

Interim Ministry Resources

Chapter 14 Vision

Contents 1

Resources (2) 2

#	Page	Topic
1)	2	Clarity
2)	4	Denomination
3)	5	Direction
4)	7	Discern
5)	15	Dream
6)	17	Emerging Church

Resources

1) Clarity

Best 25+ Clarity quotes ideas on Pinterest

<https://www.pinterest.com/explore/clarity-quotes/>

Images for clarity quotes pinterest

<https://www.pinterest.com/laurendonsky/clarity-quotes/>

<https://www.pinterest.com/timeforclarity/quotes-for-clarity/>

<https://www.pinterest.com/jamietabish/clarity-quotes/>

<https://www.pinterest.com/lindarae99/quotes-peace-clarity-serenity/>

Clarity Quotes - BrainyQuote

<https://www.brainyquote.com/topics/clarity>

Images for clarity quotes

<https://www.goodreads.com/quotes/tag/clarity>

<https://www.goodreads.com/quotes/tag/clarity-of-thought>

Images for quotes-clarity-of-thought

www.wiseoldsayings.com/clarity-quotes/

<https://www.yourtango.com/experts/jan-bowen/11-inspirational-quotes-when-you-need-clarity-and-confidence>

<https://www.askideas.com/66-top-clarity-quotes-and-sayings/>

www.johnpaulcaponigro.com/blog/13396/25-quotes-on-clarity/

<http://www.adaliaconfidenceandsuccessblog.com/2015/03/12/for-inspiration-23-powerful-clarity-quotes/>

www.azquotes.com/quotes/topics/clarity.html

www.clarityesd.com/clarity.html

<http://thinkexist.com/quotes/with/keyword/clarity/>

<https://www.mindbodygreen.com/0-11220/10-quotes-to-give-your-life-meaning-clarity-a-dose-of-magic.html>

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https://todayinsci.com/QuotationsCategories/C_Cat/Clarity-Quotations.htm

<http://www.habitsofmindinstitute.org/resources/quotes/hom-quotes/9-thinking-communicating-clarity/>

Images for quotes-thinking-communicating-clarity

www.writingwithclarity.com/tag/quotes/

<https://claritygo.com/quotes/>

<http://quotes.yourdictionary.com/theme/clarity/>

<https://www.amazon.com/Vision-Clarity-Quotes-Ravi-Bhojwani/dp/1543173632>

Images for Vision-Clarity-Quotes

<https://www.lifebydesign.com.au/2016/04/13/clarity-of-purpose-2/>

Images for quotes-clarity-of-purpose

Holy Clarity: The Practice of Planning and Evaluation by Sarah B. Drummond Dean of the Faculty and Vice President for Academic Affairs (Author)

In *Holy Clarity*, Sarah Drummond explores the most basic reason leaders of religious organizations conduct evaluations: To find and create God-pleasing clarity regarding the organization's purpose and the impact of its activities. Leadership and evaluation are not separate disciplines, she argues. Effective leaders evaluate because they need to know what is happening in their organizations and how those activities are effecting change.

Drummond first describes the way in which our postmodern culture makes clarity difficult to obtain. She then looks at holy clarity from a biblical and theological perspective and make the case that it is a spiritual discipline that can stand on its own theological merits. She presents four approaches to evaluation that can help a leader to guide a community toward greater clarity, both when evaluating or analyzing programs and when planning and starting programs. Finally, she considers the work of clarification as a faith practice, one that can make a pastor or layperson not just a better leader, but a better Christian who is more firmly grounded in God. Each chapter concludes with a fictional case study that provides a jumping-off point for discussion and helps bring her theory to life. *Holy Clarity* provides an accessible resource as an entry point for those who are eager to learn the best practices of this crucial discipline.



<http://www.amazon.com/Holy-Clarity-Practice-Planning-Evaluation/dp/1566993873>

<http://www.goodreads.com/book/show/7211653-holy-clarity>

<https://rowman.com/ISBN/9781566995450/Holy-Clarity-The-Practice-of-Planning-and-Evaluation>

https://books.google.com/books/about/Holy_Clarity.html?id=l_pYAAQBAJ

<https://books.google.com/books?isbn=1566995450>

Holy Clarity: The Practice of Planning and Evaluation

<https://www.intrust.org/Magazine/Issues/New-Year-2016/The-role-of-the-faculty-in-shared-governance>
<https://alban.org/archive/discernment-theology-and-prayer/>
<http://www.ants.edu/faculty-sarah-drummond>
<http://divinity.yale.edu/faculty-and-research/yds-faculty/sarah-drummond>
<https://www.facebook.com/sarah.b.drummond.5>
<http://www.ats.edu/sarah-b-drummond>

Images for Sarah B. Drummond , author planning and evaluation

Images for Holy Clarity: The Practice of Planning and Evaluation by Sarah B. Drummond

Holy Cow Consulting » Clarity Check

The *Leadership Clarity Check* is a simple, ten question survey which will help your leaders evaluate how clearly they perceive the climate of the church they lead. Specifically, it measures how clear leaders are regarding

The level of energy and satisfaction in the congregation.

The performance of the church in critical areas such as Worship and music, Hospitality, Morale, Governance, Education and spiritual formation, Engagement in ministry, Priorities for the future of the congregation, Areas of potential conflict and unity in the decision-making process, The range of perceptions within the leadership team itself.

<https://holycowconsulting.com/clarity-check/>

Images for Holy Cow Consulting » Clarity Check

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

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

Images for bible and clarity

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

<https://www.soulshpherd.org/praying-clarity-god/>

Images for praying-clarity-god

<https://connectingdotstogod.com/2013/01/16/does-god-promise-clarity/>

Images for clarity-scripture

<https://www.ligonier.org/learn/devotionals/clarity-scripture/>

<https://www.ligonier.org/learn/devotionals/clarity-gods-word/>

Images for clarity-gods-word

What is Break-Thru Clarity in Ministry? - Will Mancini

When God brings you break-thru clarity, nothing feels better.

