co.tt/author/Jerry\\_Brecheisen](https://www.isbns.co.tt/author/Jerry_Brecheisen)

[Images for Jerry Brecheisen \(Author\)](#)

[Images for 26 Ways to Improve the Image of Your Church: A Practical Guide for Attracting the Attention of Your Community \(Lifestream Resources\) by Stan Toler \(Author\), Jerry Brecheisen \(Author\), Alan Miller \(Author\)](#)

<https://www.lifestreaminc.org/resources/>

<https://www.pinterest.com/TheFoundryPublishing/lifestream-resources/>

[Images for Resources - Lifestream Services Inc.](#)

[What Does the Bible Say About Image? - OpenBible.info](#)

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

[https://www.openbible.info/topics/image\\_of\\_god](https://www.openbible.info/topics/image_of_god)

[https://www.openbible.info/topics/graven\\_images](https://www.openbible.info/topics/graven_images)

<https://www.openbible.info/topics/self-image>

<https://www.gotquestions.org/self-image.html>

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

<https://bible.knowing-jesus.com/topics/Image-Of-God>

## 11) Image Driven Congregation

[Shame-Less Lives, Grace-Full Congregations - Google Books Result - Karen A. McClintock - 2011 - Religion](#)

With extremely high expectations for performance standards, ordinary clergy would disappoint the **image driven congregation**, leading to conflicts and criticism.

<https://books.google.com/books?isbn=1566996279>

<https://www.amazon.com/Shame-Less-Lives-Grace-Full-Congregations-McClintock/dp/1566994241>

<http://www.lifeandleadership.com/book-summaries/mcclintock-shame-less-lives-grace-full-congregations.html>

<https://vimeo.com/82239864> Karen McClintock, "Living Shamelessly: Grace-full Alternatives" (Part 1) // Aug 8, 2013

<https://vimeo.com/82246083> Karen McClintock, "Living Shamelessly: Grace-full Alternatives" (Part 2) // Aug 8, 2013

<https://www.amazon.com/Karen-A.-McClintock/e/B001JS11U0>

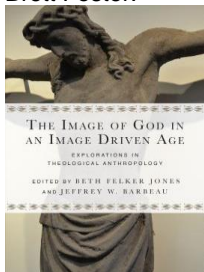
[http://www.goodreads.com/author/show/817494.Karen\\_A\\_McClintock](http://www.goodreads.com/author/show/817494.Karen_A_McClintock)

[Images for karen a. mcclintock \(author\)](#)

[Images for Shame-Less Lives, Grace-Full Congregations - Google Books Result - Karen A. McClintock](#)

[The Image of God in an Image Driven Age: Explorations in Theological Anthropology \(Wheaton Theology Conference\) by Beth Felker Jones \(Editor\), Jeffrey W. Barbeau \(Editor\)](#)

Whether on the printed page, the television screen or the digital app, we live in a world saturated with images. Some images help shape our understanding of ourselves and the world around us in positive ways, while others lead us astray and distort our relationships. Christians confess that human beings have been created in the image of God, yet we chose to rebel against that God and so became unfaithful bearers of God's image. The good news of the gospel is that Jesus, who is the image of God, restores the divine image in us, partially now and fully in the day to come. The essays collected in *The Image of God in an Image Driven Age* explore the intersection of theology and culture. With topics ranging across biblical exegesis, the art gallery, Cormac McCarthy, racism, sexuality and *theosis*, the contributors to this volume offer a unified vision—ecumenical in nature and catholic in spirit—of what it means to be truly human and created in the divine image in the world today. This collection from the 2015 Wheaton Theology Conference includes contributions by Daniela C. Augustine, Craig L. Blomberg, William A. Dyrness, Timothy R. Gaines and Shawna Songer Gaines, Phillip Jenkins, Beth Felker Jones, Christina Bieber Lake, Catherine McDowell, Ian A. McFarland, Matthew J. Milliner, Soong-Chan Rah and Janet Soskice, as well as original poems by Jill Peláez Baumgaertner and Brett Foster.



<https://www.amazon.com/Image-God-Driven-Age-Explorations/dp/0830851208>

<https://www.goodreads.com/book/show/26598223-the-image-of-god-in-an-image-driven-age>

<http://www.barnesandnoble.com/w/the-image-of-god-in-an-image-driven-age-beth-felker-jones/1122525546>

<https://books.google.com/books?isbn=0830851208>

<https://artandtheology.org/2016/06/10/book-review-the-image-of-god-in-an-image-driven-age-ed-beth-felker-jones-and-jeffrey-w-barbeau/>

<https://www.ivpress.com/the-image-of-god-in-an-image-driven-age>

<https://twitter.com/bethfelkerjones?lang=en>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kAMDoNnh6HM> Beth Felker Jones | The Bible and the Body – YouTube

[Images for Beth Felker Jones | The Bible and the Body – YouTube](#)

<https://www.christiancentury.org/contributor/beth-felker-jones>  
<https://artandtheology.org/2016/06/10/book-review-the-image-of-god-in-an-image-driven-age-ed-beth-felker-jones-and-jeffrey-w-barbeau/>  
<https://www.covenantseminary.edu/library-acquisitions-may-2016/>  
<http://www.penguinrandomhouse.com/authors/107770/beth-felker-jones>  
<https://theologyandchurch.com/2016/09/02/beth-felker-jones-practicing-christian-doctrine-review/>  
<https://www.facebook.com/bethfelker.jones>  
<http://www.wheaton.edu/Academics/Faculty/J/Beth-Felker-Jones>  
<https://www.amazon.com/Beth-Felker-Jones/e/B001H6S4JK>  
[http://www.goodreads.com/author/show/3049083.Beth\\_Felker\\_Jones](http://www.goodreads.com/author/show/3049083.Beth_Felker_Jones)  
 Images for Beth Felker Jones (Editor)  
<http://www.wheaton.edu/Academics/Faculty/B/Jeffrey-Barbeau>  
<http://www.jeffbarbeau.com/>  
<https://twitter.com/jeffbarbeau?lang=en>  
<https://www.amazon.com/Jeffrey-W.-Barbeau/e/B001JXMMJO>  
[http://www.goodreads.com/author/show/717381.Jeffrey\\_W\\_Barbeau](http://www.goodreads.com/author/show/717381.Jeffrey_W_Barbeau)  
 Images for Jeffrey W. Barbeau (Editor)  
 Images for The Image of God in an Image Driven Age: Explorations in Theological Anthropology (Wheaton Theology Conference) by Beth Felker Jones (Editor), Jeffrey W. Barbeau (Editor)

## 12) Immigrant

### Christianity for the Rest of Us Small Group: Study Guide

**Immigrant:** Bass uses this term for both literal immigrants (people from Mexico, for example, who have found a home in a U.S. mainline church) and people like herself who are finding church to be a home again.

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

Images for Christianity for the Rest of Us Small Group: Study Guide

## 13) Innovative Congregations

### Adapt or Die: 6 Steps to Becoming an Innovative Church

How to foster an atmosphere where new ideas are celebrated, and the gospel is honored.

<http://www.christianitytoday.com/karl-vaters/2015/august/adapt-or-die-six-steps-to-start-becoming-innovative-church.html>

Images for Becoming an Innovative Church

### 4 Churches Changing Everything | RELEVANT Magazine

A look at some of America's most **innovative** church bodies

<http://www.relevantmagazine.com/god/church/4-churches-changing-everything>

Images for innovative church bodies

### The Most Innovative Churches | Church Marketing Sucks

In addition to our interactive innovation list, we also want to explore what makes a church innovative.

[Part 2: Innovative Churches: Definition & Is It Biblical?](#)

[Part 3: Innovative Churches: Ingredients](#)

[Part 4: Innovative Churches: Opportunities & Influence](#)

[Part 5: Innovative Churches: Obstacles & Dangers](#)

[Part 6: Innovative Churches: Leadership & the Next Generation](#)

[Part 7: Innovative Churches: Technology](#)

[Part 8: Innovative Churches: Community](#)

[Part 9: Innovative Churches: Does Size Matter?](#)

[Part 10: Innovative Churches: Measures & the Future](#)

<http://www.churchmarketingsucks.com/2007/01/the-most-innovative-churches/>

Images for Most Innovative Churches

### The 25 Most Innovative Churches in America – churchrelevance.com

*Outreach* magazine organized a panel of twelve ministry leaders and experts to help determine which 25 churches in America are the most innovative. The list is as follows:

<http://churchrelevance.com/the-25-most-innovative-churches-in-america/>

Images for Most Innovative Churches in America

### What's Next: A Look Over the Next Hill for Innovative Churches and Their Leaders by Dave Travis (Author)

What's Next? 2012 Edition is the look ahead for Innovative Churches and Leaders that focuses on the shifts in the landscape and how church leaders can maximize their ministry in the next decade. Informed by two decades of working with larger churches in the U.S., Europe and Canada, this short briefing will help Pastors, governing boards and network leaders stay up to date with the



sweeping changes that are already having an impact on churches. Designed to be read in under an hour, it will create conversations to help you think creatively about your church's future.



<https://www.amazon.com/Whats-Next-Innovative-Churches-Leaders/dp/0985340207>

<http://multisitesolutions.com/multisite-must-read-list-2015/>

[http://leadnet.org/author\\_insights\\_with\\_dave\\_travis/](http://leadnet.org/author_insights_with_dave_travis/)

<https://www.linkedin.com/in/davetravisnow>

[http://www.goodreads.com/author/show/637996.Dave\\_Travis](http://www.goodreads.com/author/show/637996.Dave_Travis)

Images for Dave Travis (Author) innovative churches

Images for What's Next: A Look Over the Next Hill for Innovative Churches and Their Leaders by Dave Travis (Author)

## 14) Instrument

### [PDF] Coding Instrument for PC(USA) Identity Survey Data

In the report that follows, I report on the dominant themes that emerged, which includes theology, governance, inclusion, tradition, politicization, education, world, mission, family, and emotion. I also comment on some potential issues we might have expected to be prominent, which are not. After that summary, I provide a description of coding instrument and then offer a brief conclusion.

<http://www.layman.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/05/coding-instrument-pcusa-identity-survey.pdf>

Images for Coding Instrument for PC(USA) Identity Survey Data

### Handbook for Congregational Studies [Jackson Carroll, Carl Dudley, William McKinney]

Contains many ways of analyzing and studying a congregation for the purposes of enhancing their effectiveness in mission. Several paths of investigation are shared: 1) sociologically, 2) anthropologically, 3) demographically, and 4) through narrative (story). Includes an appendix of research instruments.

<http://www.amazon.com/Handbook-Congregational-Studies-Jackson-Carroll/dp/0687165628>

[http://hrr.hartsem.edu/bookshelf/out\\_of\\_print\\_congstudhndbk.html](http://hrr.hartsem.edu/bookshelf/out_of_print_congstudhndbk.html)

[http://hrr.hartsem.edu/bookshelf/bookshelf\\_studyng\\_cong.html](http://hrr.hartsem.edu/bookshelf/bookshelf_studyng_cong.html)

<http://www.resourcingchristianity.org/grant-product/studying-congregations-a-new-handbook>

<https://books.google.com/books?isbn=1351949608>

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

<https://www.amazon.com/Jackson-W.-Carroll/e/B001IZRERS>

[https://www.goodreads.com/author/list/176284.Jackson\\_W\\_Carroll](https://www.goodreads.com/author/list/176284.Jackson_W_Carroll)

Images for Jackson Carroll, author

<https://www.amazon.com/Carl-S.-Dudley/e/B001IQWIDW>

[https://www.goodreads.com/author/list/399006.Carl\\_S\\_Dudley](https://www.goodreads.com/author/list/399006.Carl_S_Dudley)

Images for Carl Dudley, author

Images for William McKinney, author handbook for congregational studies

Images for Handbook for Congregational Studies [Jackson Carroll, Carl Dudley, William McKinney]

Images for Handbook for Congregational Studies includes an appendix of research instruments

Page 23

### Holy Cow Consulting » Congregations

#### THE PROMISE OF CLARITY

Today, there are basically two kinds of congregations: 1. those with leaders who have clarity about who they are, what they are called to do, and how well they are doing it, and 2. those who do not.

What makes the difference? Tools and information! How leaders choose to collect information will determine what is visible and invisible in their discernment processes. This will fundamentally define their leadership experience and impact and will be decisive in shaping the church that develops under their leadership.

Obtaining that level of clarity requires the use of reliable, professionally developed assessment tools. Holy Cow! Consulting provides those tools.

Available [Instruments](#)

<https://holycowconsulting.com/get-started/churches/>

Images for Holy Cow Consulting » Congregations Available Instruments

## 15) Interim Ministry

### A Metaphor for Organizational Culture

Rather than culture change, I prefer the concept of culture shift. I don't believe that you can make a wholesale change of all that you have been and replace it with something shiny and new. Culture is too deep, too embedded, too much in your organizational DNA. You might shift parts of your culture, or shape it, though. If you think of a human body, we've figured out to give someone a new heart or a new kidney – but the essence of what makes a person remains.



<http://www.ktaylorandassoc.com/tag/leaders/page/2/>  
[Images for Metaphor for Organizational Culture](#)

### A Model of Interim Pastoral Coaches for Ohio Assemblies of God Churches in Pastoral Transition

Six Congregational Tasks during the Interim Period      Appendix A

#### 3.Revealing the Congregational Identity

The interim period can serve as an opportune time to take a fresh look at the identity of the congregation.

The interim time gives freedom to a congregation to investigate who they are apart from the influence of their former pastor's identity.

Congregational identity may involve the way a church perceives itself to be known by outsiders, strong ministries, its physical facility, a preferred style of worship, or numerical size.

There is much talk these days of "culture change." Organizations desire to be more nimble, more innovative, more pro-active, more market focused. How to get there is always the stumbling block.

[http://books.google.com/books/about/A\\_Model\\_of\\_Interim\\_Pastoral\\_Coaches\\_for.html?id=z3o23Gfaj1cC](http://books.google.com/books/about/A_Model_of_Interim_Pastoral_Coaches_for.html?id=z3o23Gfaj1cC)

[Images for Interim Pastoral Coaches](#)

[Images for Six Congregational Tasks during the Interim Period 3.Revealing the Congregational Identity](#)

### Assessing Your Congregational Culture

Your congregation is a group of people who share religious values, rituals, and experiences, language and beliefs – all of which shape their behaviors and their responses to one another, and to the outside world. Being intentional in learning as much as possible about the culture of your congregation will enable you to create congruent ministries and perhaps avoid unnecessary conflict.

<http://www.uss-elca.org/wp-content/uploads/2009/03/s-culture.pdf>

[Images for Assessing Congregational Culture](#)

### Assessment: Congregational Support » Transition Process » Assessment

#### Assessment

##### Step Two

The Interim Pastor will lead a complete assessment of the congregation's situation.

The assessment includes:

##### Resources

Financial situation

Building and property

Key leaders, teams, committees

History

Growth patterns

Congregational size and organizational style

Key moments of trauma or success in the past

Mission Field Analysis

Who lives in the congregation's identified mission field

Relationship between congregation and the field

Target mission populations

Constructing a Vision

What will the future look like for this congregation?

Analysis of "system dynamics" of the congregation

How are power and influence managed here?

Are there subtle patterns of unhealthy or dysfunctional interaction?

<http://www.mcselca.org/congregation/transition/interim/>

[Images for Assessment: Congregational Support » Transition Process](#)

### Beating the Odds: Successfully Following a Long-Term Pastor

4. Understanding congregational dynamics is half the battle. One pastor could not comprehend why his congregation did not respect his authority. Yet he obviously did not understand how the congregation functioned, what they valued, and what they needed in a leader. He listed the problems he saw in the church but had no clue how to address them. Sadly, the conversation was a sort of "exit interview" among the boxes packed for his new assignment.

<https://alban.org/archive/beating-the-odds-successfully-following-a-long-term-pastor/>

[Images for Following a Long-Term Pastor](#)

### Call Process - Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

Welcome to Call Process Online. This web site supports the work of Call Process in the ELCA, assisting the ELCA's 65 synodical bishops as they engage their congregations, church-related organizations, rostered leaders and candidates for rostered ministry in a time of thoughtful assessment and prayerful discernment about their work together in ministry and mission. Each bishop is responsible for the way Call Process is managed within their respective territory.

This web site brings together the various forms used within Call Process and links them to a churchwide database – the Mobility Database System (MDS). The MDS allows information from the Call Process forms to be summarized, searched and shared quickly and effectively, greatly enhancing the church's ability to engage in the common work of Call Process. If you are a rostered leader and would like to access your call process forms, select this link.

[ROSTERED LEADERS](#)

If your congregation or organization is searching for a Rostered Leader for call and you want to create or access your call process forms, select this link.

[MINISTRY SITES](#)

If you would like to learn about current openings offered in the ELCA, select this link.

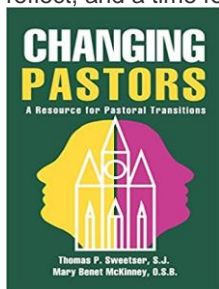
[CURRENT OPENINGS](#)

<http://www.elca.org/call-process>

[Images for Call Process - Evangelical Lutheran Church in America](#)

### Changing Pastors: A Resource for Pastoral Transitions by Thomas P. Sweetser S.J. (Author), Mary Benet McKinney O.S.B.

The strongest parishes have pastors with a mission and goals that are supported and enhanced by their parishioners. A change in pastors threatens to upset a nicely balanced applecart. To make sure the essential mission of the parish keeps moving forward, outgoing and incoming pastors and parishioners need to manage the transition. This book offers a new method for transition that allows time for the parish and the outgoing pastor to grieve the loss, an interim period between pastors for the parishioners to reflect, and a time for the parishioners and the new pastor to discover what they can offer each other.



<https://www.amazon.com/Changing-Pastors-Resource-Pastoral-Transitions/dp/1556129610>

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<http://www.resourcingchristianity.org/grant-product/changing-pastors-a-resource-for-pastoral-transitions>

<https://www.amazon.com/Thomas-P.-Sweetser/e/B001JS4GSY>

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[https://www.goodreads.com/author/show/5692363.Mary\\_Benet\\_McKinney\\_O\\_S\\_B](https://www.goodreads.com/author/show/5692363.Mary_Benet_McKinney_O_S_B)

[Images for Mary Benet McKinney O.S.B., author](#)

[Images for Changing Pastors: A Resource for Pastoral Transitions by Thomas P. Sweetser S.J. \(Author\), Mary Benet McKinney O.S.B.](#)

### [PDF]Congregational Leadership in Anxious Times - Rockhay

Western society is experiencing a shift *from* one historic period *to* another: focus on continuity - living with constant radical change; intellectual approach - experience of faith; following denominational/family ties - shopping for a church; organized around a neighborhood - organized around a region; structure is vertical (top down) - horizontal structure (networks/teams); info and knowledge key, certainty is important - verbal and visual communication; loyalty to institution - participation in meaningful groups; worship as strengthening faith - worship as evangelism.

[http://rockhay.tripod.com/cohort/Congregational\\_Leadership\\_in\\_Anxious\\_Times.pdf](http://rockhay.tripod.com/cohort/Congregational_Leadership_in_Anxious_Times.pdf)

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[Images for Congregational Leadership in Anxious Times](#)

### Discovering a New Identity

Often congregations have a strong self-image, positive or negative, which may or may not truthfully reflect present realities. As the search for a new minister proceeds, it is essential that both the Search Committee and the congregation have a clear sense of the church's identity, recognizing both strengths and needs. This task, therefore, calls for a careful self-assessment by a congregation, so that it can envision more clearly what it wishes to become.

### [PDF]guidelines for interim pastorates - Southern California Nevada Conference of the United Church of Christ

<http://www.scnucc.org/resources/d/InterimMinistGuide2.pdf>

Page 8

[Images for discovering a new identity interim ministry](#)

[http://s3.amazonaws.com/dfc\\_attachments/public/documents/3203806/5-The\\_5\\_Tasks\\_of\\_Interim\\_Ministry.pdf](http://s3.amazonaws.com/dfc_attachments/public/documents/3203806/5-The_5_Tasks_of_Interim_Ministry.pdf)

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<http://www.ohioucc.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/11/Interim-Ministry-Rezash-Policy.pdf> Page 4  
<http://www.northumberlandpresbytery.org/wp-content/uploads/2013/06/1ab-MASTER-A-Manual-for-Interim-Ministry.pdf> Page 3  
<https://www.imaelca.org/f-a-q/faqs-for-congregations/> Five Developmental Tasks #1  
<https://books.google.com/books?isbn=0664500021> The Interim Pastor's Manual - Page 43 - Google Books Result  
<https://books.google.com/books?isbn=1566996465> Temporary Shepherds: A Congregational Handbook for Interim Ministry Page 168  
<https://www.preaching.com/articles/preaching-during-the-interim/>  
<https://franconiaconference.org/media-uploads/Tab%201%20-%20Overview%20PPT.pdf> History Page 11

Discovering a New Identity: The Developmental Tasks Revisited  
 The Journal of the Interim Ministry Network. Volume 2, Number 3 – November 1998.  
 By Nancy Tanner. Interim Ministry Network. 5740 Executive Drive, Suite 212, Baltimore, MD 21228. [www.imnedu.org](http://www.imnedu.org)  
[Images for Discovering a New Identity: The Developmental Tasks Revisited](#)

#### Examining Your Ministry Context » RevWriter

All of ministry takes place within a context of time and space.

RevWriter » Examining Your Ministry Context » Resources congregations and their leaders

<http://www.revwriter.com/revwriter-resource/examining-your-ministry-context%E2%80%A8#.VorqiPkrKUK>

[Images for Examining Your Ministry Context](#)

#### Fifteen Pointers For Preachers - MinistryHealth.Net

However, he cautioned pastors to avoid tying their **identity** to the pulpit. Never think of it as “my” church, he said, something he learned in his final pastorate.

[http://www.ministryhealth.net/mh\\_articles/325\\_ro\\_15\\_pointers\\_preachers.html](http://www.ministryhealth.net/mh_articles/325_ro_15_pointers_preachers.html)

[Images for Pointers For Preachers](#)

#### How to be a good shepherd: nine traits of effective pastoral leaders

##### 2. **Identity**

Effective pastors and lay leaders remember that they are, before all else, disciples of Jesus Christ. Their primary identity remains grounded in their Baptism. While they may be priest, deacon, vowed religious, or lay minister, they are Christians first. And because they are disciples, like other members of the faithful, they need to hear God's Word, to be ministered to, and to be supported by community and friends. Grounded in their baptismal identity, they minister without hint of clericalism or spiritual superiority.

<http://www.thefreelibrary.com/How+to+be+a+good+shepherd%3A+nine+traits+of+effective+pastoral+leaders.-a082374376>

[Images for How to be a good shepherd: nine traits of effective pastoral leaders 2. Identity](#)

#### Identifying Contextual Factors – Emotional Climate

Step Two, Task One: Identifying Contextual Factors

Observing the emotional climate between parties in a church system is a particularly revealing way to measure the system's level of constructiveness or destructiveness.

<http://www.wotp.interiministry.org/resources/identifying-contextual-factors-emotional-climate/>

[Images for Identifying Contextual Factors – Emotional Climate](#)

#### Interim Ministry: Positive Change in Times of Transition by Justin W. Tull (Author)

*Interim Ministry: Positive Change in a Time of Transition* contains in-depth case studies of two short-term interim appointments. This work goes well beyond simply offering theories and methodologies on how to do interim ministry. Instead it details concrete examples of how the initial goals of the interim pastor may be implemented through programs, group interaction, pastoral care, sermons, and written communication. The first interim appointment followed the death of a beloved pastor after a two-year battle with cancer. The second interim began in the midst of a church meltdown following an appointment change of senior pastor. Both interim appointments began in a time of crisis—the first marked by deep grief and the second saturated with disillusionment and even some despair. In spite of the initial environments of high anxiety and discouragement, both churches were able to regain a sense of hope and redefine or reclaim their church **identity**. Indeed, both churches experienced real positive change in the midst of very difficult circumstances. This book was written to be a catalyst for professional reflection and to serve as a model for being a transformational agent for churches in need of a more hopeful and fruitful future.

<http://www.amazon.com/Interim-Ministry-Positive-Change-Transition/dp/1479335959>

<https://www.goodreads.com/book/show/21279387-interim-ministry>

<https://www.barnesandnoble.com/w/interim-ministry-justin-w-tull/1115669842>

[https://books.google.com/books/about/Interim\\_Ministry.html?id=NO7UMgEACAAJ](https://books.google.com/books/about/Interim_Ministry.html?id=NO7UMgEACAAJ)

<http://www.transitionministriesgroup.com/17-keys-to-effective-interim-ministry/>

<http://jtull.ipage.com/interimministry.html>

<http://www.turnaroundpastor.com/author/justintull/>

[Images for Justin W. Tull \(Author\)](#)

[Images for Interim Ministry: Positive Change in Times of Transition by Justin W. Tull \(Author\)](#)

## Knowing Your Community, Defining Your Mission - Alban

Getting to know the community that your congregation will focus on is a critical step in defining your mission. To start, work on getting answers to several key questions: What are the primary issues in your community? How do the people in the community want the church to respond to those issues? And probably most important: do the people in your community actually want the ministry you are proposing? Your congregation will be most successful if you can answer yes to this question.

<https://alban.org/archive/known-your-community-defining-your-mission/>

[Images for Knowing Your Community, Defining Your Mission - Alban](#)

<https://alban.org/category/strategic-planning/page/2/>

<https://alban.org/category/public-ministry/page/2/>

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

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<https://alban.org/2015/10/08/r-mark-king-the-church-ethos-process/>

<https://alban.org/archive/intentionality-practice-and-vitality/>

[Images for Intentionality, Practice, and Vitality](#)

## Overcoming the Dark Side of Leadership: How to Become an Effective Leader by Confronting Potential Failures [Gary L. McIntosh, Samuel D. Rima]

### 17. Step 5: Understanding Your Identity in Christ 205

The Christian world has been rocked by the number of prominent leaders, in both church and para-church organizations, who have been compromised by moral, ethical, and theological failures. This pace-setting volume addresses this alarming problem and offers Christian leaders valuable guidance in dealing with the inherent risks of their work.

Using biblical and current examples, the authors describe the characteristics of five types of leaders and the problems that are most likely to develop if their particular dysfunctions develop unrestrained. McIntosh and Rima offer a series of steps for leaders to consider so they can take control of their dark side and learn to harness its creative powers. This edition includes a new introduction, updated information throughout, a self-assessment tool, and other additional material. Includes endorsements from John Maxwell, Leighton Ford, Leith Anderson, and Rob Angel.

<http://www.amazon.com/Overcoming-Dark-Side-Leadership-Confronting/dp/0801068355>

<http://bakerpublishinggroup.com/books/overcoming-the-dark-side-of-leadership-revised-edition/148352>

[http://books.google.com/books/about/Overcoming\\_the\\_Dark\\_Side\\_of\\_Leadership.html?id=MDrgOnyykQYC](http://books.google.com/books/about/Overcoming_the_Dark_Side_of_Leadership.html?id=MDrgOnyykQYC)

<http://ebookbrowse.com/overcoming-the-dark-side-of-leadership-pdf-d99190196>

[http://www.2shared.com/document/FJj0Tla7/Overcoming\\_the\\_Dark\\_Side\\_of\\_Le.html](http://www.2shared.com/document/FJj0Tla7/Overcoming_the_Dark_Side_of_Le.html)

<http://jafriedrich.de/pdf/Book%20summary%20-%20Overcoming%20the%20Dark%20Side%20of%20Leadership.pdf>

<http://www.nealcordle.com/2010/12/overcoming-dark-side-of-leadership.html>

<http://www.dts.edu/download/campus/internships/DTS-SFL-Overcoming%20the%20Dark%20Side%20of%20Leadership%20by%20Gary%20McIntosh%20and%20Samuel%20Rima.pdf>

<http://www.barnabasministry.com/review-darkside.html>

[Images for Understanding Your Identity in Christ](#)

<http://jamiehoag.wordpress.com/2013/01/31/book-review-overcoming-the-dark-side-of-leadership/>

<http://www.churchgrowthnetwork.com/gary-mcintosh/>

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[https://www.goodreads.com/author/list/58621.Gary\\_L\\_McIntosh](https://www.goodreads.com/author/list/58621.Gary_L_McIntosh)

[Images for Gary L. McIntosh, author](#)

<http://open.biola.edu/authors/gary-l-mcintosh>

[http://www.talbot.edu/faculty/profile/gary\\_mcintosh/](http://www.talbot.edu/faculty/profile/gary_mcintosh/)

<https://www.amazon.com/Samuel-D.-Rima/e/B003155SU8>

[https://www.goodreads.com/author/show/166459.Samuel\\_D\\_Rima](https://www.goodreads.com/author/show/166459.Samuel_D_Rima)

[Images for Samuel D. Rima, author](#)

[Images for Overcoming the Dark Side of Leadership: How to Become an Effective Leader by Confronting Potential Failures \[Gary L. McIntosh, Samuel D. Rima\]](#)

### 2. Being a Good Listener

Interim Pastors hit the road running. They must possess the skills of building instant rapport and trust. Their major pastoral role must be that of healer, listener, carer. Keire writes, "During the first six months of an interim time, open communication is critical. Beyond maintenance ministry, the Interim Pastor's primary duty should be visiting all church members ... (to) discover the congregation's pulse beat and unwritten agenda."9

### 3. Clarifying the Identity of a Congregation

Like the ancient Israelites in the wilderness, confusion may exist about the nature and mission of the church during the interim.

Although it may not have been their intention, many congregations reflect the images of their pastors and when they leave there is a time of identity diffusion.

Through intentional preaching (and group work), Interim Pastors can help congregations avoid cloning their former pastor's identity and discover their own. Furthermore, such a process helps a search committee as it seeks a new minister who will fit the goals and dreams of the congregation. This reassessment needs to take place before the arrival of the new pastor, so that the shared goals are faithful to the deepest sense of concern and commitment of the membership. One strategy that has proved helpful is analyzing the life cycle of a congregation.10

<https://www.preaching.com/articles/preaching-during-the-interim/>

[Images for Preaching During the Interim](#)  
[Images for Clarifying the Identity of a Congregation](#)

**[PDF] Rethinking Transitional Ministry by Norman B. Bendroth – Amazon Web Services**

Robinson also focuses on helping congregations get a clear fix on their **identity**. "If people do not know who they are and what they value they will never discover what they are to do," he says.

[http://macucc.s3.amazonaws.com/71BBE2C7B9B049B0883D51809D9A1E82\\_Rethinking%20Transitional%20Ministry.pdf](http://macucc.s3.amazonaws.com/71BBE2C7B9B049B0883D51809D9A1E82_Rethinking%20Transitional%20Ministry.pdf)

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[Images for congregations get a clear fix on their identity](#)

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[Images for Rethinking Transitional Ministry by Norman B. Bendroth](#)

**What in God's Name Is Going on Here? Rev. Robert J. Voyle**

Helping a congregation to **identify** what in God's name is going on can also be very beneficial for the congregation's planning and budgeting. When the congregation can truly discern those places and ministries where God is active then they can allocate their time and resources in more appropriate and intentional ways. Asking the question as a ministry consultant can also raise curious results. At a recent meeting of rectors and congregational leaders, each of the people present could readily discern where they individually identified God at work in their parishes. Yet on asking them where they thought their fellow parishioners found God, few could positively identify those parish ministries where parishioners found God. Several said it would be presumptuous for them to say where parishioners found God. I strongly disagree. As parish leaders, their prime responsibility is to know what God is doing in their midst by knowing where their members find God and see God at work. A failure to identify what God is doing suggests that their parish planning and budgeting is likely to be governed by wishful thinking and best intentions rather than participation in the coming of God's kingdom. So, the next time you go into church ask yourself and those around you: What in God's name is going on here?

**Appreciative Interim Ministry Articles - Clergy Leadership Institute**

<http://www.clergyleadership.com/resources/aim-articles.cfm> [What in God's Name is Going on Here?](#)

[Images for What in God's Name Is Going on Here? Rev. Robert J. Voyle](#)

<http://www.transitionalministry.org/resources.cfm#what>

[Images for helping a congregation to identify](#)

**What's the future? Identity and mission can lead to renewal - The Lutheran Magazine**

Will each of the 525,600 minutes of 2006 bring mainline denominations in the U.S. closer to extinction? Or will each minute advance them closer to new life? Are the cracks—and there are cracks—in the denominational egg signs of imminent demise or life struggling to be born?

Kenneth Inskeep, director of ELCA Research and Evaluation, and I explored those questions and more in *Chasing Down A Rumor: The Death of Mainline Denominations* (Augsburg Books, 2005). Among our observations about these churches:

- The rumor of their decay, decline or death, if believed, has an immobilizing effect by functioning as self-fulfilling prophecy.
- The statistics are neither bad nor good.
- The differences within each denomination are as great as the differences across denominational lines and must be addressed to achieve a workable (not perfect) unity.
- There are significant activities being undertaken, born neither of denial nor despair, in nine areas: better self-understanding; dialogue and relationship-building; forming alliances (rather than mergers); outreach and evangelism; alignment of structure with mission; working with and learning from the poor; connecting across national borders; transfer of learning in and among mainlines; and valuing diversity.

[http://www.thelutheran.org/article/article.cfm?article\\_id=5807](http://www.thelutheran.org/article/article.cfm?article_id=5807)

[Images for What's the future? Identity and mission can lead to renewal - The Lutheran Magazine](#)

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

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

**Who and Where We Are Now - Congdon Street Baptist Church**

This Bible study relates to three of the interim church's tasks – discovering a new **identity**, managing shifts in leadership, and renewing denominational linkages. Experiential components could include:

[http://www.csbschurch.org/BibleStudyOutline\\_04-14-10.pdf](http://www.csbschurch.org/BibleStudyOutline_04-14-10.pdf)

[Images for Who and Where We Are Now - Congdon Street Baptist Church](#)

**Who Likes Waiting?**

In these coming months of interim ministry, we will be taking intentional time to wonder about the **identity** and mission of Hope Lutheran Church. We will be asking some very important questions...

What may God be up to in our congregation?

Who are we as God's people here at Hope Lutheran?



Where is God leading our future ministry?

[http://www.hopelutheran-ec.com/February\\_Hope\\_s\\_Happenings\\_2013.pdf](http://www.hopelutheran-ec.com/February_Hope_s_Happenings_2013.pdf)  
[Images for Who are we as God's people here at Hope Lutheran?](#)

Page 3

## 16) Internet Church

### Internet church - Wikipedia

Internet church, online church or cyberchurch refer to a wide variety of ways that Christian religious groups can use the internet to facilitate their religious activities, particularly prayer, discussion, preaching and worship services.<sup>[1]</sup> The Internet has become a site for religious experience which has raised questions related to *ecclesiology*<sup>[2]</sup>, because some Christian traditions insist that an online gathering cannot be considered a church. For example, the Roman Catholic [Pontifical Council for Social Communications](#) declared in 2002 that "the virtual reality of cyberspace cannot substitute for real interpersonal community, the incarnational reality of the sacraments and the liturgy, or the immediate and direct proclamation of the gospel", while acknowledging that the internet can still "enrich the religious lives of users"<sup>[3]</sup>.

[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Internet\\_church](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Internet_church)  
[Images for internet church](#)

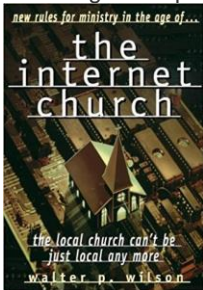
### Is the Digital or Internet Church Really the Church? - ThomRainer.com

Some call it the digital church. Others call it the Internet church. In either case, it refers to people joining worship services, and even groups, virtually or digitally. They are not physically present.

<http://thomrainer.com/2018/01/digital-internet-church-really-church/>  
[Images for Is the Digital or Internet Church Really the Church? - ThomRainer.com](#)  
<http://thomrainer.com/2014/02/six-major-issues-regarding-the-digital-church/>  
<http://thomrainer.com/2015/10/evangelism-outreach-and-the-internet-rainer-on-leadership-167/>  
<https://churchanswers.com/podcasts/rainer-on-leadership/understanding-the-internet-church-as-a-entry-point-to-the-physical-gathering-rainer-on-leadership-504/>  
<https://www.amazon.com/Simple-Church-Returning-Process-Disciples/dp/0805443908>  
<https://www.amazon.com/Breakout-Churches-Discover-Make-Leap/dp/0310293472>  
[Images for thom rainer \(author\)](#)

### The Internet Church by Walter P. Wilson (Author)

With rapid technological advances and the increasing impact of the internet, the world is literally at our fingertips. Yet many churches have yet to discover how to tap into this powerful resource. "The Internet Church" shows church leaders how to start from square one in creating an interactive website that can greatly expand the ministry potential of a church. Walter Wilson, an internet expert and committed Christian, describes how technology can enhance evangelism outreach, and challenges leaders to take advantage of unprecedented opportunities in the new digital age.



<https://www.amazon.com/Internet-Church-Walter-P-Wilson/dp/0849990858>  
<https://www.publishersweekly.com/978-0-8499-1639-7> Nonfiction Book Review  
<http://www.icta.net/briefing00/html/bios/WWilson.html>  
<https://books.google.com/books?isbn=1401677290>  
<https://books.google.com/books?isbn=1418470988>  
<https://books.google.com/books?isbn=0195369645>  
[Images for The Internet Church by Walter P. Wilson \(Author\)](#)

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### The London Internet Church

The London Internet Church is a gathered global community that meets online to worship, enquire, encourage and pray.

<http://londoninternetchurch.org.uk/>  
[Images for London Internet Church](#)

## 17) Introvert

### How to be an introvert in a noisy church | Christian News on Christian Today

If you are introvert, don't be ashamed. This is a gift for you to explore, and a gift for you to offer to the Church of which you are fully and rightfully a part in Christ.

<https://www.christiantoday.com/article/how-to-be-an-introvert-in-a-noisy-church/51765.htm>



Images for How to be an introvert in a noisy church | Christian News on Christian Today  
<https://www.amazon.com/Introvert-Charismatic-Introversion-Noisy-Church/dp/0857215884>

Images for Introvert-Charismatic-Introversion-Noisy-Church

<http://cavman.wordpress.com/2013/04/24/considering-the-introverted-church/>

Images for considering-the-introverted-church

<https://www.thegospelcoalition.org/article/four-lies-about-introverts>

<http://www.christianitytoday.com/pastors/2013/spring/confessions-of-ministry-introvert.html>

Images for Confessions of a Ministry Introvert

<http://www.churchleaders.com/outreach-missions/outreach-missions-blogs/164794-js-park-handle-a-christian-introvert.html> 14 Ways to Handle a Christian Introvert

<http://www.christianitytoday.com/pastors/2013/spring/confessions-of-ministry-introvert.html>

Images for Confessions of a Ministry Introvert

<http://www.ministrymatters.com/all/entry/5220/introverted-pastors-be-extroverted-on-sunday>

<https://www.gotquestions.org/Christian-introvert.html> Is it wrong for a Christian to be an introvert?