<http://www.willmancini.com/2014/02/what-is-break-thru-clarity-in-ministry.html>

<http://www.willmancini.com/2009/12/goals-vision-planning-blah-blah-blah-how-about-some-clarity-101.html>

<http://www.willmancini.com/2012/05/four-disciplines-for-leading-with-clarity.html>

<http://www.willmancini.com/2012/03/2012-barna-report-pastors-are-most-interested-in-clarity-of-churchs-vision-and-mission.html>

Images for clarity-of-church's-vision-and-mission

<http://www.willmancini.com/2011/10/steve-jobs-delivers-3-life-lessons-on-personal-clarity.html>

<http://www.willmancini.com/2011/08/clarity-comes-by-working-not-waiting.html>

<http://www.willmancini.com/2010/09/top-11-clarity-takeaways-from-the-nines-conference.html>

<http://www.willmancini.com/2011/02/how-clarity-rescues-your-soul.html>

<http://www.willmancini.com/2010/11/3-clarity-questions-to-bring-your-vision-to-more-people.html>

<http://www.willmancini.com/2009/11/40-top-thoughts-on-clarity-at-40.html>

<http://www.willmancini.com/2010/11/3-clarity-questions-to-bring-your-vision-to-more-people.html>

<http://www.willmancini.com/2010/11/41-thoughts-on-living-with-clarity.html>

<http://www.willmancini.com/2010/10/clarity-101-article-for-outreach-magazine.htm>

<http://www.willmancini.com/2010/08/singularity-is-the-power-of-clarity-take-a-3-minute-test.html>

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<http://www.willmancini.com/2010/07/ultimate-clarity-is-anchored-in-jesus.html>

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<http://www.willmancini.com/2010/07/how-to-get-started-on-clarity.html>

<http://www.willmancini.com/2010/07/clarity-transcends-methodology-please-dont-through-out-vision-with-church-growth-cuvlog.html>

<http://www.willmancini.com/2010/06/the-stunning-clarity-of-jesus.html>

Images for stunning-clarity-of-jesus

<http://www.willmancini.com/2009/04/resurrection-clarity.html>

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<http://www.willmancini.com/2008/02/the-clarity-vacuum.html>

<http://www.willmancini.com/2009/07/commanding-clarity.html>

<http://www.willmancini.com/2010/04/exponential-clarity-4-surprising-takeaways-from-exponential-2010.html>

<http://www.willmancini.com/2010/03/how-i-tripled-my-clarity-in-7-days.html>

<http://www.willmancini.com/2010/03/theological-clarity-and-application-ebook-from-acts-29.html>

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<http://www.willmancini.com/2009/08/gospel-clarity-in-10-words-or-less.html>

<https://twitter.com/willmancini/status/705588803663216641>

<http://auxano.com/>

<https://www.rightnowmedia.org/Content/Speaker/999517>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KvOHhvv4QWs> Is Your Vision Clear? Will Mancini on how clarity changes everything! (Church Leadership)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=l-G3RZ6f-e4> Will Mancini's AHA! Clarity Talk - How a Funnel Changed My Life

<http://www.unseminary.com/willmancini/>

<https://exponential.org/god-given-clarity/>

<http://www.churchunique.com/author>

<http://www.chrismorton.info/2010/03/29/will-mancinis-clarity/>

<https://www.amazon.com/Will-Mancini/e/B001JS7R3K>

https://www.goodreads.com/author/list/483865.Will_Mancini

https://www.goodreads.com/author/quotes/483865.Will_Mancini

[Images for will mancini, author](#)

[Images for What is Break-Thru Clarity in Ministry? - Will Mancini](#)

2) Denomination

Denomination Quotes - BrainyQuote

<https://www.brainyquote.com/topics/denomination>

[Images for Denomination Quotes](#)

<https://www.goodreads.com/quotes/tag/denominations>

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<https://en.wikiquote.org/wiki/Denomination>

<http://quotes.yourdictionary.com/denominations>

<http://gracequotes.org/topic/church-denominations/>

[Images for quotes-church-denominations](#)

New Life for Denominationalism by Nancy T. Ammerman

These congregations in which distinct denominational identities are being chosen and nurtured do not seem to be the worse for it. Most are vital and growing, and few if any are isolated or hostile to the outside world. Rather than disappearing, their boundaries have been reconstructed in ways that seem to keep them open and connected to a larger world.

http://hrr.hartsem.edu/bookshelf/ammerman_article3.html

<http://www.bu.edu/sociology/faculty-staff/faculty/nancy-t-ammerman/>

<https://www.bu.edu/sth/profile/nancy-t-ammerman/>

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

https://www.amazon.com/s?ie=UTF8&page=1&rh=n%3A283155%2Cp_27%3ANancy%20T.%20Ammerman

http://www.goodreads.com/author/show/192289.Nancy_Tatom_Ammerman

[Images for Nancy T. Ammerman, author](#)

[Images for New Life for Denominationalism by Nancy T. Ammerman](#)

Phyllis Tickle: What's the future of denominations?

Get rid of real estate, focus on education and trim, trim, trim. That's the advice to denominational leaders from the author of "The Great Emergence."

<https://www.faithandleadership.com/multimedia/phyllis-tickle-anthill>

[Images for Phyllis Tickle: What's the future of denominations?](#)

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

Religious denomination - Wikipedia

A religious denomination is a subgroup within a religion that operates under a common name, tradition, and identity.

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

[Images for religious denomination](#)

<https://en.wikiquote.org/wiki/Denomination>

The Missional Church and Denominations: Helping Congregations Develop a Missional Identity [Craig Van Gelder]

The Missional Church and Denominations utilizes the missional church conversation as a lens for engaging an important dimension of church life in the United States -- denominations and denominationalism. Denominations have been studied from a wide variety of perspectives, including historical, sociological, and theological, but they have yet to be engaged in light of a missional church understanding. Here each essay helps to bring further clarity to the word "missional" and contributes to the ever-widening conversation.

<http://www.amazon.com/The-Missional-Church-Denominations-Congregations/dp/0802863582>

<http://www.goodreads.com/book/show/6513256-the-missional-church-and-denominations>

<https://books.google.com/books?isbn=0802863582>

<https://nabconference.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/05/V1-The-Missional-Church.pdf>

http://www.luthersem.edu/faculty/fac_home.aspx?contact_id=cvangeld

<https://vimeo.com/7788526> Craig Van Gelder & Alan Roxburgh - What is Missional Church?

<http://themissionalnetwork.com/uncategorized/craig-van-gelder/>

<https://www.amazon.com/Craig-Van-Gelder/e/B001JRYSKQ>

http://www.goodreads.com/author/show/164854.Craig_Van_Gelder

[Images for Craig Van Gelder, author](#)

[Images for The Missional Church and Denominations: Helping Congregations Develop a Missional Identity \[Craig Van Gelder\]](#)

The Role of Judicatories in Interpreting Denominational Identity by Adair Lummis (from The Hartford Institute for Religion Research 1999)

Denominational identity in local churches, as perceived by regional judicatory leaders, is associated with many other positive trends in denominational conditions - particularly greater unity of purpose within the denomination, growth in membership, in overseas mission efforts, clergy recruitment, national church funding, and congregational health. In general, the major variables predicting growth in congregational identity with their denominations are regional leaders' perceptions of the degree that: 1) lay leaders in their judicatories take pride in their national church's policies and actions, 2) there is theological unity among judicatory members; 3) the judicatory leaders use national church resources in working with their congregations. However, clusters of denominations grouped according to amount of growth or decline in denominational identity among local churches, continue to predict strength of congregational loyalty to their denomination even with the three major contributors to denominational identity controlled by regression. Further on some measures there is different relationship (considerably weaker, stronger, or in the completely opposite direction) among predictors of denominational identity in each of these clusters. It appears that denominational culture still matters in predicting denominational loyalty.

<http://hrr.hartsem.edu/bookshelf/Judic99rRRA.pdf>

http://hrr.hartsem.edu/denom/judicatories_Lummis2.html

<http://www.hartsem.edu/faculty/adair-lummis/>

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

<http://hrr.hartsem.edu/>

http://www.hartfordinstitute.org/bookshelf/bookshelf_articles.html

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

[Images for Adair Lummis, author](#)

[Images for The Role of Judicatories in Interpreting Denominational Identity by Adair Lummis](#)

[Images for Hartford Institute for Religion Research](#)

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

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

[Images for Bible and Denominations](#)

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

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

<https://godtv.com/what-does-the-bible-say-about-denominations/>

<https://www.gotquestions.org/denominations-Christian.html>

<https://www.jw.org/en/bible-teachings/questions/christian-denominations/>

[Images for christian denominations](#)

<https://www.christianitytoday.com/biblestudies/bible-answers/theology/why-are-there-different-denominations.html>

[Images for different Christian denominations](#)

www.netbiblestudy.net/denominations/

<http://get.bible/blog/post/idea-32-one-bible-with-many-churches-denominations-and-sects>

[Images for one-bible-with-many-churches-denominations-and-sects](#)

3) Direction

A Place that Offers Life - Alban Institute

A congregation that is truly being church brings people into a loving, life-giving relationship with God and others that is transformational. This is the nature of the kingdom of God, where covenant relationships model the best aspects of family. People find hope. They experience belonging; they extend and receive forgiveness. They discover a sense of purpose and **direction**. They learn to live with appreciation and joy no matter what the circumstances. Although a pastor can preach and teach this message, the message has power only to the extent that the people in the congregation live it and practice it with one another.

Alban at Duke Divinity School » A Place that Offers Life - Alban Institute

<https://alban.org/archive/a-place-that-offers-life/>

<https://alban.org/archive/the-messy-work-of-renewal/>

<https://www.amazon.com/Pathway-Renewal-Practical-Steps-Congregations/dp/1566993717>

<https://rowman.com/ISBN/9781566993715/Pathway-to-Renewal-Practical-Steps-for-Congregations>

<https://books.google.com/books?id=C4udAwAAQBAJ>

[Images for Place that Offers Life - Alban Institute](#)

[Images for discover a sense of purpose and direction](#)

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

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

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

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

Developing a Dynamic Mission for Your Ministry: Finding Direction and Making an Impact as a Church Leader [Aubrey Malphurs]

Many otherwise well-trained pastors are often unprepared for actual leadership in the local church. Effective leaders must know how to provide direction, and the key to a leader's direction is one's mission. This new work on a crucial ministry topic—mission—is addressed by a recognized leader in the field. In his practical step-by-step style, Malphurs presents a workable definition of a mission statement, its "custom-fit" development for each ministry, and its implementation through a carefully refined ministry strategy. As Malphurs explains, "The act of leadership is fundamentally the act of articulating first a ministry mission statement and then pursuing it... Therefore, the purpose of this book is to help you as leaders develop and articulate a definitive, well-thought-out mission statement for your ministry."

<http://www.amazon.com/Developing-Dynamic-Mission-Your-Ministry/dp/0825431891>

<https://www.logos.com/product/7753/developing-a-dynamic-mission-for-your-ministry-finding-direction-and-making-an-impact-as-a-church-leader>

<https://books.google.com/books?isbn=0825494613>

https://books.google.com.au/books/about/Developing_a_Dynamic_Mission_for_Your_Mi.html?id=iks8bcthUkUC

<http://www.lifeandleadership.com/book-summaries/malphurs-developing-a-dynamic-mission-for-your-ministry.html>

<http://www.malphursgroup.com/tmg-books/developing-dynamic-mission-ministry-finding-direction-making-impact-church-leader/>

<http://www.dts.edu/about/faculty/amalphurs/>

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

<https://www.logos.com/product/30293/aubrey-malphurs-collection>

<https://www.churchcentral.com/companies/media/aubrey-malphurs/>

<https://www.amazon.com/Aubrey-Malphurs/e/B001JS89K0>

https://www.goodreads.com/author/list/231303.Aubrey_Malphurs

[Images for aubrey malphurs \(author\)](#)

[Images for Developing a Dynamic Mission for Your Ministry: Finding Direction and Making an Impact as a Church Leader \[Aubrey Malphurs\]](#)

Direction - Simple English Wikipedia

Something following the line is moving in that direction. People show directions by pointing. The word direction is made from the root direct meaning to guide.

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

[Images for direction](#)

11 Signs Your Church Is Going Extinct- Carey Nieuwhof

But like most things in life, there are signs right now that will point to the **direction** in which you're headed.

<http://careynieuwhof.com/2015/08/11-signs-your-church-is-going-extinct/>

[Images for 11 Signs Your Church Is Going Extinct- Carey Nieuwhof](#)

[Images for Carey Nieuwhof on signs that point to direction headed](#)

<http://connexuschurch.com/interested-in-a-new-direction/>

<http://careynieuwhof.com/3-current-cultural-crises-that-provide-great-opportunities-for-leaders/> #3

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

<https://www.amazon.com/Lasting-Impact-Powerful-Conversations-Church/dp/1941259464>

<http://www.unseminary.com/leading-your-church-through-change/>

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

Is your church heading in the right direction? | the Way?

One of the very positive influences on world Christianity is the 'simple church' movement, and Felicity Dale (a sometime commenter on this blog) and her website Simply Church blog is one face of this movement. I subscribe to her blog and gain a lot of insight from it. And one brief recent post summed a lot of things up for me.