<http://www.churchleaders.com/pastors/pastor-articles/165611-peter-haas-introvert-leaders-survival-guide.html>

Images for Introvert Leader's Survival Guide

<http://www.ministrymatters.com/all/entry/3576/the-quiet-pastor-affirming-different-personalities-in-ministry>

Images for Quiet Pastor

<https://inadequateimages.wordpress.com/2012/04/27/the-top-5-things-introverts-dread-about-church-and-or-church-camp/>

Images for Things Introverts Dread About Church

<http://www.relevantmagazine.com/god/church/what-introverts-wish-church-understood-about-them>

[http://www.huffingtonpost.com/john-weirick/why-introverts-would-rather\\_b\\_11099954.html](http://www.huffingtonpost.com/john-weirick/why-introverts-would-rather_b_11099954.html)

Images for Why Introverts Would Rather Avoid Church

### Introversion and extroversion - Simple English Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia

Introversion and extroversion is a personality dimension. It was promoted by Carl Jung in the 1920s. Individual people differ on this scale. *Introverts* are quiet and shy, and *extroverts* are loud and sociable. According to the theory, **introverts** get energy from inside themselves (ideas and concepts in their own minds), and extroverts get energy from outside of themselves (interacting with other people). There are many concepts or understanding about introversion and extroversion that are false or myths. Such as the idea that introverts are not talkative and live their lives emotionless.

The idea of introversion and extroversion has been used in many personality tests and is an important factor.

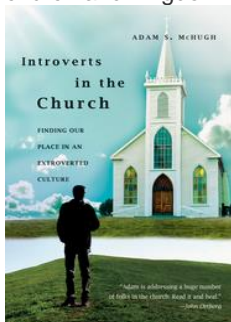
Those who follow this way of looking at the world say that everyone has some parts of both traits in them, though one will usually dominate over the other. At one time, extroverts were thought to make up almost three-fourths of American society. Now, researchers typically assume that the number of extroverts is pretty much equal to the number of introverts in the country.

[https://simple.wikipedia.org/wiki/Introversion\\_and\\_extroversion](https://simple.wikipedia.org/wiki/Introversion_and_extroversion)

Images for Introversion

### Introverts in the Church: Finding Our Place in an Extroverted Culture by Adam S. McHugh (Author)

Introverts are called and gifted by God. But many churches tend to be extroverted places where introverts are marginalized. Some Christians end up feeling like it's not as faithful to be an introvert. Adam McHugh shows how introverts can live and minister in ways consistent with their personalities. He explains how introverts and extroverts process information and approach relationships differently and how introverts can practice Christian spirituality in ways that fit who they are. With practical illustrations from church and para-church contexts, McHugh offers ways for introverts to serve, lead, worship and even evangelize effectively. *Introverts in the Church* is essential reading for any introvert who has ever felt out of place, as well as for church leaders who want to make their churches more welcoming to introverts. Discover God's call and empowering to thrive as an introvert, for the sake of the church and kingdom.



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 Images for Adam S. McHugh (Author)  
 Images for Introverts in the Church: Finding Our Place in an Extroverted Culture by Adam S. McHugh (Author)

#### Quiet: The Power of Introverts in a World That Can't Stop Talking by Susan Cain (Author)

At least one-third of the people we know are introverts. They are the ones who prefer listening to speaking; who innovate and create but dislike self-promotion; who favor working on their own over working in teams. It is to introverts—Rosa Parks, Chopin, Dr. Seuss, Steve Wozniak—that we owe many of the great contributions to society.

In *Quiet*, Susan Cain argues that we dramatically undervalue introverts and shows how much we lose in doing so. She charts the rise of the Extrovert Ideal throughout the twentieth century and explores how deeply it has come to permeate our culture. She also introduces us to successful introverts—from a witty, high-octane public speaker who recharges in solitude after his talks, to a record-breaking salesman who quietly taps into the power of questions. Passionately argued, superbly researched, and filled with indelible stories of real people, *Quiet* has the power to permanently change how we see introverts and, equally important, how they see themselves. Now with Extra Libris material, including a reader's guide and bonus content.



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### Self-Promotion for Introverts: The Quiet Guide to Getting Ahead (Business Books) by Nancy Ancowitz (Author)

All too often, introverts get passed over for job offers and promotions while their more extroverted colleagues get all of the recognition. But it doesn't have to be this way.

In Self-Promotion for Introverts®, business communication coach and intrepid introvert Nancy Ancowitz helps introverts tap into their quiet strengths, articulate their accomplishments, and launch an action plan for gaining career advancement. You will learn how to:

- Promote yourself without bragging— when networking, on job interviews, and at work
- Use your quiet gifts (writing, researching, and listening) to your advantage
- Be a commanding presenter, despite your quieter nature
- Formulate your best plans, set goals, take action— and even find a better job
- Featuring exclusive advice from Warren Buffett, Bill Clinton, Hearst Magazines president Cathie Black, and marketing guru Seth Godin, Self-Promotion for Introverts® helps you progress inward, outward, and onward.

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[Images for Self-Promotion for Introverts: The Quiet Guide to Getting Ahead \(Business Books\) by Nancy Ancowitz \(Author\)](#)

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### Seven Tips for Introverted Pastors – ThomRainer.com

I hope my experiences, both bad and good, will prove to be meaningful to pastors today.

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

### The Advantages and Struggles of the Introverted Pastor – Justin Deeter

As a self-confessed introvert, I've found that my personality helps and hinders my ministry. Every personality contains facets that are prone to sin and to faithfulness. As I've learned (and am still learning) myself and my own quirkiness, I've identified three advantages and three disadvantages of my introversion when it comes to my pastoral ministry. I pray these personal musings will help fellow introverted pastors assess how their own personality can help or hinder their ministry.

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### **The Introvert's Guide to Success in Business and Leadership by Lisa Petrilli (Author)**

Being an introvert is truly an advantage in business and leadership if you know how to leverage it!

Having used her introversion to her advantage, the author went from new college graduate to holding responsibility for a \$750 million business in just 10 short years. This eBook tells you how she did it and reveals very specific, actionable steps introverts can take to be abundantly successful in business, leadership and life. Importantly, the steps recommended are designed to be fully comfortable for introverts who get their energy from their "inner world" of ideas, and who are often uncomfortable with aspects of the "outer world" of business and leadership.

You see, introverts have unique strengths and can literally change the world through the power of their ideas. Yet so many introverts fail to recognize and leverage the real power that comes with their introversion, which holds them back from experiencing all the achievement, advancement, and abundance that life has to offer.

This eBook is for introverts who want to use their introversion to their advantage in business and leadership, and for extroverts who lead introverts and wish to be more effective leaders.

You can achieve the success you want! Download the eBook to get started now!

Chapters Include:

- \* The difference between Introverts and Extroverts in the business world
- \* Successful networking strategies and their critical importance
- \* Standing out in a crowd - comfortably
- \* Processing ideas and making leadership decisions
- \* Core principles of succeeding in business and leadership
- \* How to effectively reach out to others
- \* Interviewing secrets for introverts
- \* How to get promoted
- \* How to successfully motivate your teams to action
- \* Communicating effectively
- \* An introvert's approach to leveraging social media for business success
- \* Giving stellar presentations
- \* Advice for introverts in the Chief Executive suite
- \* Bonus: The extravert's guide to leading introverts
- \* Bonus: The hang-on-your-office-wall list of reminders

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 Images for Lisa Petrilli, author

[Images for The Introvert's Guide to Success in Business and Leadership by Lisa Petrilli \(Author\)](#)

### **Wallflowers in the Kingdom: A Vindication of Introverts in the Body of Christ by Louis N. Jones (Author)**

Introverts are not weird. They are not social outcasts. They are not brooding serial killers. And they are not created to be extroverts. The author explains why introverts are created that way by God and are important in the functioning of the Kingdom of God. He examines Scriptures that support the lifestyle of the introvert and calls upon extroverts and introverts to better understand each other to foster harmony in the church. Wallflowers in the Kingdom is yet another resounding voice in a Godly chorus designed

to bring more light and vindication to the lifestyle of the introvert in the modern-day church. This guide is for the faithful Christian pressured by today's extroverted churches to be outgoing and sociable but is not yet ready to be the "life of the party."

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Images for Louis N. Jones, author wallflowers in the kingdom

Images for Wallflowers in the Kingdom: A Vindication of Introverts in the Body of Christ by Louis N. Jones (Author)

## 18) Inward Focused Congregation

### 5 Tell-Tale Signs Your Congregation Is Insider-Focused - CareyNieuwhof.com

Of course, people point to many reasons why their church isn't growing (I cover 10 frequent reasons in this post), but underneath all of them is one root cause: insider-focus.

<http://careynieuwhof.com/2016/08/5-tell-tale-signs-your-congregation-is-insider-focused/>

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Images for carey nieuwhof (author)

### Outward vs. Inward-Focused Churches - ChurchLeaders.com

After working with all those churches, though, this is probably the key distinguishing factor when it comes to the health of the church: It's whether the church is outward-focused or inward-focused. That issue is always what creates the most tension when it comes to the potential for change.

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Images for Outward vs. Inward-Focused Churches - ChurchLeaders.com

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Images for Inwardly Focused Church

### The 10 Warning Signs of an Inwardly Obsessed Church – ThomRainer.com

In my research of churches and consultation with churches, I have kept a checklist of potential signs that a church might be moving toward inward obsession.

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## 19) Isolated Congregation

### [PDF] A Typology for Congregational Health - The Parish Paper

#### VIII. Isolated Congregations

- A. Description: Congregations separated from the current environment
- B. Need: To better understand their history and the context around them
- C. Intervention: Intentional interim or pastor focused on pastoral care

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<https://www.wisconsinumc.org/Resources/Documents/ParishPaper/ParishPaper-Apr12.pdf> How is Your Congregation's Health? – April 2012 Page 2

<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

### In The Rural West, 'Roving Rabbis' Reach Isolated Jews: NPR

Residents of the rural West have historically relied on the talents of people passing through — traveling doctors, traveling circus performers and traveling preachers. So-called roving rabbis like Refson and Kaplan are carrying on that tradition, meeting rural Jews who otherwise might rarely interact with others of their faith.

<https://www.npr.org/2014/09/27/351767729/in-the-rural-west-roving-rabbis-reach-isolated-jews>

<http://www.nytimes.com/1987/07/05/us/rabbi-stand-ins-to-aid-isolated-new-england-jews.html>

Images for Rural West, 'Roving Rabbis' Reach Isolated Jews

## 20) Large Congregation

### How to Strengthen Clergy/Staff Leadership & Relationship Skills – The Parish Paper

When the pastor moves to a larger church.

After making the adjustment from seminary to a small congregation, what if the pastor relocates to a midsize church? He or she had functioned somewhat like a “chaplain” in the small church. Serving a midsize church feels more like being a “Y director.” Here, people value the skill of shepherding multiple committees and programs. What if the midsize-church pastor becomes senior pastor in a giant congregation? He or she now feels more like a “corporation president.” The programs must run well—but mostly through staff people. Relationship skills are still important, but leadership-role skills and preaching skills are of paramount importance.

### [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>

Page 7

<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 – The Parish Paper

Images for When the pastor moves to a larger church.

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

<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

### Hybrid Church: The Fusion of Intimacy and Impact [Dave Browning]

A hands-on resource for both large and small churches

It has been predicted that in the twenty-first century extremely large churches would emerge in America that resemble neither an elephant nor a field of mice. Which is better? At one time, the answer would have been either/or. Now it's both/and. We want both the intimacy of smallness and the impact of bigness—we want a hybrid of the two. *Hybrid Church* is a practical guide for clergy and leaders who want to have the best of both church worlds: the intimacy of small “house church” groups and the impact of very large mega-churches.

- Offers a guide for churches who want to capitalize on their strengths to build intimacy with impact
- Written by the pastor of one of the “fastest growing” and “most innovative” churches in America with thousands of members organized in small house groups
- Outlines a vision for how the church of tomorrow could look like the early church. Given that the trend is toward very large and very small, with few churches in the middle, this book will be a welcome resource for both large and small churches.

<http://www.amazon.com/Hybrid-Church-Fusion-Intimacy-Impact/dp/0470572302>

<http://astore.amazon.com/interimmini06-20/detail/0470572302>

<https://www.goodreads.com/book/show/9280836-hybrid-church>

<https://www.christianbook.com/hybrid-church-fusion-intimacy-and-impact/dave-browning/9780470572306/pd/572306>

<https://www.fnac.com/a4819219/Jossey-Bass-Leadership-Network-Series-The-Fusion-of-Intimacy-and-Impact-Tome-51-Hybrid-Church-Dave-Browning>

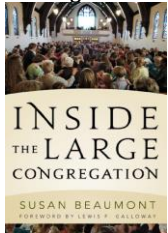
[https://www.thriftbooks.com/w/hybrid-church-the-fusion-of-intimacy-and-impact\\_dave-browning/338748/#isbn=0470572302](https://www.thriftbooks.com/w/hybrid-church-the-fusion-of-intimacy-and-impact_dave-browning/338748/#isbn=0470572302)  
<https://books.google.com/books?isbn=0470880813>  
<http://www.wiley.com/WileyCDA/WileyTitle/productCd-0470572302.html>  
<http://ctkonline.com/books>  
<http://www.connectionschurchonline.org/pages.asp?pageid=107663>  
<http://www.researchomatic.com/hybrid-church-the-fusion-of-intimacy-and-impact-150800.html>  
<http://www.lifeandleadership.com/book-summaries/browning-hybrid-church.html>  
[http://ministryformation.com.au/attachments/200\\_Book%20Review%20Hybrid%20Church.pdf](http://ministryformation.com.au/attachments/200_Book%20Review%20Hybrid%20Church.pdf)  
<https://www.pinterest.com/pin/364650901063224164/>  
<http://www.faithgateway.com/author/dave-browning/>  
<https://www.amazon.com/David-Browning/e/B001JSHEDS>  
[http://www.goodreads.com/author/show/942234.Dave\\_Browning](http://www.goodreads.com/author/show/942234.Dave_Browning)  
[Images for Dave Browning, author](#)  
[Images for Hybrid Church \[Dave Browning\]](#)

### Inside the Large Congregation [Susan Beaumont]

For five years, Alban Institute senior consultant Susan Beaumont has been giving voice to the organizational and leadership demands of large congregations. Through her work, she has identified five basic leadership systems that need to stay in alignment for the large church to function well for its size: clergy leadership roles, staff team design and function, governance and board function, acculturation and the role of laity, and forming and executing strategy.

She has also learned that these five systems operate with some important but subtle distinctions in what Beaumont calls the professional church (400-800 in worship attendance), the strategic church (800-1,200), and the matrix church (1,200-2,000). Often, she has discovered, problems in a large congregation are related to the fact that one or more of the five systems is inappropriately structured for the size of the congregation. In other words, the church isn't acting its size.

Beaumont is invested in helping large congregations 'rightsized' their leadership systems to better serve their ministry context. This book articulates why size matters and how it matters in the world of large congregations. It is written for anyone who wants to better understand the leadership and organizational dynamics of the large church anyone seeking to understand the challenges of leading from inside the large congregation.



<http://www.amazon.com/Inside-Large-Congregation-Susan-Beaumont/dp/1566994195>  
<https://www.goodreads.com/book/show/12991942-inside-the-large-congregation>  
<http://www.barnesandnoble.com/w/inside-the-large-congregation-susan-beaumont/1105732507>  
<https://rowman.com/ISBN/9781566995610/Inside-the-Large-Congregation>  
<https://books.google.com/books?isbn=1566995612>  
<http://www.susanbeaumont.com/books/>  
<http://www.susanbeaumont.com/>  
<http://www.susanbeaumont.com/wp-content/uploads/2013/03/Passing-the-Mantle-The-Interim-Time-Period-in-the-Large-Congregation.pdf>  
<http://www.susanbeaumont.com/ask-alban-core-competencies-of-large-church-leadership/>  
<http://www.susanbeaumont.com/blog/leadership-narrative/large-congregations/>  
<https://www.susanbeaumont.com/blog/size-transition/>  
<http://www.lifeandleadership.com/book-summaries/beatmont-inside-the-large-congregation.html>  
<http://sowhatfaith.com/2012/05/15/review-of-inside-the-large-congregation/>  
<http://www.lifeandleadership.com/book-summaries/beatmont-inside-the-large-congregation.html>  
[http://www.ministrymatters.com/all/author/susan\\_beaumont](http://www.ministrymatters.com/all/author/susan_beaumont)  
<http://www.lifeandleadership.com/book-summaries/beatmont-inside-the-large-congregation.html>  
<https://alban.org/archive/why-size-matters/>  
<https://www.amazon.com/Susan-Beaumont/e/B006E0FVWW>  
[http://www.goodreads.com/author/show/5308350.Susan\\_Beaumont](http://www.goodreads.com/author/show/5308350.Susan_Beaumont)  
[Images for Susan Beaumont, author](#)  
[Images for Inside the Large Congregation \[Susan Beaumont\]](#)

### Large Congregations - UUA

Hello, I'm Stefan Jonasson, the Unitarian Universalist Association's (UUA's) Director for Large Congregations. Every week, I receive numerous calls and emails from leaders in large and midsize congregations seeking insights or information about the challenges faced by congregations of their size. Sometimes their questions lead to long and interesting conversations—even visits to their congregations—while, at other times, I'm able to refer them to an online resource that can help them.

Below are the ten links to online resources that I've found to be most valuable this past year, arranged by topic.

I hope you find these resources to be helpful. If you wish to explore any of these topics further, or if you didn't find your interest represented here, please contact me by email or telephone and I'd be happy to help you identify the resources you need.  
Stefan Jonasson, Director for Large Congregations [largecongregations @ uua.org](mailto:largecongregations@uua.org) (204) 889-4746.

<http://www.uua.org/growth/large/index.shtml>

Images for large congregations

<http://www.uua.org/documents/jonassonstefan/staffinglargecong.pdf>

<http://www.uua.org/documents/jonassonstefan/leaderdevelopment.pdf>

Images for Leadership Development in the Large Congregation

<http://www.uua.org/documents/jonassonstefan/chiefstaff.pdf> The Senior Minister as Chief of Staff (PDF)

<http://www.uua.org/documents/jonassonstefan/sizeshapegovernance.pdf>

Images for Size and Shape of Church Governance

Moving toward God's Vision in Large Churches – The Parish Paper

Large Churches Are Different!

Page 5

In What Ways Are Effective Large Churches Different?

Page 9

[PDF] Ch. Effectiveness Nuggets--Volume 26--Moving toward God's Vision in Large Churches – The Parish Paper

<http://www.theparishpaper.com/files/resources/Church%20Effectiveness%20Nuggets-%20Volume%2026.pdf>

<https://www.theparishpaper.com/free-resources> Church Effective Nugget, Volume 26: Moving toward God's Vision in Large Churches

Images for Moving toward God's Vision in Large Churches – The Parish Paper Large Churches Are Different!

Images for In What Ways Are Effective Large Churches Different?