<https://theway21stcentury.wordpress.com/2012/03/09/is-your-church-heading-in-the-right-direction/>

[Images for church heading in the right direction](#)

3 Principles to Establish Your Church Direction | Ministry127

With that in mind, I want to share some practical insight to help the brand new pastor set the direction for the church in the early days. There is no doubt that, with the help of the Holy Spirit, the direction is set by the pastor, and his greatest tool is the preaching of the Word of God. The pastor is sent on a heavenly mission, and the church moves on the feet of those who, "Preach the gospel of peace and bring glad tidings of good things" (Romans 10:15b). There is no greater tool for setting the direction in the early days of the church than the tool of preaching. Here are three simple aids in setting direction for a new church:

<http://ministry127.com/pastoral-leadership/3-principles-to-establish-your-church-direction>

[Images for Is your church heading in the right direction? | the Way?](#)

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

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

[Images for bible and direction](#)

<http://www.patheos.com/blogs/christiancrier/2015/07/27/top-7-bible-verses-about-gods-direction/>

<https://www.theodysseyonline.com/10-bible-verses-to-give-you-direction-when-you-have-none>
Images for bible-give-you-direction
<https://www.kingjamesbibleonline.org/Bible-Verses-About-Direction/>
<http://blog.bible/bible-blog/entry/bible-verses-that-helped-me-find-a-direction-in-life>
Images for bible-find-direction-in-life images
www.cbn.com/spirituallife/inspirationalteaching/palagyi_divinedirection.aspx
Images for divine direction

4) Discern

Best 25+ Discernment quotes ideas on Pinterest

<https://www.pinterest.com/explore/discernment-quotes/>
Images for discernment pinterest
<https://www.pinterest.com/meshelleywelley/discernment/>
<https://www.pinterest.com/naetags/discernment/>
<https://www.pinterest.com/suem111/discernment/>
<https://www.pinterest.com/lpelshaw/discernment/>
https://www.pinterest.com/teri_jeter/discernment/
<https://www.pinterest.com/pamelacouvette/discernment/>
<https://www.pinterest.com/katsfreedom/discernment/>
<https://www.pinterest.com/judifisher03/discernment/>

Cultivating a culture of discernment - Episcopal Church Foundation Vital Practices for leading congregations

The role of vestry members is rarely understood as that of encouraging and cultivating ongoing congregation-wide conversations about what God might be up to in the church and neighborhood. But when vestry members are recruited for their leadership gifts, and when their role is defined as the congregation's spiritual leaders working as a discernment team with their clergy, the results tell the story.

As Patrick Kiefert points out in his book, *We Are Here Now: A New Missional Era*, the old ways of doing things no longer work. Strategic five and ten year plans no longer make sense because we have no idea what our community or world will look like in five or ten years. What is needed is continual, faithful listening to God's leading and our changing world. *In such a climate, the most fruitful way a vestry and congregation can operate is like a sailboat — rather than a corporate board — alert and nimble enough to move quickly so they can catch the changing winds of what Kiefert calls the “Holy Gust” or Ghost.*

Episcopal Church Foundation Vital Practices - Discernment

<http://www.ecfvp.org/vestrypapers/discernment/cultivating-a-culture-of-discernment/>
Images for Cultivating a culture of discernment - Episcopal Church Foundation Vital Practices for leading congregations
<http://www.amazon.com/We-Are-Here-Now-Missional/dp/0977718417>

Decision Making or Spiritual Discernment

Jim Williams

This will be a working session on Spiritual discernment utilizing praying with scripture in the Ignation tradition, centering prayer and small group discussion. As we learn from the Shalem Institute for Spiritual Formation, discernment is more than just a process. Even for the most material or nitty-gritty matters, there is a Spirit at work nudging us, leading us, and even pulling us by the nose ring. There are disciplines, processes, means, and tools through which the spirit can work to help us discern. Discernment isn't usually a sudden zap from beyond, but something which emerges from hard work. During this workshop time, you will hone your own gift for discernment.

IMN | 2017 Annual Conference - Interim Ministry Network

<http://imnedu.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/01/Keynote-Workshop-Descriptions.pdf>
<https://www.linkedin.com/in/jim-williams-59098346>
Images for Decision Making or Spiritual Discernment

Page 10

Discern Quotes - BrainyQuote

<https://www.brainyquote.com/topics/discern>
<https://www.brainyquote.com/topics/discerning>
Images for discern quotes
<https://www.goodreads.com/quotes/tag/discern>
<https://www.goodreads.com/quotes/tag/discernment>
<https://www.goodreads.com/quotes/tag/discerning>

Discerning God's Call

What does it do?

Provides practical supports, resources, and coaching for these objectives:

1. Affirming our heritage (embracing the gifts God gives to our community of faith through our history and present ministry)
2. Stimulating and deepening Christian hope and faithful imagination (opening ourselves afresh to what God wants to do among and through us)
3. Expressing a compelling shared vision for our future (receiving God's gift of guidance and direction)

4. Strengthening the leadership team (practices of prayer, analysis, and decision-making)

Center for Parish Development - Discerning God's Call

http://www.missionalchurch.org/pg/discern_call.html

[Images for Discerning God's Call](#)

Discerning God's Direction for Your Church

Do your leaders share the same sense of direction from God, or does each leader have his or her own ideas of where the church needs to go? Do the people who are active in the church know what they need to do to help the church fulfill your God-given mission, or do they look to the church mainly to fulfill their own various needs?

<http://www.christviewmin.org/leadership/discerning.direction.church.php>

[Images for Discerning God's Direction for Your Church](#)

Discerning God's Mission: Trust-Building and Collaborative Leadership for Collective Insight

This course prepares church leaders and interim pastors for navigating congregations through collective discovery of God's intent for their church. Trust is fundamental for teamwork. Collaborative leadership leverages collective wisdom and skills. Relevant ministry aligned with God's will is the result.

Many will benefit from this course. Congregations in transition will connect with God's present work in the world, a more faithful approach than inventing their own purpose and direction. Churches in a rut will discover anew God's purpose for them and will identify key ministries for engaging God's mission. Church leaders seeking renewed enthusiasm for ministry will see afresh the Spirit's work in their lives, journey with colleagues in ministry, explore God's ways in the world and awaken to renewed passion for ministry. Interim pastors will strengthen their leadership. Trust-building and collaborative leadership for collective insight are essential tasks for guiding congregations into a new chapter in God's mission in the world.

For more information on coursework, contact Hagen at revdrhagen@gmail.com or 763-227-4782.