<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

The Every Church Guide to Growth: How Any Plateaued Church Can Grow - Overcoming Large Church Barriers [Thom S. Rainer, C. Peter Wagner, Elmer L. Towns]

A growing church is a living church, but much of the attention in church growth today is focused on making big churches bigger. This encouraging new book shows members of small and medium-sized congregations how to revive and expand their ministries as well. Churches of every size tend to plateau in attendance and never break free of their self-imposed limitations or 'growth barriers'. This book gives detailed, practical instructions for breaking through those barriers to new levels of impact and service in the community. *The Every Church Guide to Growth* rallies church leaders and members to develop plans for strength and solid growth in the future.

<http://www.amazon.com/Everychurch-Guide-Growth-Plateaued-Church/dp/080540192X>

[http://elmertowns.com/books/preview/every\\_ch/The\\_Everychurch\\_Guide\\_to\\_Growth%5BETown%5D.PDF](http://elmertowns.com/books/preview/every_ch/The_Everychurch_Guide_to_Growth%5BETown%5D.PDF)

<http://www.bhpublishinggroup.com/products/the-everychurch-guide-to-growth>

<http://thomrainer.com/books-by-rainer/the-everychurch-guide-to-growth/>

<https://www.amazon.com/Thom-S.-Rainer/e/B001IGLMVG>

[https://www.goodreads.com/author/list/27470.Thom\\_S\\_Rainer](https://www.goodreads.com/author/list/27470.Thom_S_Rainer)

Images for Thom S. Rainer, author

<https://www.amazon.com/C.-Peter-Wagner/e/B000AP9EY8>

[https://www.goodreads.com/author/list/53097.C\\_Peter\\_Wagner](https://www.goodreads.com/author/list/53097.C_Peter_Wagner)

Images for C. Peter Wagner, author

<https://www.amazon.com/Elmer-L.-Towns/e/B001IU2HKW>

[http://www.goodreads.com/author/show/44325.Elmer\\_L\\_Towns](http://www.goodreads.com/author/show/44325.Elmer_L_Towns)

Images for Elmer L. Towns, author

Images for The Every Church Guide to Growth: How Any Plateaued Church Can Grow - Overcoming Large Church Barriers [Thom S. Rainer, C. Peter Wagner, Elmer L. Towns]

People Migration to Larger Churches – ThomRainer.com

One of the most significant trends in American churches the past 25 years has been the migration of people from smaller churches to larger churches.

[http://thomrainer.com/2012/03/people\\_migration\\_to\\_larger\\_churches/](http://thomrainer.com/2012/03/people_migration_to_larger_churches/)

Images for People Migration to Larger Churches – ThomRainer.com

<http://thomrainer.com/2015/11/the-largest-500-churches-in-the-sbc-rainer-on-leadership-173/>

<http://thomrainer.com/2014/07/2014-update-largest-churches-southern-baptist-convention/>

<http://thomrainer.com/2016/09/five-categorical-lies-pastors/> #3

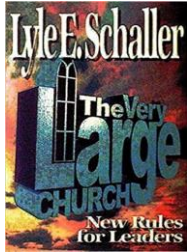
<http://thomrainer.com/2015/12/five-reasons-millennial-pastors-are-not-moving-to-larger-churches/>

<http://thomrainer.com/2016/04/five-reasons-why-the-large-single-site-church-is-declining/>

The Very Large Church: New Rules for Leaders [Lyle E. Schaller]

One of the most crucial changes in North American life, Schaller explains, has been the shift from small to large institutions. These changes, Schaller contends, mean that the rules have changed for everyone involved in organizational life, and this applies to leaders of congregations as much as to anyone. Very large churches - often called mega churches - will increasingly embody the new rule book for congregations. Extending their mission far beyond a single local neighborhood, they will draw large numbers of

visitors, helping them move from skeptic or seeker to believer to learner to disciple to apostle. This book is written for those congregational leaders, both volunteer and paid staff, who recognize that their old rule book is obsolete and who are eager to learn how to participate effectively in the very large church in context that is defined by the culture, the societal context, clearly defined expectations, a theological belief system, passion for evangelism, a high level of competence, creativity, innovation, and a new and different set of rules rather than by local traditions or geographical boundaries or yesterday's stereotypes.



<http://www.amazon.com/The-Very-Large-Church-Leaders/dp/0687090458>  
[https://www.goodreads.com/en/book/show/1684922.The\\_Very\\_Large\\_Church](https://www.goodreads.com/en/book/show/1684922.The_Very_Large_Church)  
<https://www.cokesbury.com/forms/DynamicContent.aspx?id=377&pageid=2025>  
<https://www.waterstones.com/book/the-very-large-church/lyle-e-schaller/9780687090457>  
<http://missionalthoughts.wordpress.com/2008/02/04/the-very-large-church-new-rules-for-leaders/>  
[https://digitalcommons.luthersem.edu/cgi/viewcontent.cgi?article=1009&context=phd\\_theses](https://digitalcommons.luthersem.edu/cgi/viewcontent.cgi?article=1009&context=phd_theses) Page 298  
[https://www.dts.edu/download/degrees/dmin/DTS%20-%20David%20Fletcher%20\(D.Min.\)%20-%20Dissertation.pdf](https://www.dts.edu/download/degrees/dmin/DTS%20-%20David%20Fletcher%20(D.Min.)%20-%20Dissertation.pdf) Page 345  
[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Lyle\\_E.\\_Schaller](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Lyle_E._Schaller)  
<https://www.ministrymatters.com/all/entry/5884/remember-lyle-e-schaller-the-interventionist>  
<https://www.librarything.com/author/schallerlylee>  
[http://www.abingdonpress.com/lyle\\_e\\_schaller](http://www.abingdonpress.com/lyle_e_schaller)  
<https://www.amazon.com/Lyle-E.-Schaller/e/B001IR1J9K>  
[https://www.goodreads.com/author/list/179868.Lyle\\_E\\_Schaller](https://www.goodreads.com/author/list/179868.Lyle_E_Schaller)  
 Images for Lyle E. Schaller, author  
 Images for The Very Large Church: New Rules for Leaders [Lyle E. Schaller]

Wisdom from Lyle E. Schaller: The Elder Statesman of Church Leadership by Lyle E Schaller (Author), Warren Bird (Editor)  
 12. How Do I Build on the Strengths of a Large Church? Page 74

<https://books.google.com/books?isbn=1426761627>  
 Images for How Do I Build on the Strengths of a Large Church?  
<http://www.amazon.com/Wisdom-Lyle-Schaller-Statesman-Leadership/dp/1426749104>  
[http://leadnet.org/resources/advance/lyle\\_schallers\\_wisdom\\_for\\_today](http://leadnet.org/resources/advance/lyle_schallers_wisdom_for_today)  
<http://www.lifeandleadership.com/book-summaries/schaller-and-bird-wisdom-from-lyle-e-schaller.html>  
<https://www.willmancini.com/blog/powerful-quotes-on-vision-and-leadership-by-lyle-schaller-church-consultant-lylelearnings>  
 Images for Wisdom from Lyle E. Schaller: The Elder Statesman of Church Leadership by Lyle E Schaller (Author), Warren Bird (Editor)

## 21) Leadership Congregation

### [PDF]A Typology for Congregational Health - The Parish Paper

#### II. Leadership Congregations

- A. Description: Engaged congregation with spiritually mature members
- B. Need: Opportunities for members to be involved in wider family
- C. Intervention: Mission trips, volunteer opportunities, task force recruitment

<https://www.theparishpaper.com/sites/default/files/resources/A%20Typology%20of%20Congregational%20Health.pdf>  
[https://www.theparishpaper.com/sites/default/files/back\\_issues/PP--2012-04\\_0.pdf](https://www.theparishpaper.com/sites/default/files/back_issues/PP--2012-04_0.pdf)  
<https://www.theparishpaper.com/free-resources> A Typology for Congregational Health  
 Images for A Typology for Congregational Health - The Parish Paper II. Leadership Congregations

## 22) Learning Congregation

### A Congregation of Learners - Experiment in Congregational Education

The ECE is an innovative project with over 10 years of pioneering experience in synagogue transformation. The ECE guides congregations to revitalize themselves by bringing Jewish learning to every aspect of congregational life. Now the ECE is expanding to reach even more congregations.

<http://www.eceonline.org/index.phtml>  
 Images for Congregation of Learners - Experiment in Congregational Education

### [PDF]A Typology for Congregational Health - The Parish Paper

#### V. Learning Congregations

- A. Description: Growing congregation seeking to understand environment

B. Need: Education about postmodernism, generations, renewal, change

C. Intervention: Continuing education, seminars, group training events

<https://www.theparishpaper.com/sites/default/files/resources/A%20Typology%20of%20Congregational%20Health.pdf>

[https://www.theparishpaper.com/sites/default/files/back\\_issues/PP--2012-04\\_0.pdf](https://www.theparishpaper.com/sites/default/files/back_issues/PP--2012-04_0.pdf)

<https://www.theparishpaper.com/free-resources> A Typology for Congregational Health

[Images for A Typology for Congregational Health - The Parish Paper V. Learning Congregations](#)

### Building a Learning Organization - Harvard Business Review

Continuous improvement requires a commitment to learning.

<https://hbr.org/1993/07/building-a-learning-organization>

[Images for Building a Learning Organization - Harvard Business Review](#)

<https://www.hbs.edu/faculty/Pages/item.aspx?num=31883> Is Yours a Learning Organization? - Article - Harvard Business School

[https://www.researchgate.net/publication/5440662\\_Is\\_Yours\\_a\\_Learning\\_Organization](https://www.researchgate.net/publication/5440662_Is_Yours_a_Learning_Organization)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IUP4WcfNyAA> The Importance of Learning in Organizations - YouTube

[Images for Learning in Organizations - YouTube](#)

[https://www.pdp.albany.edu/media/pdf/communiquepdf/v31\\_pdp\\_communique.pdf](https://www.pdp.albany.edu/media/pdf/communiquepdf/v31_pdp_communique.pdf) [PDF] Building a Learning Organization -

Professional Development Program

[www.knowledge-media.com/7/ASSET/Learning%20Org%20paper.PDF](http://www.knowledge-media.com/7/ASSET/Learning%20Org%20paper.PDF) [PDF] The Learning Organization

### Congregation of Learners - URJ

The Union for Reform Judaism recognizes that each synagogue is at a different point as it journeys to become a Congregation of Learners. The Nachshon Awards were developed to honor synagogues in the process of transformation. These awards will be given to individual congregations in 2009 for one new and innovative program or project that demonstrates a congregational commitment to endow all of its activities with a distinctive quality of learning and may include (but is not limited to):

- A series of teacher-training sessions that enable members to teach in the congregation's religious school.
- An intergenerational learning experience that will be expanded to reach ever-larger segments of the congregational membership.
- A new congregational Mission Statement that envisions a strong dedication to lifelong Jewish learning.
- A reinvigorated Lifelong Jewish Learning Committee that helps the congregation to focus on creating a culture of learning.

<http://urj.org/learning/teacheducate/learners/>

[Images for Congregation of Learners](#)

### The Learning Congregation: A New Vision of Leadership [Thomas R. Hawkins]

Congregations today face an adaptive challenge of immense proportions. Many respond with classic signs of work avoidance: holding to past assumptions and blaming authority. Thomas Hawkins's new vision of church leadership can provide a way to break through these defensive routines. This important and fresh model of church leadership provides practical strategies for understanding the relationship between leadership, learning, and ministry. *The Learning Congregation* is a must read for all pastors and church leaders.

<http://www.amazon.com/The-Learning-Congregation-Vision-Leadership/dp/0664256996>

[https://www.goodreads.com/book/show/1330400.The\\_Learning\\_Congregation](https://www.goodreads.com/book/show/1330400.The_Learning_Congregation)

<https://books.google.com/books?isbn=0664256996>

[https://books.google.com.ag/books/about/The\\_Learning\\_Congregation.html?hl=de&id=bbc2wSuX1FsC](https://books.google.com.ag/books/about/The_Learning_Congregation.html?hl=de&id=bbc2wSuX1FsC)

<http://books.upperroom.org/book-author/thomas-r-hawkins/>

<http://www.eiu.edu/include12/global/profile.php?id=trhawkins>

<http://books.upperroom.org/book-author/thomas-r-hawkins/>

<https://www.amazon.com/Thomas-R.-Hawkins/e/B001IQZPL4>

[http://www.goodreads.com/author/show/85699.Thomas\\_R\\_Hawkins](http://www.goodreads.com/author/show/85699.Thomas_R_Hawkins)

[Images for Thomas R. Hawkins, author](#)

[Images for The Learning Congregation: A New Vision of Leadership \[Thomas R. Hawkins\]](#)

### The Learning Congregation: Eight Key Behaviors to Gaining New Skills to Create Change

The Indianapolis Center for Congregations has identified eight markers, overarching behaviors of congregations that address challenges and opportunities in effective ways. In this workshop, participants are introduced to these markers, how congregations have practiced them, and how positive results happen when these markers are applied to those things that matter most to congregations. The eight markers are:

<http://centerforcongregations.org/workshop/learning-congregation-eight-key-behaviors-gaining-new-skills-create-change>

[Images for The Learning Congregation: Eight Key Behaviors to Gaining New Skills to Create Change](#)

### What Does the Bible Say About Learning? - OpenBible.info

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

[Images for Bible and Learning](#)

[https://www.openbible.info/topics/learning\\_scriptures](https://www.openbible.info/topics/learning_scriptures)

<https://biblereasons.com/learning/>

<https://www.biblestudytools.com/topical-verses/bible-verses-about-learning/>



<https://dailyverses.net/learning>  
<https://www.quora.com/What-does-the-bible-say-about-learning-new-things>  
<https://www1.cbn.com/bible-verses-about-learning>

## 23) Learning Culture

### Learning While Leading: Increasing Your Effectiveness in Ministry [Anita Farber-Robertson]

As the world changes, so do people's expectations of their faith community and clergy. This book uses three case studies to speak to religious professionals about the challenges they face, to provide readers with specific, user-friendly techniques to become more aware of how they function, and to learn new ways to lead. Clergy will find real-life examples of how more effective leadership enhances the life of the community and promotes the deepening of members' faith.

<http://www.amazon.com/Learning-While-Leading-Increasing-Effectiveness/dp/1566992303>  
[https://www.goodreads.com/book/show/2373060.Learning\\_While\\_Leading](https://www.goodreads.com/book/show/2373060.Learning_While_Leading)  
<https://rowman.com/ISBN/9781566992305>

[Learning While Leading: Increasing Your Effectiveness in Ministry](http://www.reverendanita.com/)

<http://www.reverendanita.com/>  
<http://www.sbcsouthhadley.com/forms/What%20Do%20We%20Do%20Next.pdf> iii  
<http://www.melroseuu.org/welcome-reverend-anita/>  
<https://www.linkedin.com/in/anita-farberrobertson-a9564510?trk=pub-pbmap>  
<https://www.uuworld.org/authors/anitafarber-robertson>  
<https://www.facebook.com/anitafarberrobertson>  
<https://www.questformeaning.org/author/anitafarberrobertson/>  
<https://www.amazon.com/Anita-Farber-Robertson/e/B001K8KFHE>  
[http://www.goodreads.com/author/show/1062493.Anita\\_Farber\\_Robertson](http://www.goodreads.com/author/show/1062493.Anita_Farber_Robertson)

[Images for Anita Farber-Robertson](#)

[Images for Learning While Leading: Increasing Your Effectiveness in Ministry \[Anita Farber-Robertson\]](#)

### The Fifth Discipline: The Art & Practice of The Learning Organization by Peter M. Senge (Author)

Completely Updated and Revised

This revised edition of Peter Senge's bestselling classic, *The Fifth Discipline*, is based on fifteen years of experience in putting the book's ideas into practice. As Senge makes clear, in the long run the only sustainable competitive advantage is your organization's ability to learn faster than the competition. The leadership stories in the book demonstrate the many ways that the core ideas in *The Fifth Discipline*, many of which seemed radical when first published in 1990, have become deeply integrated into people's ways of seeing the world and their managerial practices.

In *The Fifth Discipline*, Senge describes how companies can rid themselves of the learning "disabilities" that threaten their productivity and success by adopting the strategies of learning organizations—ones in which new and expansive patterns of thinking are nurtured, collective aspiration is set free, and people are continually learning how to create results they truly desire. The updated and revised Currency edition of this business classic contains over one hundred pages of new material based on interviews with dozens of practitioners at companies like BP, Unilever, Intel, Ford, HP, Saudi Aramco, and organizations like Roca, Oxfam, and The World Bank. It features a new Foreword about the success Peter Senge has achieved with learning organizations since the book's inception, as well as new chapters on Impetus (getting started), Strategies, Leaders' New Work, Systems Citizens, and Frontiers for the Future.

Mastering the disciplines Senge outlines in the book will:

- Reignite the spark of genuine learning driven by people focused on what truly matters to them
- Bridge teamwork into macro-creativity
- Free you of confining assumptions and mindsets
- Teach you to see the forest *and* the trees
- End the struggle between work and personal time

<https://www.amazon.com/Fifth-Discipline-Practice-Learning-Organization/dp/0385517254>  
[https://www.goodreads.com/book/show/255127.The\\_Fifth\\_Discipline](https://www.goodreads.com/book/show/255127.The_Fifth_Discipline)  
[https://www.goodreads.com/author/quotes/21072.Peter\\_M\\_Senge?page=3](https://www.goodreads.com/author/quotes/21072.Peter_M_Senge?page=3)  
[https://www.barnesandnoble.com/w/fifth-discipline-peter-m-senge/1100833082#/?](https://www.barnesandnoble.com/w/fifth-discipline-peter-m-senge/1100833082#/)  
<https://www.penguinrandomhouse.com/books/163984/the-fifth-discipline-by-peter-m-senge/9780385517256/>  
[https://books.google.com/books/about/The\\_Fifth\\_Discipline\\_Fieldbook.html?id=thTtrQVR8EIC](https://books.google.com/books/about/The_Fifth_Discipline_Fieldbook.html?id=thTtrQVR8EIC)  
[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The\\_Fifth\\_Discipline](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The_Fifth_Discipline)  
<https://www.mudamasters.com/en/change-management/fifth-discipline-psenge-summary>  
<https://thesystemsthinker.com/the-fifth-discipline-fieldbook-a-guide-to-the-learning-organization/>  
<http://www.moyak.com/papers/learning-organization.html>  
<https://www.publishersweekly.com/978-0-385-26094-7> Nonfiction Book Review  
<https://bluecottage.com/?readinglist=fifth-discipline-art-practice-learning-organization-peter-m-senge>  
<https://www.carnegiefoundation.org/newsroom/improvement-voices/what-were-reading-peter-senges-the-fifth-discipline/>  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6KZn46u7wKw>

What is the central thesis of The Fifth Discipline by Peter Senge, Author of the Fifth Discipline - YouTube

<https://www.toolshero.com/management/five-disciplines-learning-organizations/>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MQMRMAmT2gg> The Fifth Discipline in Three Minutes – YouTube

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=V38HrPnYkHI> What is systems thinking? by Peter Senge, Author of The Fifth Discipline – YouTube  
<https://thesystemsthinker.com/author/peter-senge/>  
<http://leeds-faculty.colorado.edu/larsenk/learnorg/senge.html>  
<https://mitsloan.mit.edu/faculty/directory/peter-m-senge>  
<https://www.amazon.com/Peter-M.-Senge/e/B000AQ8R86>  
[https://www.goodreads.com/author/show/21072.Peter\\_M\\_Senge](https://www.goodreads.com/author/show/21072.Peter_M_Senge)  
[Images for Peter M. Senge \(Author\)](#)  
[Images for The Fifth Discipline by Peter M. Senge](#)

#### 12 Marks of Healthy Church Behavior | Episcopal Diocese of Texas

9. Fosters a **Learning Culture** for Leaders: Understands that leaders in Christian community have a distinctive call, that they seek God's guidance, are willing to risk, lead change well and learn from experience. Leaders are trained and expected to mentor future leaders. Lay leaders foster a healthy relationship with their clergy.