<https://cep.anglican.ca/courses/discerning-gods-mission-trust-building-and-collaborative-leadership-for-collective-insight-4/>

http://www.luthersem.edu/lifelong_learning/kairos/courses.aspx?course_id=793 Courses - Luther Seminary

<https://christopherhagenconsulting.wordpress.com/2013/02/26/discerning-gods-mission-trust-building-and-teamwork-for-collective-insight/>

<https://www.christopherhagenconsulting.com/>

<https://www.christopherhagenconsulting.com/where-2-or-3-are-gathered.html>

https://digitalcommons.luthersem.edu/cgi/viewcontent.cgi?article=1000&context=dmin_theses Missional Interim Ministry Processes a Case Study - Digital Commons @ Luther Seminary

[Images for Christopher Hagen Consulting](#)

[Images for Discerning God's Mission: Trust-Building and Collaborative Leadership for Collective Insight](#)

Discerning God's Will Together: A Spiritual Practice for the Church: [Danny E. Morris]

Imagine making decisions about your church based on the question, "God, is this your will?" This idea is the premise behind *Discerning God's Will Together*. This contemporary book offers a fresh alternative to the often-rancorous parliamentary procedures many church groups use when making important decisions. Structured around church traditions and biblical examples of decision-making, this book explains how to seek and find God's will when making a decision. Any size group can use the step-by-step approach provided by the authors.

<http://www.amazon.com/Discerning-Gods-Will-Together-Spiritual/dp/0835808084>

<http://www.goodreads.com/book/show/24471009-discerning-god-s-will-together>

<https://books.google.com/books?isbn=156699506X>

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<https://alban.org/archive/discernment-as-worshipful-work/>

<http://www.lifeandleadership.com/book-summaries/morris-and-olsen-discerning-gods-will-together.html>

<http://www.spiritualityandpractice.com/book-reviews/excerpts/view/24055>

<http://www.sdiworld.org/publications/presence-journal/bonus-media-reviews/discerning-god%E2%80%99s-will-together>

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Page 12

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

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<https://www.amazon.com/Danny-E.-Morris/e/B001HD06OY>

http://www.goodreads.com/author/show/310947.Danny_E_Morris

[Images for Danny E. Morris, author](#)

<https://www.amazon.com/Charles-M.-Olsen/e/B001K8HE9G>

http://www.goodreads.com/author/show/310946.Charles_M_Olsen

[Images for Charles M. Olsen, author](#)

[Images for Discerning God's Will Together: A Spiritual Practice for the Church: \[Danny E. Morris\]](#)

Discerning Mission - igniting the missional church conversation

listening to what God is up to – connecting local communities of faith – embracing thoughtful discovery

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

[Images for Discerning Mission - igniting the missional church conversation](#)

[Images for listening to what God is up to – connecting local communities of faith – embracing thoughtful discovery](#)

Discerning Your Congregation's Future: A Strategic and Spiritual Approach [Roy M. Oswald, Robert E. Friedrich Jr.]

Drawing on extensive consulting experience with congregations, the authors provide a step-by-step guide to congregational planning that grounds strategic planning techniques in a process of spiritual discernment. The result: members will own the vision and be eager to participate in the congregation's calling, life, and ministry. You and your planning committee learn the theory behind the techniques, along with receiving help for addressing specific situations.

<http://www.amazon.com/Discerning-Your-Congregations-Future-Strategic/dp/1566991749>

<https://www.christianbook.com/discerning-congregations-future-strategic-spiritual-approach/roy-oswald/9781566991742/pd/991742>

<https://www.barnesandnoble.com/w/discerning-your-congregations-future-roy-m-oswald/1111501933>

<https://www.waterstones.com/book/discerning-your-congregations-future/roy-m-oswald/robert-e-friedrich-jr/9781566991742>

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<https://books.google.com/books?isbn=1566991749>

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<http://www.lifeandleadership.com/book-summaries/oswald-and-friedrich-discerning-your-congregations-future.html>

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Page 190

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https://www.goodreads.com/author/list/152452.Roy_M_Oswald

[Images for roy m. oswald, author](#)

<https://www.facebook.com/robert.e.friedrich.7>

[Images for Robert E. Friedrich Jr., author congregation's future](#)

[Images for Discerning Your Congregation's Future: A Strategic and Spiritual Approach \[Roy M. Oswald, Robert E. Friedrich Jr.\]](#)

Discernment and Decision Making | Congregational Consulting

There are many decisions that need to be made in the life of a community of people that we call a "congregation." Many can be made by individuals or by small groups; some need to be made by the congregation as a whole. But when the decisions are major and affect all of us, we need to bring people together in prayer and reflection and commit to listen to each other and the divine.

When we do, we will find that God is speaking—normally in a quiet voice and often through the gathered wisdom of the group.

When we listen, we find our way forward. When we fail to listen, we fall backwards. Teach us, Divine One, to listen, so that we may hear your voice as well as the voices of our sisters and brothers.

<http://www.congregationalconsulting.org/discernment-and-decision-making/>

[Images for Discernment and Decision Making | Congregational Consulting](#)

DISCERNMENT PROCESS

What is God's hope and dream for you? Identity & Purpose

In what ways are you strong and unique? Gifts & Resources

Would your neighborhood miss you if you were gone? Context & Needs

One of the final questions on the Ministry Site Profile asks about your Discernment Process. Before starting to work on your MSP, the leaders of the ministry site and call committee should spend time in discernment. Think and pray about your sense of Mission at this time in your history and consider these three things:

- Why do you exist, and for whom? What would someone who observes you from the outside conclude about your sense of purpose and mission?
- What are you clearly good at? What ministry activities bring out the best in you and seem to be valued by others?
- What does your neighborhood really need right now, and how are you helping to meet those needs?

An experience of Mission that feels powerful, Spirit-inspired and authentic often happens where these three things converge. That is, Mission is what happens when we are true to our purpose, using our best gifts and responding to the needs that are before us in our community and world. Ministry that only touches on one or two of these things may not be at the core of what your mission is. Thus, your prayerful discernment is important, and much of the MSP will give you the opportunity to share what you have discerned.

[PDF] MSP - ELCA Resource Repository

http://download.elca.org/ELCA%20Resource%20Repository/Guide_to_the_MSP_2017.pdf

<http://www.elca.org/Call-Process/Ministry-Sites> Guide to the MSP

[Images for DISCERNMENT PROCESS What is God's hope and dream for you? Identity & Purpose](#)

[Images for Ministry Site Profile - ELCA Resource Repository](#)

Discernment - Wikipedia

Discernment is the ability to obtain sharp perceptions or to judge well. In the case of judgment, discernment can be psychological or moral in nature. Within judgment, discernment involves going past the mere perception of something and making nuanced judgments about its properties or qualities. Considered as a virtue, a discerning individual is considered to possess wisdom, and be of good judgement; especially so with regard to subject matter often overlooked by others. Discernment can be scientific (that is discerning what is true about the real world), normative (discerning value including what ought to be) and formal (deductive reasoning).

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

[Images for discernment](#)

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

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

<https://en.wiktionary.org/wiki/discern>

<https://en.wiktionary.org/wiki/discernment>

ELCA presiding bishop offers four emphases in understanding church

Eaton shared that it is critical for the Conference, the Church Council (the ELCA's board of directors) and others to "understand ourselves as communities of spiritual discernment. It is not just about strategic plans," she said, "but have we been quiet enough to listen to the Holy Spirit? How can we regain the patience and tending to what the Spirit has said to us?"

<http://www.elca.org/News-and-Events/7649>

[Images for ELCA presiding bishop offers four emphases in understanding church](#)

[Images for communities of spiritual discernment](#)

Generous Prayerful Discernment – Luther Seminary

As a leader, you can embody and encourage prayerful discernment by asking God to bless it.

http://www.luthersem.edu/stewardship/resource_detail.aspx?resource_id=1464

[Images for Generous Prayerful Discernment](#)

Group Spiritual Direction: Community for Discernment [Rose Mary Dougherty]

Practical guidance for offering and participating in spiritual direction in a group setting.

<http://www.amazon.com/Group-Spiritual-Direction-Community-Discernment/dp/0809135981>

<http://www.goodreads.com/book/show/20489280-group-spiritual-direction>

<http://www.shalem.org/index.php/resources/publications/pamphlets-on-spiritual-direction/group-spiritual-direction-what-is-it>

http://books.google.ca/books?id=Xp_jPQAHzY8C

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=q0pHG_EEGsI SDI Learns From...Rose Mary Dougherty, SSND, and Vivian Feintech - YouTube

<http://www.sdiworld.org/sdi-learns-%E2%80%A6-rose-mary-dougherty-ssnd>

http://www.goodreads.com/author/show/51006.Rose_Mary_Dougherty

[Images for Rose Mary Dougherty, author](#)

[Images for Group Spiritual Direction: Community for Discernment \[Rose Mary Dougherty\]](#)

Leadership Narrative | Susan Beaumont and Associates, LLC

Discernment doesn't just happen. It must be intentionally nurtured within the culture of a team. A team that is grounded in God's spirit, and open to authentic discernment, will cultivate its presence, its process, and its practices.

<http://www.susanbeaumont.com/blog/leadership-narrative/>

[Images for Leadership Narrative | Susan Beaumont and Associates, LLC](#)

[Images for authentic discernment](#)

Pursuing God's Will Together: A Discernment Practice for Leadership Groups (Transforming Center Set) [Ruth Haley Barton]

2013 *Logos* Book of the Year in Spirituality/Devotional Meetings can sap our energy, rupture community and thoroughly demoralize us. They can go on forever with no resolution. Or they can rush along without consensus just to "get through the agenda." What if there was another way? Church boards and other Christian leadership teams have long relied on models adapted from the business world. Ruth Haley Barton, president of the Transforming Center, helps teams transition to a much more suitable model—the spiritual community that discerns God's will together. In these pages you will discover personal and group practices that will lead you into a new way of experiencing community and listening to God together.

Church boards and other Christian leadership teams have long relied on models adapted from the secular world to make decisions. Trained spiritual director and not-for-profit leader, Ruth Haley Barton, helps teams transition to a much more fitting model – becoming spiritual communities that practice discernment together.

The book includes:

Substantive Biblical and theological reflection on corporate discernment

Step-by-step guidance for your group

Personal reflection questions throughout

Group practices at the end of each chapter



<http://www.amazon.com/Pursuing-Gods-Will-Together-Transforming/dp/0830835660>

<http://www.goodreads.com/book/show/13799960-pursuing-god-s-will-together>

<https://www.goodreads.com/work/quotes/19434325-pursuing-god-s-will-together-a-discernment-practice-for-leadership-grou>

<http://www.transformingcenter.org/in/pgwt-book/index.shtml>

<https://books.google.com/books?isbn=0830869786>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fhJnO24Pbf8> Pursuing God's Will Together by Ruth Haley Barton - YouTube

<http://www.patheos.com/blogs/pilgrimsroadtrip/2013/02/reviews-pursuing-gods-will-together-and-ive-got-your-back/>

<http://chapter-next.com/pursuing-gods-will-together-a-discernment-practice/>

<http://www.christianitytoday.com/le/contributors/ruth-haley-barton.html>

<http://www.lifeandleadership.com/book-summaries/barton-pursuing-gods-will-together.html>

<https://richardburkey.wordpress.com/2012/08/15/book-review-pursuing-gods-will-together-by-ruth-haley-barton/>

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

<http://www.transformingcenter.org/ruth-haley-barton/>

<https://transformingcenter.org/2005/02/discerning-gods-will-together-discovering-a-process-of-leadership-discernment/>

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<http://www.christianitytoday.com/pastors/contributors/ruth-haley-barton.html>

<https://sojo.net/biography/ruth-haley-barton>

<https://www.pinterest.com/suebeadle/spiritual-wisdom-of-ruth-haley-barton/>

<https://www.pinterest.com/pin/170010954653690208/> Discover ideas about Spiritual Formation Ruth Haley Barton

<https://www.pinterest.com/pin/433612270345918154/> Are you your true self? [Ruth Haley Barton]

<https://www.ivpress.com/ruth-haley-barton>

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Images for Ruth Haley Barton, author

Images for Pursuing God's Will Together: A Discernment Practice for Leadership Groups [Ruth Haley Barton]

<https://fi.pinterest.com/pin/215328425903773584/> Sacred Rhythms DVD

Images for Transforming Center Set

Selecting Church Leaders: A Practice in Spiritual Discernment [Charles M. Olsen, Ellen Morseth]

Ask people what church position they desire the least. The most likely answer is the nominating committee. Choosing church leaders, whether for a small committee or for a group of congregations, tends to make people want to quit. Is there a better way than running a finger down a membership list to find someone who will not hang up the phone? Chuck Olsen and Ellen Morseth offer a spiritually solid approach to selecting church leaders. They begin their approach with an easy-to-overlook sentence in the book of Acts concerning the Jerusalem Council. Acts 15:28 records ". . . it has seemed good to the Holy Spirit and to us. . . ." The authors note from this beginning the guidance of God's Spirit and the use of human faculties of reason and perception. Olsen and Morseth believe that this spiritual guidance is often missing in the selection process of leaders. They urge you to participate in a prayerful process of seeking God's yearning, whether for local church, denominational, or personal. Their book offers the practices of spiritual discernment (with many encouraging examples) in the selection of leaders.