<http://www.epicenter.org/12-marks-of-healthy-church-behavior/>

[Images for 12 Marks of Healthy Church Behavior | Episcopal Diocese of Texas 9. Fosters a Learning Culture for Leaders](#)

#### 24) Legacy Congregation

##### Church Legacy and Closure - United Church of Christ - UCC.org

Local Church Ministries UCC and United Church Funds offer this new Living Legacy workbook as a discernment and decision-making resource for "Legacy Congregations," churches that conclude their ministry and seed new ministries. This mixture of narratives, guidelines, inventories and resources is designed for use by leaders from all church settings who work with congregations who are considering their 'capstone' ministry.

[www.ucc.org/legacychurch](http://www.ucc.org/legacychurch)

[Images for Church Legacy and Closure](#)

##### Legacy Churches by Stephen Gray (Author), Franklin Dumond (Author)

There are churches all across America going through tough times. It is possible that your church falls into this category. The church you love and have worshiped in for many years has been slowly losing its effectiveness in reaching the community. After years of service and sacrificial ministry, after many lives and families have been impacted, the end seems to be lurking just outside the doors. The once lively and vibrant building you call your church home seems more like a museum. Your church may even be wrestling with the idea of closing its doors.

- What are you to do?
- Where do you go for answers?
- Is there any hope?
- Have you considered becoming a legacy church?

To leave a legacy is to pass on to future generations something of great significance. Leaving a legacy should be the hope of every church! If your church can give birth to a new church, that new church can carry forward your values and beliefs and continue to fulfill your mission to bring life-change to the community.

This book was written to offer hope, wisdom and courage to leaders who must consider the pathway of becoming a legacy church.

<https://www.amazon.com/Legacy-Churches-Stephen-Gray/dp/1889638781>

<http://www.kairoslegacypartners.org/not-sure-where-to-begin/legacy-church-book/>

<http://www.religiousproductnews.com/articles/2011-November/Feature-Articles/The-Legacy-Church-Model.htm>

<http://www.lifeandleadership.com/book-summaries/gray-and-dumond-legacy-churches.html>

<https://stepadun-a6197.firebaseio.com/23/Legacy-Churches.pdf>

[http://www.michucc.org/index.php?option=com\\_content&view=article&id=217&Itemid=603](http://www.michucc.org/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=217&Itemid=603)

<http://www.ministryconversations.com/2014/07/>

[Images for Stephen Gray \(Author\), Franklin Dumond \(Author\)](#)

[Images for Legacy Churches by Stephen Gray \(Author\), Franklin Dumond \(Author\)](#)

##### Legacy ministries to dying churches give congregations a way to end well

The question for many denominational leaders is how to help declining churches make decisions while they still have some agency and an ability to shape their future.

<https://www.faithandleadership.com/legacy-ministries-dying-churches-give-congregations-way-end-well>

[Images for Legacy ministries to dying churches give congregations a way to end well](#)

##### The reality of legacy church: It's not a change but grief challenge

What if we invested more time talking about and dealing with our grief? Paul gave us that great statement that we do not grieve as people without hope but how do we grieve as a people with hope? I think if we would wrestle with that we would find vibrancy among legacy churches again.

<https://www.christianpost.com/news/the-reality-of-legacy-church-its-not-a-change-but-grief-challenge-pt-1.html>

[Images for The reality of legacy church: It's not a change but grief challenge](#)

##### What Does the Bible Say About Legacy? - OpenBible.info

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

[Images for Bible and Legacy](#)

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

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

<https://billhigh.com/legacy/10-verses-on-biblical-legacy/>

<https://www.quoteskosmos.com/bible/bible-verses/Legacy.html>

## 25) Life Cycle

### A Season for Everything – Life Cycle of a Church – Healthy Growing Churches

Every church will go through natural cycles of growth, decline, and death.

<https://healthygrowingchurches.com/a-season-for-everything-life-cycle-of-a-church/>

[Images for A Season for Everything – Life Cycle of a Church – Healthy Growing Churches](#)

### [PDF] Congregational Life Cycle Assessment - Salvationist.ca

The congregational life cycle is a useful discernment tool because it is very simple to explain and quick to use for initiating conversation about the health of the corps.

<https://salvationist.ca/files/salvationarmy/corps-ministries/Files/congregationallifecycleassessment.pdf>

[Images for Congregational Life Cycle Assessment](#)

### [PDF] Congregational Life Cycle - Church Publishing

Looking at congregations there are discernible stages through which they pass. In each stage there will be found characteristic behaviors, common dangers, and possible interventions. Since the focus is on that which is common to congregations, there will be factors that are unique in particular churches. There are four factors that participate in each stage, none of which have anything to do with chronological time.

<https://www.churchpublishing.org/siteassets/pdf/cultivating-the-missional-church/resourcep.pdf>

[Images for Congregational Life Cycle](#)

### From Birth to Death: Exploring the Life Cycle of the Church - Alban Institute

Each year, I work as a consultant with dozens of churches, and through years of accumulated experience in ministry as a pastor and in congregational development, I have found the effects of this life cycle on congregations to be readily apparent.

Demonstrating this life cycle and helping a church find itself in the progressive route between life and death has become an important tool for helping church leaders find their way out of stability and decline to vital ecclesial health.

<https://alban.org/archive/from-birth-to-death-exploring-the-life-cycle-of-the-church/>

[Images for From Birth to Death: Exploring the Life Cycle of the Church - Alban Institute](#)

<https://books.google.com/books?isbn=1566995566>

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<https://www.amazon.com/cycle-congregation-Alban-Institute-publication/dp/B00070NAHS>

<http://s3.amazonaws.com/mychurchwebsite/c3935/lifecycleofacongregation.pdf>

<https://www.evangelismcoach.org/small-church-transformation/>

### [PDF] Life-Cycle of a Congregation - Augsburg Fortress

The following description of stages in congregational life cycles are based in some measure upon the work of Martin Saarinen in *The Life Cycle of a Congregation* (Alban Institute 1986), as expanded and adapted by Michael Cooper-White for a course in Church Administration, Leadership & Polity at Gettysburg Lutheran Seminary.

[http://www.augsburgfortress.org/education/academic/churchadministration/downloads/cong\\_life\\_cycle.pdf](http://www.augsburgfortress.org/education/academic/churchadministration/downloads/cong_life_cycle.pdf)

[Images for Life-Cycle of a Congregation - Augsburg Fortress](#)

<http://www.docdatabase.net/more-life-cycle-of-a-congregation-augsburg-fortress-augsburg--1065263.html>

### [PDF] Lifecycle of the Church - Amazon AWS

The Lifecycle of the Church is a tool that has been used for many years in the field of congregational development as a way to understand the different stages congregations move through as they age and grow.

[http://gbod-assets.s3.amazonaws.com/legacy/kintera-files/default-folder/Lifecycle\\_3.0\\_PDF\\_2015.pdf](http://gbod-assets.s3.amazonaws.com/legacy/kintera-files/default-folder/Lifecycle_3.0_PDF_2015.pdf)

[Images for Life Cycle of the Church](#)

### Should We Consider Closing Our Church? | The Parish Paper

*The aging church assumption.* Many experts refer to a **church life cycle**, which equates a congregation's expected lifespan to the human lifespan. If this myth were true, the average congregation's age (counting from the year of the church's founding) would be roughly equal to the average life expectancy (currently seventy-six years for men and eighty-one years for women).

<https://www.theparishpaper.com/back-issue/should-we-consider-closing-our-church>

<http://www.macucc.org/blogdetail/455198>

<https://kocucc.org/wp-content/uploads/2014/10/November-Edition-of-the-Parish-Paper-Should-We-Consider-Closing-Our-Church.pdf>

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

<http://www.wisconsinumc.org/connections/conference-news/the-parish-paper> November 2014 - "Should We Consider Closing Our Church?"

[Images for Should We Consider Closing Our Church? | The Parish Paper](#)

[Images for church life cycle a congregation's expected lifespan](#)

<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

### The Congregational Life Cycle Assessment: SSJ Playbook Resources from [www.BullardJournal.org](http://www.BullardJournal.org) by George Bullard (Author)

This eBook is part of the Spiritual Strategic Journey Playbook Resources. It is subject to periodic updates. For more information about the Spiritual Strategic Journey [SSJ] Playbook Resources contact [BullardJournal@gmail.com](mailto:BullardJournal@gmail.com).

<https://www.amazon.com/Congregational-Life-Cycle-Assessment-www-BullardJournal-org-ebook/dp/B00B7KNX9W>

[https://sed-efca.org/wp-content/uploads/2008/08/stages\\_of\\_church\\_life\\_bullard.pdf](https://sed-efca.org/wp-content/uploads/2008/08/stages_of_church_life_bullard.pdf)

[http://bullardjournal.blogs.com/bullardjournal/2004/01/the\\_life\\_cycle\\_.html](http://bullardjournal.blogs.com/bullardjournal/2004/01/the_life_cycle_.html)

[https://www.google.com/?gws\\_rd=ssl#q=life+cycle+congregational+passages+george+bullard](https://www.google.com/?gws_rd=ssl#q=life+cycle+congregational+passages+george+bullard)

<https://books.google.com/books?isbn=0827230125>

[http://books.google.com/books/about/Congregational\\_Passages\\_the\\_Life\\_Cycle\\_a.html?id=JVqungEACAAJ](http://books.google.com/books/about/Congregational_Passages_the_Life_Cycle_a.html?id=JVqungEACAAJ)

[http://archive.bwcumc.org/toolbox/wp-content/uploads/2015/10/stages\\_of\\_church\\_life\\_bullard.pdf](http://archive.bwcumc.org/toolbox/wp-content/uploads/2015/10/stages_of_church_life_bullard.pdf)

<http://covchurch.org/wp-content/uploads/sites/20/2010/07/SSJ.pdf>

<https://www.churchpublishing.org/siteassets/pdf/cultivating-the-missional-church/resourcep.pdf>

<https://place.asburyseminary.edu/cgi/viewcontent.cgi?article=1832&context=ecommonsatsdissertations>

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<https://healthygrowingchurches.com/a-season-for-everything-life-cycle-of-a-church/>

[http://alfredyau.pbworks.com/w/file/48622887/REVISITING\\_CHURCH\\_LIFE\\_CYCLES.doc](http://alfredyau.pbworks.com/w/file/48622887/REVISITING_CHURCH_LIFE_CYCLES.doc)

<https://baptistnews.com/article/author/georgebullard/#.WvHmRogvyUk>

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

<https://www.amazon.com/George-Bullard/e/B001JS8GR6>

Images for George Bullard (Author)

Images for The Congregational Life Cycle Assessment: SSJ Playbook Resources from [www.BullardJournal.org](http://www.BullardJournal.org) by George Bullard

[PDF] The Life Cycle in Congregations: A Process of Natural Creation and an Opportunity for New Creation by Arlin J. Routhage - Episcopal Church

Birth and Formation. A new congregation springs forth not because someone believes in the possibility of it coming into being. "That person, or core of people, gathers others around the vision and begins to make transitions from one size to another. They form a particular history, traditions, and a distinct identity. If their resources permit, the congregation acquires property, buildings, and salaried staff.

[PDF] The Life Cycle in Congregations - The Episcopal Church

[https://www.episcopalchurch.org/files/Life\\_Cycle%281%29.pdf](https://www.episcopalchurch.org/files/Life_Cycle%281%29.pdf)

Images for The Life Cycle in Congregations by Arlin J. Routhage - Episcopal Church

[http://archive.episcopalchurch.org/documents/Life\\_Cycle\(1\).pdf](http://archive.episcopalchurch.org/documents/Life_Cycle(1).pdf)

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[https://www.episcopalchurch.org/files/Life\\_Cycle%281%29.pdf](https://www.episcopalchurch.org/files/Life_Cycle%281%29.pdf)

<https://www.amazon.com/Church-Born-Starting-Developing-Congregation/dp/B0029AWYZS>

<https://www.amazon.com/cycle-congregation-Alban-Institute-publication/dp/B00070NAHS>

[http://kotaraang.angelfire.com/Parish\\_Leadership.pdf](http://kotaraang.angelfire.com/Parish_Leadership.pdf)

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Images for episcopal church/congregational-life-cycle

<https://calvaryepiscopalbatavia.church/wp-content/uploads/2017/01/Congregational-Life-Cycle-Model.pdf>

<https://www.diocesewma.org/wp-content/uploads/2013/06/Life-Cycle-of-Congregation.pdf>

<https://alban.org/archive/from-birth-to-death-exploring-the-life-cycle-of-the-church/>

### The life cycle of a congregation (An Alban Institute publication) [Martin F Saarinen]

Author has analyzed the typical "life cycle" of a local church congregation with the hope that realization of "where they are" in the cycle can help local churches to deal with change in a positive and helpful way. This is an exciting concept and one that is fairly easy to explain to laypersons and others who might benefit from this exercise.

<http://www.amazon.com/Life-Cycle-Congregation-Martin-Saarinen/dp/1566991897>

<http://s3.amazonaws.com/mychurchwebsite/c3935/lifecycleofacongregation.pdf>

<https://alban.org/archive/from-birth-to-death-exploring-the-life-cycle-of-the-church/>

[http://www.augsburgfortress.org/education/academic/churchadministration/downloads/cong\\_life\\_cycle.pdf](http://www.augsburgfortress.org/education/academic/churchadministration/downloads/cong_life_cycle.pdf)

[http://www.kingdomworksonline.org/uploads/LifecycleOfACongregation\\_1\\_.pdf](http://www.kingdomworksonline.org/uploads/LifecycleOfACongregation_1_.pdf)

Images for Martin F Saarinen, author the life cycle of a congregation

Images for The life cycle of a congregation (An Alban Institute publication) [Martin F Saarinen]

### Tony Morgan On Discovering What Stage Your Church Is at In Its Lifecycle – Carey Nieuwhof

Tony Morgan has helped over 200 churches in the last 8 years and has observed that most churches go through predictable patterns in its lifecycle.

<https://careynieuwhof.com/episode140/>

Images for Tony Morgan On Discovering What Stage Your Church Is at In Its Lifecycle – Carey Nieuwhof

<https://careynieuwhof.com/episode108/> CNLP 108: TONY MORGAN ON WHY CHURCHES GET STUCK...AND HOW TO GET YOUR CHURCH MOVING AGAIN  
<https://careynieuwhof.com/episode112/> Les McKeown On Getting Your Church or Organization into A Place Of Predictable Success  
<https://careynieuwhof.com/9-signs-your-church-is-stalling-out/>  
<https://tonymorganlive.com/2017/04/10/phases-church-life-cycle/>  
<https://tonymorganlive.com/tag/life-cycle/>  
<https://www.owltail.com/podcast/50334-the-unstuck-church-podcast-with-tony-morgan/episodes>

### Understanding the 7 Phases of a Church's Life Cycle | The Unstuck Church

Regardless of uniqueness, every church has the potential to go through a very similar life cycle.

<https://tonymorganlive.com/2017/04/10/phases-church-life-cycle/>  
[Images for Understanding the 7 Phases of a Church's Life Cycle | The Unstuck Church](#)

### Understanding where your church is on the Congregational Life Cycle - Thom Rainer

It is, therefore, helpful to see the life cycle of churches so we can at least understand visually where our church resides currently, and where it may be heading. I call this visual the Congregational Life Cycle ©

<http://thomrainer.com/2018/01/understanding-where-your-church-is-on-the-congregational-life-cycle/>  
[Images for Understanding where your church is on the Congregational Life Cycle - Thom Rainer](#)  
[http://thomrainer.com/2011/11/the\\_lifecycle\\_of\\_pastors/](http://thomrainer.com/2011/11/the_lifecycle_of_pastors/)  
<http://thomrainer.com/2017/05/eight-major-changes-in-churches-the-past-ten-years/>  
<http://thomrainer.com/2014/05/common-factor-declining-churches/>  
<http://thomrainer.com/category/church-revitalization/death/>  
<http://thomrainer.com/2016/08/four-types-churches-will-soon-die/>  
<http://thomrainer.com/category/church-revitalization/>  
<http://likeateam.com/how-to-know-the-life-cycle-of-your-church/>  
<http://likeateam.com/what-is-the-life-cycle-of-a-church-video/>  
[Images for thom rainer \(author\)](#)

### What is a congregational life cycle? - Baptist Association NSW and ACT

It is a generalized way to look at a church to ascertain some of the typical victories, joys and challenges that they can expect at certain times in their life. It is like a "lens" or a "window" through which we are better able to visualize where a church might be heading on its journey.

<https://nswactbaptists.org.au/what-we-do/gen1k/church-revitalisation/what-is-a-congregational-life-cycle/>  
[Images for What is a congregational life cycle? - Baptist Association NSW and ACT](#)  
<https://www.northwestconference.org/wp-content/uploads/2009/11/Veritas-Congregational-Life-Cycle-pdf.pdf>  
[Images for Veritas Congregational Life Cycle](#)

## 26) Liminal

### How to Lead When You Don't Know Where You're Going: Leading in a Liminal Season by Susan Beaumont (Author)

How do you lead an organization stuck between an ending and a new beginning—when the old way of doing things no longer works but a way forward is not yet clear? Beaumont calls such in-between times liminal seasons—threshold times when the continuity of tradition disintegrates and uncertainty about the future fuels doubt and chaos. In a liminal season it simply is not helpful to pretend we understand what needs to happen next. But leaders can still lead.

*How to Lead When You Don't Know Where You're Going* is a practical book of hope for tired and weary leaders who risk defining this era of ministry in terms of failure or loss. It helps leaders stand firm in a disoriented state, learning from their mistakes and leading despite the confusion. Packed with rich stories and real-world examples, Beaumont guides the reader through practices that connect the soul of the leader with the soul of the institution.

<https://www.amazon.com/Lead-When-Where-Youre-Going/dp/1538127687>  
<https://www.goodreads.com/book/show/44329315-how-to-lead-when-you-don-t-know-where-you-re-going>  
<http://www.susanbeaumont.com/2019/10/29/how-to-lead-when-you-dont-know-where-youre-going/>  
<http://www.susanbeaumont.com/2016/01/18/the-future-doesnt-exist-yet-2/>  
[www.susanbeaumont.com/2016/01/18/the-future-doesnt-exist-yet-2/](http://www.susanbeaumont.com/2016/01/18/the-future-doesnt-exist-yet-2/)  
<http://www.susanbeaumont.com/embracing-liminal-space/>  
<http://www.congregationalconsulting.org/event/leading-liminal-season/>  
[http://mccchurch.org/files/2016/08/Holy\\_Conversations\\_2-Leadership-Transition.pdf](http://mccchurch.org/files/2016/08/Holy_Conversations_2-Leadership-Transition.pdf)  
<https://files.constantcontact.com/fbaed027be/328cdea1-dcf9-44e8-9d8a-f8e15209c802.pdf> Review  
[http://www.ministrymatters.com/all/author/susan\\_beaumont](http://www.ministrymatters.com/all/author/susan_beaumont)  
<https://www.amazon.com/Susan-Beaumont/e/B006E0FVWW>  
[http://www.goodreads.com/author/show/5308350.Susan\\_Beaumont](http://www.goodreads.com/author/show/5308350.Susan_Beaumont)  
[Images for Susan Beaumont \(Author\)](#)

[Images for How to Lead When You Don't Know Where You're Going: Leading in a Liminal Season by Susan Beaumont \(Author\)](#)

Leading in a Liminal Season  
Susan Beaumont



We are living in liminal times, an era which finds us betwixt and between a known past and an uncertain future. In a liminal season, a different kind of leadership presence is required; a presence that connects the soul of leaders with the soul of the institution. The soul of the institution is the divine spark within the organization that inspires ministry and invites transformation. The soul of the institution is the authentic and truest self of the institution, the source of divine calling, and the protector of institutional integrity.