This book is a challenging, practical, and honest treatment of the biblical concept of discernment compared to the current cultural models of decision-making. An inspiring guide for church leaders who want to make their choices with God's help.

<https://www.amazon.com/Selecting-Church-Leaders-Spiritual-Discernment/dp/1566992591>

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Page 252

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<https://www.amazon.com/Charles-M.-Olsen/e/B001K8HE9G>

[http://www.goodreads.com/author/show/310946.Charles M Olsen](http://www.goodreads.com/author/show/310946.Charles_M_Olsen)

Images for Charles M. Olsen, author

<http://www.religion-online.org/showarticle.asp?title=1709>

<http://www.christianitytoday.com/pastors/1995/winter/511043.html>

<http://www.christianitytoday.com/pastors/2001/fall/6.44.html>

[https://www.goodreads.com/author/show/558293.Ellen Morseth](https://www.goodreads.com/author/show/558293.Ellen_Morseth)

Images for Ellen Morseth, author

Images for *Selecting Church Leaders: A Practice in Spiritual Discernment* [Charles M. Olsen, Ellen Morseth]

Spiritual Discernment in the Congregation

Harry Disher

Participants will explore some spiritual practices that are helpful in enabling a congregation to name its core values, determine a motivating vision and explore where God might be calling them in mission. We will explore Spiritual Orientation Profiling and the use of spiritual practices like guided meditation and adaptations of lectio divina biblical reflections. Spiritual exercises are an effective means of enabling congregations to listen to the voice of God's Spirit as they seek to move on into the future God has in mind for them. There will be opportunity to share practices and exercises you have used effectively.

IMN | 2017 Annual Conference - Interim Ministry Network

<http://imnedu.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/01/Keynote-Workshop-Descriptions.pdf>

Page 3

Images for *Spiritual Discernment in the Congregation*

http://www.rostad.com/view-profile_24306_profile.html

<https://livestream.com/accounts/11168815/events/6087132/videos/132177040>

Spiritual Discovery: A Method for Discernment in Small Groups and Congregations by Rev. Catherine C. Tran (Author), Rev. Sandra Hughes Boyd (Author), Jane E. Vennard (Foreword)

Spiritual Discovery is a practical guide for groups desiring a prayerful approach to decision-making. The discernment method developed by authors Catherine C. Tran and Sandra Hughes Boyd begins with the prayer model—a process for guiding prayer in small groups created by Jane E. Vennard. This model brings elements of silence and spiritual reflection to the entire decision-making proceeding. The prayer is followed by a time of thoughtful exploration and discussion, resulting in decision-making that draws on both the spirit and the intellect.

The *Spiritual Discovery* Method facilitates thoughtful discernment, encouraging groups and individuals to attend to how they make decisions. This book offers step-by-step guidance for practicing the *Spiritual Discovery* Method, addressing essentials and challenges, while also providing concrete examples illustrating how groups have successfully used this process to enact spiritual growth and change. Tran and Boyd show how the skills that participants develop as they practice the *Spiritual Discovery* Method can be put to use in the everyday world, ready to be called upon for decision-making in any arena. The *Spiritual Discovery* Method has proven to be a powerful instrument for achieving positive change, and this book helps readers implement this process in their own lives and communities.

<https://www.amazon.com/Spiritual-Discovery-Method-Discernment-Congregations/dp/1566997348>

<https://www.goodreads.com/book/show/25479071-spiritual-discovery>

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[https://www.goodreads.com/author/show/185737.Jane E Vennard](https://www.goodreads.com/author/show/185737.Jane_E_Vennard)

Images for Jane E. Vennard, author

Images for *Spiritual Discovery: A Method for Discernment in Small Groups and Congregations* by Rev. Catherine C. Tran (Author), Rev. Sandra Hughes Boyd (Author), Jane E. Vennard (Foreword)

Supporting Churches on a Transformational Journey

Seasons of discovering and discerning

It has been helpful to think about supporting churches on a transformational journey as moving through seasons of discovering and discerning. These are more than occasional agendas. This work is about learning foundational practices for the life of the church that can and need to be carried forward as a part of its way of life.

Discovering: Being the church always takes place in a specific context. Responding to God's call is rooted and grounded in a place. We want to discover or rediscover "why the world needs the church? Even more importantly, we want to discover why our community needs our church? What is God doing here, and how might we be more faithfully and fruitfully a part of it? Engaging in

a season of discovering cultivates the church as a learning community that through prayer, dialogue, and shared wisdom begins to embrace a wider and even common view of its current reality – the world in which it is called to be God’s people.

Discerning: Asking and answering anew, “What is God calling us to be and do as church?” is often how we hear Christian communities framing their efforts to become a discerning community. What does God love? What is the God of Scripture committed to? What are God’s priorities? Discerning together those matters that touch God’s heart is formative for the church. It has the power to change hearts and minds as a church community, personally and corporately, and seeks to align all that it is and does with God’s call, with God’s mission in this time and in this place.

http://www.missionalchurch.org/pg/transform_church.html

[Images for Supporting Churches on a Transformational Journey Seasons of discovering and discerning](#)

Supporting the Interim Journey

An Interim Journey is a set of dynamic resources with coaching support for **discerning** a shared sense of God’s call as a congregation prepares for new pastoral leadership.

Center for Parish Development - An Interim Journey

http://www.missionalchurch.org/pg/interim_journey.html

[Images for discerning a shared sense of God’s call](#)

Taking part in God’s mission involves cultivating faith practices

Transforming Community

Learning Community

Witnessing Community

Discerning Community

http://www.missionalchurch.org/pg/community_four.html

[Images for Taking part in God’s mission involves cultivating faith practices Discerning Community](#)

The Critics Will Win If You Let Them: 3 Lessons for Church Leaders from Canada’s Love/Hate Relationship with Target – Carey Nieuwhof

Application

A leader’s job is not to discern what people want...it’s to **discern** (in prayerful community with other leaders) what people need.

<http://careynieuwhof.com/2015/02/critics-will-win-let-3-lessons-church-leaders-canadas-lovehate-relationship-target/>

[Images for discern \(in prayerful community with other leaders\) - Carey Nieuwhof](#)

The 5 Main Things: Keeping the main thing the main thing. | Leadership Journal - Christianity Today

Discern the will of God

An ongoing part of both individual and corporate life as Christians is to “not be conformed to the world but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God’s will is—his good, pleasing and perfect will” ([Rom. 12:2](#)). Discernment of what is God’s will in various situations falls to the church’s leadership. And Ruth Haley Barton offers a snapshot of how that process can be handled wisely and well.