This workshop will explore the unique challenges of connecting the soul of the institution with its mission, vision and values. During this workshop, participants will:

- Enter a three-way conversation engaging God, the soul of the leader, and the soul of the institution.
- Examine the inherent leadership challenges and opportunities in liminal seasons.
- Explore three fundamental shifts in orientation that invite a more soulful leadership presence. (From knowing to unknowing, from advocating to attending, from striving to surrender.)
- Learn five basic bodies of work for connecting mission, vision and values with the soul of the organization: cultivating collective wisdom, clarifying vocation, tending institutional memory, deepening discernment and fostering innovation.

IMN | 2017 Annual Conference - Interim Ministry Network

<http://imnedu.org/2017-annual-conference/2017-conference-workshops/>

Page 4

[Images for Leading in a Liminal Season Susan Beaumont](#)

### In the Interim: Strategies for Interim Ministers and Congregations edited by Barbara Child, Keith Kron

I was drawn to the door harp because as an interim minister, I was making an empty space for something – and someone – new to come into. The door harp seems the perfect symbol for ministry to people in **liminal** spaces, on thresholds, during interim times.

<https://books.google.com/books?isbn=1558967028>

Page 240

<https://www.amazon.com/Interim-Strategies-Ministers-Congregations-ebook/dp/B00C2EYMFQ>

<http://www.goodreads.com/book/show/21873035-in-the-interim>

[http://www.goodreads.com/author/show/7322308.Keith\\_Kron](http://www.goodreads.com/author/show/7322308.Keith_Kron)

[http://www.goodreads.com/author/show/1124904.Barbara\\_Child](http://www.goodreads.com/author/show/1124904.Barbara_Child)

[Images for In the Interim: Strategies for Interim Ministers and Congregations edited by Barbara Child, Keith Kron](#)

[Images for ministry to people in liminal spaces](#)

### Liminal | Definition of Liminal by Merriam-Webster

- 1: of, relating to, or situated at a sensory threshold : barely perceptible or capable of eliciting a response *liminal* visual stimuli
- 2: of, relating to, or being an intermediate state, phase, or condition : IN-BETWEEN, TRANSITIONAL... in the *liminal* state between life and death.— Deborah Jowitt

<https://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/liminal>

[Images for Liminal | Definition](#)

### Liminality - Wikipedia

In **anthropology**, liminality (from the Latin word *limen*, meaning "a threshold"<sup>[1]</sup>) is the quality of ambiguity or disorientation that occurs in the middle stage of a **rite of passage**, when participants no longer hold their pre-ritual status but have not yet begun the transition to the status they will hold when the rite is complete.<sup>[2]</sup> During a rite's liminal stage, participants "stand at the threshold"<sup>[3]</sup> between their previous way of structuring their identity, time, or community, and a new way, which completing the rite establishes.

The concept of liminality was first developed in the early twentieth century by folklorist **Arnold van Gennep** and later taken up by **Victor Turner**.<sup>[4]</sup> More recently, usage of the term has broadened to describe political and cultural change as well as rites.<sup>[5]</sup> During liminal periods of all kinds, social hierarchies may be reversed or temporarily dissolved, continuity of tradition may become uncertain, and future outcomes once taken for granted may be thrown into doubt.<sup>[6]</sup> The dissolution of order during liminality creates a fluid, malleable situation that enables new institutions and customs to become established.<sup>[7]</sup> The term has also passed into popular usage and has been expanded to include liminoid experiences that are more relevant to **post-industrial** society.<sup>[8]</sup>

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

[Images for Liminality](#)

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

[Images for liminal quotes](#)

### Living in Liminal Times – High Street Church

Turner said that liminal time is that time “betwixt and between”—a time that is fraught with danger, but also rich with opportunities. Let me share with you some of how I spent my recent liminal time.

<https://hsuuc.org/2012/07/12/living-in-liminal-times/>

[Images for Living in Liminal Times – High Street Church](#)

### 19 best images about Liminal Spaces:Time: Doors, Paths, Windows

<https://www.pinterest.com/cdragonwagon/liminal-spacetime-doors-paths-windows-light/>

[Images for liminal time pinterest](#)

<https://www.pinterest.com/alizarin/liminal-space/>

<https://www.pinterest.com/artygall/liminal/>

### The Liminal Nature of the Missional Leader - Missio Dei

As we seek to serve together, and serve well, in this ever changing environment we must faithfully use the resources God has provided. We need to think deeply in order to discern what it means to be a follower of Jesus in the 21<sup>st</sup> century. We need to wisely exegete scripture, ourselves, culture, and our churches. We need to use our hearts and invite the Spirit of God to nurture passion and conviction within us. We need to have courage and step out in faith that the God of the exiles is calling us to move forward. We need to have the courage to trust that even though the Wicked Witch and her flying monkeys may show up their impact on the kingdom work will in the long run melt away.

<http://www.missio-dei.ca/2009/09/the-liminal-nature-of-the-missional-leader/>  
[Images for The Liminal Nature of the Missional Leader - Missio Dei](#)

### The Liminal Space of Intentional Not-Knowing | Celestial Lands

What shifted me away from adopting a new plan and path immediately was the idea of living in a "liminal space". Before I encountered this term "liminal" I had been defining it for myself as "creative not-knowing". In theological work, creative not-knowing is the commitment to doubt that allows one to begin thinking creatively about ideas such as the nature of God, of reality, and of our place in it. What struck me was that the idea of creative not-knowing I was learning to apply to theological exploration could also be applied to this space in my life, if I was willing to inhabit a space of liminality for a time.

<http://celestiallands.org/wayside/?p=304>  
[Images for The Liminal Space of Intentional Not-Knowing | Celestial Lands](#)

### The Missionary Congregation, Leadership, and Liminality (Christian Mission & Modern Culture) by Alan J. Roxburgh (Author)

The urgent question for Christian mission in North America today has to do with churches and congregations and the crisis of their identity in the culture of modernity. Alan Roxburgh argues that the crisis is not merely one of internal identity or structures but involves the massive changes that have transformed modernity, including the shifting of the church from the center of culture to the margins. Chapter 1 reviews the marginalization of the churches and their self-understanding of that context; chapter 2 examines Victor Turner's work on liminality (a term describing the transition process that accompanies a change of state or social position), relating it to the church's experience of marginalization; chapter 3 outlines leadership characteristics required in today's missionary congregations. Alan J. Roxburgh is Senior Pastor of West Vancouver Baptist Church in British Columbia, an adjunct faculty member of Regent College in Vancouver, and author of the recently published *Reaching a New Generation*.

<https://www.amazon.com/Missionary-Congregation-Leadership-Liminality-Christian/dp/1563381907>  
<https://www.bloomsbury.com/uk/the-missionary-congregation-leadership-and-liminality-9781563381904/>  
<https://www.christianbook.com/missionary-congregation-leadership-and-liminality/alan-roxburgh/9781563381904/pd/381904>  
[https://books.google.com/books/about/The\\_Missionary\\_Congregation\\_Leadership\\_a.html?id=f6xZfUNq7FoC](https://books.google.com/books/about/The_Missionary_Congregation_Leadership_a.html?id=f6xZfUNq7FoC)  
[Images for transition process change of state or social position](#)  
<http://digitalcommons.pepperdine.edu/cgi/viewcontent.cgi?article=1652&context=leaven> Page 45  
<https://digitalcommons.pepperdine.edu/cgi/viewcontent.cgi?article=1652&context=leaven> Page 7  
<http://journalofmissionalpractice.com/alan-roxburgh/>  
<http://themissionalnetwork.com/uncategorized/alan-roxburgh/>  
<https://www.amazon.com/Alan-J.-Roxburgh/e/B001JS65UQ>  
[https://www.goodreads.com/author/show/24964.Alan\\_J\\_Roxburgh](https://www.goodreads.com/author/show/24964.Alan_J_Roxburgh)

[Images for Alan J. Roxburgh, author](#)

[Images for The Missionary Congregation, Leadership, and Liminality \(Christian Mission & Modern Culture\) by Alan J. Roxburgh](#)  
<https://www.bloomsbury.com/us/series/christian-mission-modern-culture/>  
<https://www.librarything.com/series/Christian+Mission+and+Modern+Culture>  
<http://journals.sagepub.com/doi/abs/10.1177/009182969902700209?journalCode=misb>  
[Images for christian mission and modern culture series](#)

## 27) Local Context

Chapter 1- An Introduction to Congregation Studies - Hartford Institute for Religion Research

By social **context** we refer to the setting, local and global, in which a congregation finds itself and to which it responds.

[\[PDF\] chapter 1 - Hartford Institute for Religion Research](#)  
<http://hirr.hartsem.edu/bookshelf/Congstudieshandbook/congstdhdbk-ch1.pdf>  
[Images for setting, local and global, in which a congregation finds itself](#)  
[http://hirr.hartsem.edu/bookshelf/bookshelf\\_out\\_of\\_print.html](http://hirr.hartsem.edu/bookshelf/bookshelf_out_of_print.html)

CHAPTER 3 – Context - Hartford Institute for Religion Research

In a very basic sense this chapter understands congregations as "open systems." This notion implies permeable boundaries, or flow between the environment and the congregation.

[\[PDF\] chapter 3 - Hartford Institute for Religion Research](#)  
<http://hirr.hartsem.edu/bookshelf/Congstudieshandbook/congstdhdbk-ch3.pdf>  
[Images for Context - Hartford Institute for Religion Research](#)  
[http://hirr.hartsem.edu/bookshelf/bookshelf\\_out\\_of\\_print.html](http://hirr.hartsem.edu/bookshelf/bookshelf_out_of_print.html)

## [PDF] CONGREGATIONAL PROFILE

PART ONE: The **Context** of the Congregation – an Ecological Perspective

## PART TWO: The Understanding of the Congregation in its Context

<http://www.taalc.org/Assets/CongregationalProfileInfo.pdf>

[Images for Understanding of the Congregation in its Context](#)

### Contextual Learning – Luther Seminary

Contextual Learning is an integral part of theological and professional education for all students.

<https://www.luthersem.edu/context/>

[Images for Contextual Learning – Luther Seminary](#)

### From Our Doorsteps: Developing a Ministry Plan that Makes Sense [Rev. Dr. Rick Morse]

*From Our Doorsteps* helps congregations see that their context of ministry is no longer within their church's four walls, but the world around. This book enables a congregation to look at ministry opportunities in their community through new lenses of understanding. By looking at the changes in culture towards congregations and with the tools to interpret their community, congregations will see new ways in which they can begin to engage others in a vital faith community.

*From Our Doorsteps* ends with a specific format by which church leaders can develop a ministry plan and gain its adoption by the congregation so it can succeed in a transformational process of redevelopment that makes sense for the context.



<http://www.amazon.com/Our-Doorsteps-Developing-Ministry-Makes/dp/0827210442>

<https://www.christianbook.com/doorsteps-developing-ministry-that-makes-sense/rick-morse/9780827210448/pd/210448>

<https://books.google.com/books?isbn=0827210450>

[https://books.google.com/books/about/From\\_Our\\_Doorsteps.html?id=UdaZp\\_Tar0lC](https://books.google.com/books/about/From_Our_Doorsteps.html?id=UdaZp_Tar0lC)

[http://www.churchleadership.com/leadingideas/leaddocs/2011/110105\\_article2.html](http://www.churchleadership.com/leadingideas/leaddocs/2011/110105_article2.html)

<http://www.disciplescefc.org/wp-content/uploads/2012/07/knownyourcommunityRE.pdf>

<https://www.linkedin.com/in/rick-morse-a1914415>

<http://www.chalicepress.com/Author.aspx?AuthorID=1226>

<https://www.pinterest.com/pin/61431982392938122/>

<http://www.hopepmt.org/about/hope-partnership-staff/>

<https://www.amazon.com/Rick-Morse/e/B003BZOHC8>

[Images for Rev. Dr. Rick Morse, author from our doorstep](#)

[Images for From Our Doorsteps: Developing a Ministry Plan that Makes Sense \[Rev. Dr. Rick Morse\]](#)

### Knowing the Context: Frames, Tools, and Signs for Preaching (Elements of Preaching) [James R. Nieman]

While everyone might affirm that preaching needs to engage its listeners deeply, the initial move for novice preachers is to think this can be attained by livelier content and delivery of the sermon. All too quickly, however, one learns that there are many factors beyond what a preacher says and how she or he may say it that affect whether proclamation can actually be heard. Effective preaching requires the complex work of knowing the context in which preaching occurs, while avoiding the twin dangers of pandering to a situation's particulars or generalizing them into stereotypes. *Knowing the Context* reveals how to engage contexts for preaching, especially ways to examine contexts more responsibly, so that the sermon might more amply bring the word of Scripture to bear on the worlds and lives of listeners.

In one of the initial titles in the Elements of Preaching series, James Nieman shows how preaching is oriented to specific locales, cultural situations, audiences, and occasions. Unlike other books that tell preachers how to preach to specific audiences, *Knowing the Context* helps readers analyze the situations in which they find themselves and shows how text and context are in a continuing dialogue and how to tailor sermons to their context. Keyed to online sermon samples and other Web-based features to enhance teaching.



<http://www.amazon.com/Knowing-Context-Frames-Preaching-Elements/dp/0800662628>

<https://www.goodreads.com/book/show/4395182-knowing-the-context>

<http://store.augsburgfortress.org/store/product/3863/Knowing-the-Context-Frames-Tools-and-Signs-for-Preaching?c=257625>

<https://www.logos.com/product/7979/knowning-the-context-frames-tools-and-signs-for-preaching>

<https://books.google.com/books?isbn=1451410646>

<https://verbum.com/product/4736/fortress-press-homiletics-collection>

<http://www.homiletic.org/english/Rhetorical%20Situation%20and%20Aisan%20Theology%20for%20Transformational%20Preaching%2002006.pdf>

<https://www.lstc.edu/assets/pdf/nieman-cv.pdf>

<http://www.lstc.edu/about/faculty/james-nieman/>  
<https://www.christiancentury.org/contributor/james-r-nieman>  
<https://www.amazon.com/James-R.-Nieman/e/B001JS69AC>  
[http://www.goodreads.com/author/show/625146.James\\_R\\_Nieman](http://www.goodreads.com/author/show/625146.James_R_Nieman)  
Images for James R. Nieman, author  
Images for *Knowing the Context: Frames, Tools, and Signs for Preaching (Elements of Preaching)* [James R. Nieman]  
<http://store.afcanada.com/store/productfamily/109/Elements-of-Preaching-series>  
<https://www.logos.com/product/6386/elements-of-preaching-collection>  
Images for (Elements of Preaching)

#### Local Context & Relationship with Community

How are you connected to the community? How do you form and maintain relationships? Who does this?  
How are you getting connected to new people who are not part of your congregation – who might be in relationship to be invited?  
How is your congregation publicly present in the community?

Comprehensive Ministry Review. Rev. Laurie Skow-Anderson. Assistant to the Bishop. Northwest Synod of Wisconsin. Director for Evangelical Mission. [lskow-anderson@nswi.org](mailto:lskow-anderson@nswi.org)

Images for *Local Context and Relationship of Congregation with Community*

#### Meeting with Community Leaders

Talk about your relationship with congregation.  
Talk about any interactions you have with other congregations in the community.  
Talk about your relationship with the pastor or other key leaders.  
If this congregation were not here, what would the community miss the most?  
What are the greatest social needs in the community?  
What is the source of community pride?

Comprehensive Ministry Review. Rev. Laurie Skow-Anderson. Assistant to the Bishop. Northwest Synod of Wisconsin. Director for Evangelical Mission. [lskow-anderson@nswi.org](mailto:lskow-anderson@nswi.org)

[info@nswi.org](mailto:info@nswi.org)

Images for *Meeting with Community Leaders* Talk about your relationship with congregation.

#### Our Context: Exploring Our Congregation and Community by Mark D. Johns (Author)

*Our Context* is a guide to exploring your congregation and the surrounding community, identifying potential problems, and highlighting new opportunities to carry out your congregation's mission and proclaim the gospel. If you are in a congregation or community that is changing, the process outlined in this book can help your congregation deal with the changes in a positive manner.

This book helps pastors and congregational leaders work together in strategic planning, management, and evangelism teams. See Excerpts for reproducible tools that can be downloaded and customized.



<http://store.augsburgfortress.org/store/product/6605/Our-Context-Exploring-Our-Congregation-and-Community>

<http://store.augsburgfortress.org/store/contributor/3924/Mark-D-Johns>

<https://www.luther.edu/johnsmar/assets/MJohnsCV2016.pdf>

<http://www.transactionpub.com/merchant2/merchant.mvc?&Screen=AUTHOR&authorid=16737>

<https://www.luther.edu/johnsmar/>

<https://www.amazon.com/Mark-D.-Johns/e/B001KI5KLLK>

[https://www.goodreads.com/author/show/1169276.Mark\\_D\\_Johns](https://www.goodreads.com/author/show/1169276.Mark_D_Johns)

Images for Mark D. Johns (Author)

Images for *Our Context: Exploring Our Congregation and Community* by Mark D. Johns (Author)

<https://www.augsburgfortress.org/store/category/.../Congregational-LEADER-Series>

<https://www.augsburgfortress.org/store/category/286442/Leadership>

<https://www.augsburgfortress.org/store/category/286526/Church-Leadership>

<https://www.goodreads.com/series/148656-congregational-leader-series>

Images for congregational leader series

#### The Context for Mission and Ministry in the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

Over the course of the strategic planning process, a host of **contextual** information has been collected and reviewed. This is a summary and elaboration of that material.

<https://download.elca.org/ELCA%20Resource%20Repository/context.pdf>

Images for *The Context for Mission and Ministry in the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America*

### Who in the world are these people? | Faith and Leadership

But the only acceptable reason for understanding a congregation and its **context** is theological, experts say.

<https://faithandleadership.com/who-world-are-these-people>

[Images for reason for understanding a congregation and its context is theological](#)

## 28) Location

### Does a Congregation's Location Influence Its Effectiveness? – The Parish Paper

An old business adage cites three essentials for success: Location, Location, Location! Can the location of its building prevent a church from accomplishing effective ministries? Yes and no. Location is something in congregations— especially in some circumstances, such as (a) when choosing where to build a new church on the edge of a growing city and (b) when an older downtown church is parking starved, land-locked, and unable to purchase adjacent property for parking. But in the vast majority of congregations, location means almost nothing!

[PDF] P.P.--3-2011--Does a Congregations Location Influence Its Effectiveness

[http://www.westernplainschurchofthebrethren.org/2011\\_03\\_Does\\_a\\_Congregations\\_Location\\_Influence\\_Its\\_Effectiveness-1.pdf](http://www.westernplainschurchofthebrethren.org/2011_03_Does_a_Congregations_Location_Influence_Its_Effectiveness-1.pdf)

[http://www.episcopalhawaii.org/uploads/2/5/4/8/25486559/30\\_resources\\_congregations\\_parish\\_paper\\_2011\\_mar.pdf](http://www.episcopalhawaii.org/uploads/2/5/4/8/25486559/30_resources_congregations_parish_paper_2011_mar.pdf)

<https://www.commonword.ca/FileDownload/16908/2011-03-ParishPaper.pdf?t=1>

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

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

<http://www.wcucc.org/resource-center/church-management/parish-paper/> Does a Congregation's Location Influence Its Effectiveness?

– March 2011

[Images for Does a Congregation's Location Influence Its Effectiveness? – The Parish Paper](#)

### Does Church Location Make Any Difference?

It is often tempting to think that since the church deals in matters of the spirit, its physical location should have little bearing on its ministry and sense of mission. But I suggest that, because human beings are embodied creatures, the shape of the material world—in particular, the shape of the built environment—will affect their spiritual lives, both in relation to God and to each other.

Here I will focus on the effect the physical location of a church has on the focus of its mission.

<https://worship.calvin.edu/resources/resource-library/does-church-location-make-any-difference/>

[Images for Does Church Location Make Any Difference?](#)

<https://www.joshhunt.com/mail346.htm> Does Location Matter? - Josh Hunt

<https://www.worshipfacilities.com/spaces/church-facility-location-does-matter>

[Images for church-facility-location-does-matter](#)

### Growing Episcopal congregations | Episcopal Cafe

**Location** matters: New suburbs of cities have the largest proportion of growing congregations (39%). In downtowns, the proportion was 30%. In other categories – rural, small town, old suburb, older residential in a city – the proportion growing ranged from 21 to 24 percent.

[http://www.episcopalcafe.com/growing\\_episcopal\\_congregations/](http://www.episcopalcafe.com/growing_episcopal_congregations/)

[Images for Growing Episcopal congregations | Episcopal Cafe Location matters](#)

### Location, Location, Location | CT Pastors | Christianity Today

When it comes to ministry, location matters. But it can be a bit daunting if an emphasis on place hasn't been part of your church's DNA.

<https://www.christianitytoday.com/pastors/2013/spring/location-location-location.html>

[Images for Location, Location, Location | CT Pastors | Christianity Today](#)

### Location - Wikipedia

In **geography**, location and place are used to denote a **point** or an area on the **Earth's** surface or elsewhere. The term *location* generally implies a higher degree of certainty than *place*, the latter often indicating an entity with an ambiguous boundary, relying more on human or social attributes of **place identity** and **sense of place** than on geometry.

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

[Images for Location](#)

### Places of Promise: Finding Strength in Your Congregation's Location [Cynthia Woolever, Deborah Bruce]

In *Places of Promise*, Cynthia Woolever and Deborah Bruce present the ways in which location is defined and employ results from research to reveal how location influences congregational life. Woolever and Bruce include illustrations to demonstrate that every congregation can achieve strength and effectiveness in its present location if its ministry focus and leadership decisions parallel factors that are important to the community.





<http://www.amazon.com/Places-Promise-Strength-Congregations-Location/dp/0664230237>  
<https://books.google.com/books?isbn=0664236707>  
<http://www.uscongregations.org/wp-content/uploads/2014/02/leaderguide.pdf>  
<http://www.uscongregations.org/beyond-the-ordinary/places-of-promise-how-location-matters-to-congregations/>  
<http://presbyterian.typepad.com/beyondordinary/looking-at-your-location/>  
<http://www.chalicepress.com/Author.aspx?AuthorID=1324>  
<https://www.amazon.com/Cynthia-Woolever/e/B001IXNW8A>  
[http://www.huffingtonpost.com/david-briggs/deborah-bruce-scholar-who-changed-lives\\_b\\_1710090.html](http://www.huffingtonpost.com/david-briggs/deborah-bruce-scholar-who-changed-lives_b_1710090.html)  
<http://www.christianbookpreviews.com/christian-book-author.php?isbn=0664226930>  
<http://www.uscongregations.org/>  
[http://www.goodreads.com/author/show/1394219.Cynthia\\_Woolever](http://www.goodreads.com/author/show/1394219.Cynthia_Woolever)  
<https://www.amazon.com/Deborah-Bruce/e/B0041M8FVE>  
[http://www.goodreads.com/author/list/1394218.Deborah\\_Bruce](http://www.goodreads.com/author/list/1394218.Deborah_Bruce)  
[Images for Cynthia Woolever, Deborah Bruce](#)  
[Images for Places of Promise: Finding Strength in Your Congregation's Location \[Cynthia Woolever, Deborah Bruce\]](#)

## 29) Lutheran

### A cure for Lutheran laryngitis: Here's what it means to be Lutheran today | The Lutheran

How is it that a movement founded on the idea that every Christian would be a preacher in the midst of their daily work ended up being so silent?

Lutheran laryngitis?

Along with many others, I'm discovering that renewing the church isn't likely to happen unless we give attention to renewing the Christian life—reclaiming discipleship as a way of life. Many of us in what people refer to as “mainline” traditions come from centuries-old connections as state churches. We internalized a sense that we were legitimate simply because we existed. We assumed we always would.

As a result we clammed up about Jesus—and developed a serious case of laryngitis. This isn't a Lutheran problem. It's much broader than that (most of our full communion partners have laryngitis too).

<http://www.thelutheran.org/article/issue.cfm?issue=142>

[Images for A cure for Lutheran laryngitis: Here's what it means to be Lutheran today | The Lutheran](#)

<https://2017.lutheranworld.org/content/what-does-it-mean-be-lutheran-66>

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

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

### Big look at Small Catechism - Living Lutheran

STORY BY

ELIZABETH A. EATON

What does this mean? Old as well as young need its enduring, concise instruction

The Small Catechism became an important part of faith formation in families. Millions of us throughout the centuries and world have studied and memorized it. Catechism has been a rite of passage in the Lutheran movement. It could be argued that no other experience is more universally Lutheran than studying this little book — not language, not hymnody, not cuisine, not worship style. “What does this mean?” and “This is most certainly true” are two of the most recognizable phrases in Lutheranism.

Some argue that emphasizing our **Lutheran identity** is an impediment to dialogue and evangelism. I would argue that if we aren't clear about who we are and what we believe it's not possible to have deep and authentic encounters with others. It's hard to have meaningful give-and-take with mush.

There was a time in the 1980s when church growth experts urged us to shed denominational identity in favor of more generic, and so appealing, names for congregations. St. Paul Lutheran Church became the Church at Pheasant Run. It's like selling our inheritance for a mess of marketing pottage. Of course, we are baptized into the one, holy, catholic, and apostolic church. Of course, our identity is in Christ and not in a 16<sup>th</sup>-century Augustinian monk. But there is something distinctive about our Lutheran voice that needs to be heard in ecumenical and interreligious conversations and in the public square. If we aren't clear about this we run the risk of sliding into relativism.

<https://www.livinglutheran.org/2016/09/19047/>

[Images for Big look at Small Catechism - Living Lutheran STORY BY ELIZABETH A. EATON](#)

<https://www.elca.org/en/About/Leadership/Churchwide-Officers/Presiding-Bishop>

[Images for ELIZABETH A. EATON](#)

### Graceful words: Incarnation, Justification, Kingdom of God, Savior, Trinity | The Lutheran

Sticks and stones may break our bones, but words will never.... You know how the saying ends. It's a lie, of course. Words hurt, wound, tear and divide, often for a lifetime.

They also heal, bless, comfort and make alive. They strain to bear holy realities and experiences of grace for which no words are ever adequate.

The following pages offer 32 words through which our gracious God hungers to speak that one Word of blessing, whom we celebrate in this and every season.

Last winter a reader suggested we offer a glossary for all who struggle with “church language.” So, we did, choosing many words with this season in mind. Consider it a Christmas gift from The Lutheran.

[http://www.thelutheran.org/article/article.cfm?article\\_id=3856](http://www.thelutheran.org/article/article.cfm?article_id=3856)

[Images for Graceful words: Incarnation, Justification, Kingdom of God, Savior, Trinity | The Lutheran](#)

### Go Make Disciples: An Invitation to Baptismal Living

This highly-informative handbook is intended to help congregations implement the task of making disciples in their own community. *Go Make Disciples* provides updated resources for preparing adults for baptism or affirmation of baptism, and for Christian discipleship. Appropriate for a wide range of Protestant denominations, especially **Lutheran**, Episcopal, Anglican, United Methodist, Presbyterian, and Reformed traditions.

<http://store.augsburgfortress.org/store/product/17352/Go-Make-Disciples-An-Invitation-to-Baptismal-Living?c=257594>

<http://lutheranmission.blogspot.com/2012/05/book-go-make-disciples-invitation-to.html>

<http://www.amazon.com/Go-Make-Disciples-Invitation-Baptismal/dp/1451426127>

[Images for Go Make Disciples: An Invitation to Baptismal Living](#)

### Living Lutheran: Home

We are a church that values and encourages diverse voices and lively dialogue in our faith and life. Living Lutheran is an opportunity for church members to express individual perspectives and does not necessarily reflect official positions of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America.

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

[Images for Living Lutheran: Home](#)

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

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

<https://www.livinglutheran.org/2016/03/welcome-living-lutheran/>

### Living Lutheran: Renewing Your Congregation (Lutheran Voices) [Dave Daubert]

Kelly Fryer's book *Reclaiming the L Word* introduced one congregation's journey through renewal. Now Dave Daubert provides a practical how-to guide that will enable church leaders to help individual congregations walk through the process for themselves. Creative and informative, the book provides a straightforward approach that helps congregations reclaim Lutheran tradition for the 21st century. Includes questions for individual or group reflection and an additional resources section.

<https://www.amazon.com/Living-Lutheran-Renewing-Congregation-Voices/dp/0806653345>

<http://store.augsburgfortress.org/store/product/7420/Living-Lutheran-Renewing-Your-Congregation>

[http://books.google.com/books/about/Living\\_Lutheran.html?id=4YZfkaruPZcC](http://books.google.com/books/about/Living_Lutheran.html?id=4YZfkaruPZcC)

[http://www.2shared.com/document/sLELGB83/Living\\_Lutheran\\_-\\_Renewing\\_You.html](http://www.2shared.com/document/sLELGB83/Living_Lutheran_-_Renewing_You.html)

<http://pastorstephen.wordpress.com/2007/11/14/book-highlights-living-lutheran-renewing-your-congregation/>

<http://www.gettysburgseminary.org/studies/re-views/livinglutheran.htm>

<https://www.amazon.com/Dave-Daubert/e/B001JSBV3C>

[https://www.goodreads.com/author/show/648095.Dave\\_Daubert](https://www.goodreads.com/author/show/648095.Dave_Daubert)

[Images for Dave Daubert, author](#)

[Images for Living Lutheran: Renewing Your Congregation \(Lutheran Voices\) \[Dave Daubert\]](#)

<https://www.thriftbooks.com/series/lutheran-voices/82458/>

[http://www.elca.org/News-and-Events/5045\\_'Lutheran\\_Voices'\\_Series\\_Introduced](http://www.elca.org/News-and-Events/5045_'Lutheran_Voices'_Series_Introduced)

<https://www.librarything.com/series/Lutheran+Voices>

<http://store.afcanada.com/store/productfamily/102/Lutheran-Voices>

[Images for Lutheran Voices](#)

### Living Together as Lutherans: Unity within Diversity by H. George Anderson, Herbert W. Chilstrom, Mark S. Hanson, Susan Wilds McArver (Introduction)

In this landmark volume, the first three presiding bishops of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America reflect on the first twenty years of the church.

The contributions include:

*Our Basic Unity: Resources for Living Together as Lutherans in the ELCA,*

H. George Anderson

*A Changeless Word for a Changing World: The Authority and Interpretation of the Bible,*

Herbert W. Chilstrom

*ELCA Identity, Unity, and Purpose*

Mark S. Hanson

<http://store.augsburgfortress.org/store/product/8201/Living-Together-as-Lutherans-Unity-within-Diversity>

<https://www.goodreads.com/book/show/16179258-living-together-as-lutherans>

<http://www.elca.org/Growing-In-Faith/Education/Hein-Fry/Publications.aspx>

<https://www.elca.org/About/History/Former-Presiding-Bishops/The-Rev-H-George-Anderson>

[http://www.luthercollegehistory.org/wiki/H.\\_George\\_Anderson](http://www.luthercollegehistory.org/wiki/H._George_Anderson)

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/H.\\_George\\_Anderson](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/H._George_Anderson)

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[https://www.goodreads.com/author/show/407468.H\\_George\\_Anderson](https://www.goodreads.com/author/show/407468.H_George_Anderson)

[Images for H. George Anderson, author](#)

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<https://www.elca.org/About/History/Former-Presiding-Bishops/The-Rev-Herbert-Chilstrom>  
<https://www.livinglutheran.org/author/herbert-chilstrom/>  
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[http://www.goodreads.com/author/show/171982.Herbert\\_W\\_Chilstrom](http://www.goodreads.com/author/show/171982.Herbert_W_Chilstrom)  
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[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mark\\_Hanson](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mark_Hanson)  
<https://www.livinglutheran.org/author/mark-s-hanson/>  
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<https://www.pinterest.com/pin/101049585362898279/>  
<https://www.amazon.com/Mark-S.-Hanson/e/B001JS7OW4>  
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 Images for Mark S. Hanson, author  
[https://www.goodreads.com/author/show/6590841.Susan\\_Wilds\\_McArver](https://www.goodreads.com/author/show/6590841.Susan_Wilds_McArver)  
 Images for Living Together as Lutherans: Unity within Diversity  
 Images for Living Together as Lutherans by H. George Anderson

#### Lutheran Identity: A Classical Understanding (Lutheran Voices) [Frank C. Senn]

What does it mean to be Lutheran? In the sound-bite age in which we live, too often the answer is reduced to a handful of familiar phrases such as “justification by faith”, “both saint and sinner”, “the priesthood of believers”, and “theology of the cross versus theology of glory.” But noted theologian Frank Senn appeals to Lutheranism’s rich tradition and culture to answer this question, seeing here “something to build on as we confront the possibilities and challenges of preaching, teaching, professing, and living the gospel of Jesus Christ in our own time and place.” In the author’s thoughtful consideration of key elements of the Lutheran faith is a cautious reminder that to abandon this tradition or step away from this culture means becoming something other than Lutheran.

<http://www.amazon.com/Lutheran-Identity-Classical-Understanding-Voices/dp/0806680105>  
[http://www.augsburgfortress.org/media/downloads/0806680105\\_lg.pdf](http://www.augsburgfortress.org/media/downloads/0806680105_lg.pdf)  
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[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Frank\\_Senn](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Frank_Senn)  
<https://www.thriftbooks.com/a/frank-c-senn/560562/>  
<http://www.fortresspress.com/author/frank-c-senn>  
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[http://www.goodreads.com/author/show/293581.Frank\\_C\\_Senn](http://www.goodreads.com/author/show/293581.Frank_C_Senn)  
 Images for Frank C. Senn, author  
 Images for Lutheran Identity: A Classical Understanding (Lutheran Voices) [Frank C. Senn]  
<https://www.thriftbooks.com/series/lutheran-voices/82458/>  
<https://www.librarything.com/series/Lutheran+Voices>  
<http://store.afcanada.com/store/productfamily/102/Lutheran-Voices>  
 Images for Lutheran Voices

#### Lutheran Study Bible (Hardcover) | Augsburg Fortress

*Lutheran Study Bible* features the NRSV translation as well as introductions, notes, and articles written by over sixty Lutheran pastors and teaching theologians. This resource is designed to invite readers to experience the Bible and its message through solid background material, unique Lutheran insights, and opportunities for faith reflection. Reader-friendly, inviting, and engaging, this is the perfect study Bible for both youth and adults who want to encounter Scripture in a fresh and new way!

<http://store.augsburgfortress.org/store/product/8222/Lutheran-Study-Bible-Hardcover->  
<http://www.cph.org/t-tlsb.aspx>  
<https://www.amazon.com/Lutheran-Study-Bible-English-Standard/dp/0758617607>  
 Images for Lutheran Study Bible (Hardcover) | Augsburg Fortress

#### Lutheran Voices | Augsburg Fortress

Quality accessible books by Lutheran authors that inform, teach, inspire, and renew. Grounded in Lutheran theology and practice, the books will cover a wide range of subjects and themes of interest to ELCA members and the wider Christian community.

<http://store.augsburgfortress.org/store/productfamily/102/Lutheran-Voices>  
 Images for Lutheran Voices | Augsburg Fortress

#### Lutheranism 101 - The Lutheran Magazine

What does it mean to be Lutheran? For many in the ELCA who’ve grown up Lutheran, religious identity is intertwined with a sense of family and cultural traditions: beer and brats for some, lefse and lutefisk for others, familiar liturgy and hymns for all. But the shape of Lutheranism is changing. While the majority of Lutherans worldwide still live in Northern Europe, Lutheranism is growing rapidly in other parts of the world, according to the Lutheran World Federation. Today there are almost as many Lutherans in Asia and the Middle East (7.4 million) as there are in North America (8.1 million), and there are more Lutherans in Africa (15 million) than there are in Germany (13 million).

So what does it mean to be Lutheran, beyond cultural heritage or geographical location? During the 16th century, Martin Luther challenged the teachings, practices and structures of the Roman Catholic Church. He insisted that the central message of Christianity is the good news that sinners become reconciled to God by grace through faith because of the saving work of Jesus Christ. It’s important to remember that Luther didn’t intend to start a new church. He wanted to reform the existing church, so the

gospel message was communicated clearly and so the life of the church reflected that gospel center. Lutherans organized into a separate church only after the Roman Catholic Church repeatedly rejected Luther's views.

#### The Lutheran | June 2006 Issue

<http://www.thelutheran.org/article/issue.cfm?issue=128>

[http://www.thelutheran.org/article/article.cfm?article\\_id=5895&key=34751023](http://www.thelutheran.org/article/article.cfm?article_id=5895&key=34751023)

[Images for Lutheranism 101 - The Lutheran Magazine](#)

#### Lutheranism 202 - The Lutheran Magazine

Reading the Augsburg Confession, we delve into the meaning of faith

Martin Luther (1483-1546) didn't intend to start a new church. A priest and a university professor, Luther believed there was only one Christian church. His study of the Bible and his personal faith experience led him to propose changes in the church's teaching and practice, to re-form the church so it more clearly reflected the good news of salvation through faith in Jesus Christ alone. This "reformation" was rejected by the leaders of the church in Rome, and Luther and his followers were excommunicated.

A major part of this reformation movement was an emphasis on the living, life-giving word of God. Luther's academic training was as a biblical scholar. He translated the Bible from Hebrew and Greek into German, the language of the people. He published sermons and commentaries to help communicate God's word in ways that people could understand. Most of all, Luther encouraged people to read and hear the Scriptures for themselves, expecting to receive in the inspired words God's gracious promise for their lives.

#### The Lutheran | October 2008 Issue

<http://www.thelutheran.org/article/issue.cfm?issue=156>

[http://www.thelutheran.org/article/article.cfm?article\\_id=7432](http://www.thelutheran.org/article/article.cfm?article_id=7432)

[Images for Lutheranism 202 - The Lutheran Magazine](#)

#### Lutheranism - Wikipedia

Lutheranism is a major branch of Protestant Christianity which **identifies** with the theology of Martin Luther (1483–1546), a German friar, ecclesiastical reformer and theologian.

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

[Images for Lutheranism](#)

#### Lutherans Today: American Lutheran Identity in the Twenty-First Century [Richard Cimino]

In the middle of the twentieth century, American Lutherans were newsworthy enough to find themselves on the cover of *Time* magazine. Their claim to fame? In an era when American churches were beginning to look and act alike, Lutherans' strong confessional nature and stress on theology as well as their liturgy and ethnicity set them apart. They were "Protestants with a difference" at a time when differences were supposed to be dissolving in the American melting pot.

Subsequent years have posed serious questions to Lutheran identity, as disputes about the true nature of Lutheranism and the meaning of the Lutheran confessions, the structure of ministry, ecumenism, sexuality, and multiculturalism have all left their mark on Lutheran denominations. In *Lutherans Today* several historians, social scientists, journalists, and other leading experts map out the place of Lutheranism in the landscape of contemporary American Christianity and explore the directions in which it is heading in the new millennium.

Presenting new and original research, the book is divided into two sections. The first examines change and movements within American Lutheranism. Distinguished church historian Mark Noll here sets the scene by arguing that the predicament of American Lutheranism has always been the struggle to remain faithful to the enduring witness of the European Reformation while also accommodating itself to the democratic pluralism of the New World. Six other chapters discuss the Missouri Synod, the "Lutheran Left," the Called to Common Mission agreement, the evangelical catholic movement within Lutheranism, the rise of "mega-churches," and Lutheran charismatics.

The second section considers trends and issues related to Lutheran identity, including politics and the pastorate, the impact of immigration and multiculturalism, the loss of Lutheran identity at Lutheran colleges and universities, and conflicting patterns of commitment among Lutheran youth. As a whole, *Lutherans Today* will be valuable not only to all Lutherans but also to those interested in the development and current state of religious life in America.

<http://www.amazon.com/Lutherans-Today-American-Lutheran-Twenty-First/dp/0802813658>

[https://www.goodreads.com/book/show/2400565.Lutherans\\_Today](https://www.goodreads.com/book/show/2400565.Lutherans_Today)

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[https://books.google.com/books/about/Lutherans\\_Today.html?id=C7Mbcm7oAIMC](https://books.google.com/books/about/Lutherans_Today.html?id=C7Mbcm7oAIMC)

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[Images for Richard Cimino, author](#)

[Images for American Lutheran Identity in the Twenty-First Century \[Richard Cimino\]](#)

#### Making us known - The Lutheran Magazine

ELCA **Identity** Project aims to raise public awareness about Lutherans

Browsing last fall in a Dollar Store outside Frederick, Md., June Hawker was surprised to hear her pastor's voice over the radio station. In an advertisement, Marina Rogers Flores talked about Manor Parish's ministry and invited listeners to worship at one of the parish's three congregations — St. Matthew, Frederick; St. Mark, Adamstown; and St. Luke, Point-of-Rocks.

Hawker began hearing the radio spot at work and, at the same time, the weekly newspaper ran ads for Manor Parish. The blitz Hawker noticed attracted the attention of nonmembers too.

"It certainly is sparking curiosity," Flores says. By Christmas, 22 people had called.

Making the public aware of the ELCA and its churches is the whole idea behind the ELCA Identity Project, which trains and equips congregations like Flores' in communications evangelism.

[http://www.thelutheran.org/article/article.cfm?article\\_id=1881](http://www.thelutheran.org/article/article.cfm?article_id=1881)

[Images for Making us known - The Lutheran Magazine](#)

[Images for ELCA Identity Project aims to raise public awareness about Lutherans](#)

#### On being Lutheran: It matters to our lives of faith and to our witness in the world – The Lutheran

Who are we as Lutherans? Does it matter that we are Lutherans? Does being Lutheran Christian shape who we are and how we live? Is being Lutheran an obstacle to being an evangelizing church engaged in God's mission in the American context?

These questions of **identity**, mission and context are not unique to our day, but they are being asked throughout this church. Three years ago, more than 30,000 ELCA members said one of the priorities for this church was "tending to our Lutheran identity." Five years ago, in an interdenominational research project, more than 80 percent of ELCA members said: "It is important for me to be a member of a Lutheran church."

[http://www.thelutheran.org/article/article.cfm?article\\_id=5831](http://www.thelutheran.org/article/article.cfm?article_id=5831)

[Images for On being Lutheran](#)

#### On Being Lutheran: Reflections on Church, Theology, and Faith (Lutheran Voices) [Timothy F. Lull, Mark S. Hanson]

The Evangelical Lutheran Church in America professes to be a public church constituted by God for its public vocation. Moe-Lobeda explores what it means for the ELCA to play a role in public life today. Sections focus on what it means to be a public church, obstacles to being a public church in public life, power for being public church, and providing public leadership. For the followers of Jesus, the "way of living" in public is a gift of God to the church. It is costly and dangerous, but yet gives life abundant, now and forever.

<http://www.amazon.com/Being-Lutheran-Reflections-Church-Theology/dp/0806680016>

[http://books.google.com/books/about/On\\_Being\\_Lutheran.html?id=yuiWY8DAAAOC](http://books.google.com/books/about/On_Being_Lutheran.html?id=yuiWY8DAAAOC)

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[Images for timothy f. lull \(author\)](#)

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[Images for Mark S. Hanson, author](#)

[Images for Reflections on Church, Theology, and Faith](#)

<https://www.livinglutheran.org/author/mark-s-hanson/>

<https://www.thriftbooks.com/series/lutheran-voices/82458/>

<https://www.librarything.com/series/Lutheran+Voices>

[Images for Lutheran Voices](#)

#### 108 best Living Lutheran images on Pinterest

<https://www.pinterest.com/janicemaron/living-lutheran/>

<https://www.pinterest.com/cdenninger/living-lutheran/>

<https://www.pinterest.com/joelutheran/living-lutheran/>

[Images for Living Lutheran magazine on pinterest](#)

#### Reclaiming the "C" Word: Daring to Be Church Again (Lutheran Voices) by Kelly A. Fryer (Author)

God is up to something! God is on a mission to save and bless the world, and God calls the church to be part of this mission. That means getting focused, setting people free, taking action, expecting surprises, and being hopeful. A church on God's mission isn't a building or a building plus a pastor. It's people—people who carry out God's mission in the world.

Building on her bestselling book, *Reclaiming the "L" Word*, Kelly A. Fryer gives practical advice on how to transform our idea of church and what that means for our lives as Christians.

<http://store.augsburgfortress.org/store/product/7410/Reclaiming-the-C-Word-Daring-to-Be-Church-Again>

<http://www.amazon.com/Reclaiming-22C-22-Word-Daring-Lutheran/dp/0806653191>

[http://www.goodreads.com/book/show/1309175.Reclaiming\\_the\\_C\\_Word](http://www.goodreads.com/book/show/1309175.Reclaiming_the_C_Word)

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[Images for Kelly A. Fryer \(Author\)](#)

[Images for Reclaiming the "C" Word: Daring to Be Church Again \(Lutheran Voices\) by Kelly A. Fryer \(Author\)](#)



<https://www.thriftbooks.com/series/lutheran-voices/82458/>  
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<http://www.elca.org/News-and-Events/5045>  
<http://store.afcanada.com/store/productfamily/102/Lutheran-Voices>  
[Images for Lutheran Voices](#)

### Reclaiming the "E" Word: Waking Up to Our Evangelical Identity (Lutheran Voices) by Kelly A. Fryer (Author)

In this third book in the best-selling reclaiming series, Kelly A. Fryer asks and answers such important questions as:

- What does the word evangelical actually mean?
- Why do so many Christians, including those who appeared to have been left behind by theologically conservative and fundamentalist Christian churches over the past two decades, think this word is so important that they are stubbornly attempting to reclaim it for themselves?
- What is the biblical message that these new evangelicals have to share?
- What does a truly evangelical life and evangelical congregation look like?
- What kinds of things do evangelical people and an evangelical church do?
- What would happen if we who believe the Christian message really and truly is good news for the whole world without exception woke up to our evangelical identity?

<https://www.amazon.com/Reclaiming-Word-Evangelical-Identity-Lutheran/dp/0806680067>  
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<http://lutheranmission.blogspot.com/2007/10/reclaiming-serieskelly-fryer.html>  
<http://www.goodshepherd-wilmington.org/newstuff/downloads/RecommendedReads.htm>  
<http://citeseerx.ist.psu.edu/viewdoc/download?doi=10.1.1.582.1738&rep=rep1&type=pdf> [PDF] A Short Review of Research on

Growing Congregations - CiteSeerX

<http://saveelca.blogspot.com/2008/06/reclaiming-l-word.html>  
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<https://www.amazon.com/Kelly-A.-Fryer/e/B001JSC6S6>  
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[Images for Reclaiming the "E" Word: Waking Up to Our Evangelical Identity \(Kelly Fryer\)](#)

<https://www.elca.org/News-and-Events/5045> 'Lutheran Voices' Series Introduced; Online Discussion this Month  
<https://www.thriftbooks.com/series/lutheran-voices/82458/>  
<https://www.goodreads.com/series/149080-lutheran-voices>  
[Images for \(Lutheran Voices\)](#)

### Reclaiming the "L" Word: Renewing the Church from Its Lutheran Core (Lutheran Voices) by Kelly A. Fryer (Author)

*Reclaiming the "L" Word* is a book about renewing congregations by recognizing and living out the core teachings of the Lutheran faith. In the introduction, the author states:

"I hope that people of every denomination will find this book helpful as they wrestle with these important issues within their own traditions. But this little book is primarily written for those who call themselves Lutheran and, specifically, those who are members of ELCA congregations, and it is intended to help us answer central questions: Who are we? What DOES it mean to be a Lutheran today, anyway? And, why does it matter?"

Inspirational, engaging, and challenging, this book is a must-read for pastors and congregational leaders!

<http://store.augsburgfortress.org/store/product/6759/Reclaiming-the-L-Word-Renewing-the-Church-from-Its-Lutheran-Core>  
<http://www.amazon.com/Reclaiming-Word-Renewing-Church-Lutheran/dp/0806645962>  
[http://www.goodreads.com/book/show/607728.Reclaiming\\_the\\_L\\_Word](http://www.goodreads.com/book/show/607728.Reclaiming_the_L_Word)  
[http://books.google.com/books/about/Reclaiming\\_the\\_L\\_Word.html?id=nWZoAQJ9gyoC](http://books.google.com/books/about/Reclaiming_the_L_Word.html?id=nWZoAQJ9gyoC)  
[http://www.transformingchurch.com/resource/toolbox/2005/10/reclaiming\\_the.php](http://www.transformingchurch.com/resource/toolbox/2005/10/reclaiming_the.php)  
<http://wittenbergtrail.org/profiles/blogs/reclaiming-the-l-word>  
<https://www.etsy.com/people/AnotherMoondance>

[Images for Reclaiming the "L" Word: Renewing the Church from Its Lutheran Core \(Lutheran Voices\) by Kelly A. Fryer \(Author\)](#)

### Reclaiming the "V" Word: Renewing Life at its Vocational Core (Lutheran Voices) [Dave Daubert, Tana Kjos]

Centered in a definition of vocation that flows from Luther's conviction that all Christians share the same vocation but live it out in various occupations and roles, *Reclaiming the "V" Word* challenges readers to see themselves as instruments of God's mission-as church-wherever they are. From a strong foundation of Lutheran theology (reframed for twenty-first century application), the authors use real life stories and thoughtful exercises to help readers discern what this means for Christian life in today's world.

*Reclaiming the "V" Word* inspires readers with a renewed sense of purpose and clarifies guiding principles that will help them shape their work and relationships in the world God loves.

<http://store.augsburgfortress.org/store/product/8130/Reclaiming-the-V-Word-Renewing-Life-at-Its-Vocational-Core>  
[http://books.google.com/books/about/Reclaiming\\_the\\_V\\_Word.html?id=WDx60vaQxVAC](http://books.google.com/books/about/Reclaiming_the_V_Word.html?id=WDx60vaQxVAC)  
<http://www.amazon.com/Reclaiming-22V-22-Word-Renewing-Vocational/dp/0806670576>  
<http://reclaimingtheword.typepad.com/are/dave-daubert.html>

<https://www.etsy.com/people/AnotherMoondance>  
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[Images for Reclaiming the "V" Word: Renewing Life at its Vocational Core \(Lutheran Voices\) \[Dave Daubert, Tana Kjos\]](#)

### **The Lutheran Handbook: A Field Guide to Church Stuff, Everyday Stuff, and the Bible [Kristofer Skrade, James Satter]**

The essential field guide for all things Lutheran. Confirmants – or anyone hiking the trails of life's adventures and challenges – will want to pack this handy illustrated field guide to Lutheran theology and culture. This enjoyable, easy-to-read, reliable, all-in-one collection helps you understand the essential information about our theology, culture and Lutheran way of life. Organized by Church Stuff, Everyday Stuff and Bible Stuff with how-to's like "How to Forgive Someone" and lists like "The Top-10 Bible Villains." Encapsulates essential principles of the Christian life, making many of the complexities of our religious tradition accessible for contemporary seekers.

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[Images for The Lutheran Handbook \[Kristofer Skrade, James Satter\]](#)

This is Christ's church. There is a place for you here.

We are the church that shares a living, daring confidence in God's grace. Liberated by our faith, we embrace you as a whole person — questions, complexities and all. Join us as we do God's work in Christ's name for the life of the world.

**Evangelical Lutheran Church in America: Home**

<http://www.elca.org/>

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### **2017 Synod Assembly Letter from Presiding Bishop Eaton – (English)**

Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

God's work. Our hands.

For I am not ashamed of the gospel; it is the power of God for salvation to everyone who has faith... – Romans 1:16

Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

On Oct. 31, 1517, 500 years ago, Martin Luther posted his "Ninety-five Theses" in Wittenberg. This resulted in a debate about Christian teaching and practice that led to significant reforms that shaped the course of Western Christianity. As we gather to meet in synod assemblies during the 500th anniversary of the Reformation, it is a good time to reflect on what it means to be **Lutheran**.

Neither culture nor behavior define what is distinctive about the Lutheran movement. It's our understanding of the gospel. We proclaim Jesus Christ crucified and raised from the dead for the life of the world. It is this gospel word that creates faith and sets us free to serve the neighbor. We are freed and renewed in Christ.

The church's proper work is to proclaim the gospel word. "We are to fear and love God, so, that we do not despise preaching or God's word, but instead keep that word holy and gladly hear it and learn it" (Small Catechism). I have invited and encouraged all of you to engage in reading Luther's Small Catechism together. This is to be done in a way that is most promising for your community of faith and most fitting for the relationships in your community. Resources are available at <https://elca500.org/with-new-voices/>. As a church deeply rooted in Scripture and in Christ, this church continues to be shaped by the changing face of our communities, by new migration patterns and national and global trends affecting religion and society. We are a community of faith that is always forming and being renewed, and as a church we engaged in a process, Called Forward Together in Christ, to help us tell the story of the church we are becoming. Through that process, we developed ELCA Strategic Directions 2025. This strategic framework identifies goals and priority areas for the ELCA as a whole church.

What is the church we are becoming?

- A thriving church spreading the gospel and deepening faith for all people.
- A church equipping people for their baptismal vocations in the world and this church.
- An inviting and welcoming church that reflects and embraces the diversity in our communities and the gifts and opportunities that diversity brings.
- A visible church deeply committed to working ecumenically and with other people of faith for justice, peace and reconciliation in our communities and around the world.
- A well-governed, connected and sustainable church.

As we observe the 500th anniversary of the Reformation, I pray that ELCA Strategic Directions 2025 will guide and foster ELCA church unity in the years ahead. To learn more about these strategic directions, visit <http://elca.org/future>

One of the ways we are achieving our goals together as a church is through Always Being Made New: The Campaign for the ELCA. Throughout 2017, the campaign will emphasize ministries supporting Global Church. The ELCA is known as a faithful partner in the work to build up Christ's church throughout the world and proclaim the good news of Jesus Christ, risen for the life of the world.

If you don't have the date on your calendar already, be sure to note that Sept. 10 is our suggested date for the 2017 dedicated day of service. If your congregation cannot participate on this date, please consider another day. "God's work. Our hands." Sunday is an opportunity for us to explore one of our most basic convictions as Lutherans: that all of life in Jesus Christ – every act of service, in every daily calling, in every corner of life – flows freely from a living, daring confidence in God's grace.

As we gather in our synod assemblies, let us remember that together in Jesus Christ we are freed by grace to live faithfully, witness boldly and serve joyfully. I pray that God blesses your time together.

I give thanks to God for each of you, for our more than 9,300 congregations, for our 65 synods and our churchwide ministries. As a church freed and renewed in Christ, may we bear witness to a world experiencing the difference God's grace and love in Christ makes for all people and creation.

<http://scsynod.com/download/2017-synod-assembly-letter-from-presiding-bishop-eaton-english/?wpdmdl=6688>

[Images for Synod Assembly Letter from Presiding Bishop Eaton](#)

[Images for 500th anniversary of the Reformation what it means to be Lutheran](#)

### Who We Are | MNYS

Who are we? We're **Lutherans**! Lutherans make up a community of faith that shares a passion for making positive changes in the world. Our faith is built around a strong belief in God as made known to us in Jesus Christ. Through worship, service, and education, we practice our faith and grow in our relationship with God.

We also work hard to put our faith into action. In today's complex world, we try to make a difference in practical, realistic ways.

Lutheran ministries reach from around the corner to across the globe. Members of the Metro New York Synod's nearly 200 congregations are worshipping God, helping friends and neighbors, celebrating diversity, feeding the hungry, working for justice, and advocating for peace. In all we do, we strive to reflect God's boundless love for all people.

Quick Facts: 13.5 million people living within the synod territory, 63,959 baptized members, 16,009 in weekly worship, 193 congregations, Over 300 pastors, Over 100 rostered lay leaders (synodical deacons, diaconal ministers, deaconesses, Associates in Ministry)

[http://www.mnys.org/who\\_we\\_are/who\\_we\\_are/](http://www.mnys.org/who_we_are/who_we_are/)

[Images for Who We Are | MNYS Who are we? We're Lutherans!](#)

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

### Why Give ELCA Mission Support: Building the Case

Many congregations ask, "Why give mission support?" For congregations that remember their early days and the role of the larger church in providing guidance and financial support, the answer to this question may be very clear. However, for older congregations the reasons may not be as clear. Actually, the reasons go beyond the age of a congregation.

Building the case begins with who we are.

#### **Our Lutheran Identity**

As Lutherans, we understand ourselves to have first received from God, and then to respond by giving a portion to God.

This faith practice of giving is based on recognizing God's grace, accepting freely and appreciating gratefully God's generosity. As a faith practice, giving is lived out in three ways – in proportion to what we have received, in priority from what was received first, in progressive amounts as one has been blessed. These reflect a core practice that is taught, learned and live out through the ministries of this church.

[http://www.nwswi.org/webfiles/fnitools/documents/why\\_give\\_elca\\_mission\\_support\\_building\\_the\\_cas\\_1.pdf](http://www.nwswi.org/webfiles/fnitools/documents/why_give_elca_mission_support_building_the_cas_1.pdf)

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