<http://www.christianitytoday.com/le/2012/fall/5-main-things.html>

[Images for discern the will of god](#)

The Power of a Whisper: Hearing God, Having the Guts to Respond by Bill Hybels (Author), Wayne Cordeiro (Foreword)

“Without a hint of exaggeration,” says Bill Hybels, “the ability to **discern** divine direction has saved me from a life of sure boredom and self-destruction. God’s well-timed words have redirected my path, rescued me from temptation and re-energized me during some of my deepest moments of despair.” In *The Power of a Whisper*, vision is cast for what life can look like when God’s followers choose to hear from heaven as they navigate life on earth. Whispers that arbitrate key decisions, nudges that rescue from dark nights of the soul, promptings that spur on growth, urgings that come by way of another person, inspiration that opens once-glazed-over eyes to the terrible plight people face in this world—through firsthand accounts spanning fifty-seven years of life, more than thirty of which have been spent in the trenches of ministry, Hybels promotes passion in Christ-followers’ hearts for being wide open to hearing from God, and for getting gutsier about doing exactly what he says to do. For more information, go to:

www.thewhisperwall.com.

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<http://www.willowcreek.com/whisper/>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QAaZqO3Prig> 'The Power of a Whisper: Hearing God, Having the Guts to Respond' by Bill Hybels

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MnaQhyCKS9E> The Power of a Whisper Group Bible Study by Bill Hybels – YouTube

[Images for The Power of a Whisper by Bill Hybels - YouTube](#)

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https://www.goodreads.com/author/list/344766.Wayne_Cordeiro
Images for Wayne Cordeiro, author
Images for discern divine direction
Images for *The Power of a Whisper: Hearing God, Having the Guts to Respond* by Bill Hybels (Author), Wayne Cordeiro (Foreword)

The Soul of Discernment: A Spiritual Practice for Communities and Institutions by Elizabeth Liebert

The Soul of Discernment provides concrete steps for groups of people who work together and need to make important decisions: church sessions, nonprofit hiring committees, etc. Liebert calls this process the Social Discernment Cycle, a process for seeking God's call in a particular situation. "It is called 'social' because it deals primarily with human communities in their social-structural, rather than interpersonal aspects," Liebert explains. "It is a cycle because one completed round of discernment prepares for the next. The Social Discernment Cycle is particularly apt for any discernment that involves a structure, system, or institution." This book helps groups work through this cycle to answer the question, "How is God leading *us*, *individually or together*, to act in this particular moment in *our organization*?"

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Images for Elizabeth Liebert, author
Images for *The Soul of Discernment: A Spiritual Practice for Communities and Institutions* by Elizabeth Liebert

The Way of Discernment, Participant's Book (Companions in Christ) (Companions in Christ: A Small-Group Experience in Spiritual) [Stephen V. Doughty, Marjorie J. Thompson].

How do you discover God's guidance for personal and congregational decisions? Explore paths to clarity in *The Way of Discernment*, a 10-week study for small groups. Who is this book designed for? * People yearning to hear the Holy Spirit's guidance * Individuals looking for direction in vocation or life changes * Church leaders seeking clarity about their congregation's distinctive mission * Christians searching for God's will in matters of belief, ethics and faithful living Part of the *Companions in Christ* series, *The Way of Discernment* offers a biblical, theological and practical framework for understanding the practice of discernment. It provides * Principles of personal and group discernment * Daily exercises to help you move from information to experience * Weekly meeting plans (in *Leaders Guide*) designed for group sharing and worship * Penetrating questions to aid the process of discernment A *Leader's Guide* is available.

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<http://companions.upperroom.org/en/the-journey>
<http://companions.upperroom.org/en/about>
Images for *Companions in Christ*

22 Quotes About Discernment | ChristianQuotes.info

<https://www.christianquotes.info/quotes-by-topic/quotes-about-discernment/>

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5) Dream

Developing and Communicating a Vision - Main Section

How do you create a vision?

Dream big.

Dreaming is the first step. Go ahead and dare to dream about what you can do and what is possible to accomplish. *Don't be afraid to dream big.* You can always scale down to meet the realities of the situation, but dreaming big allows you to think about ideas that may not seem likely, yet are in fact possible. Thinking big also forces you to think about the long term, always a useful thing to do.

<http://ctb.ku.edu/en/table-of-contents/leadership/leadership-functions/develop-and-communicate-vision/main>

Images for Developing and Communicating a Vision - How do you create a vision? Dream big.

Discovering the Power of an Ennobling Dream

The next time you are at a Board meeting or with a group working on a plan to achieve some goal, step back and ask, "What is our dream?" Clarifying the dream will not only increase energy but it provides a vision based way to decide on specific plan alternatives rather than defaulting to fear and the power of personalities to make decisions.

Rob Voyle's Appreciative Way Blog - Clergy Leadership Institute

<http://clergyleadership.com/blog/blog.cfm?page=2014>

Images for Discovering the Power of an Ennobling Dream

Images for Rob Voyle Appreciative Way Blog - Clergy Leadership Institute

Dream Big, Plan Smart | Exponential

In this new book, Exponential co-founder Todd Wilson and Will Mancini pour gasoline on the already blazing church multiplication conversation. This book is the sequel to Spark: Creating a Culture of Multiplication (2015) and Becoming a Level Five Multiplying Church (2016). Wilson and Mancini seek to help church leaders turn their aspirations and good intentions for multiplication into compelling visions with actionable strategies. The book is built on a solid foundation of strategic planning, looking through the lens of multiplication.

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<https://exponential.org/god-given-clarity/>
<http://goddrea.ms/>

Dreaming Dreams and Seeing Visions sermon

Summary: What should be the vision for a congregation that is pleasing to the Lord? The answer is given in a study of the first message preached by Peter following the Resurrection of the Lord

<http://www.sermoncentral.com/sermons/dreaming-dreams-and-seeing-visions-michael-stark-sermon-on-love-of-the-disciples-109280.asp>

[Images for Dreaming Dreams and Seeing Visions](#)

God Dreams: 12 Vision Templates for Finding and Focusing Your Church's Future by Will Mancini (Author), Warren Bird (Author)

Is your team excited about the next big dream for your church?

You are a visionary leader and your church probably has a vision statement. Yet most churches are stuck in a trap of generic communication without a truly visionary plan. Just like a visionary restaurant needs a more specific focus than “serving food,” a visionary church needs something more than biblical generalizations like “loving God, loving people” or “making disciples and serving the world.”

When a team doesn't share an understanding of God's next big dream, leadership grows tired, overworked by an “all things to all people” ministry approach. Too often there's no unified picture of what success looks like. People can feel uninspired and your church's programming can seem more optional than ever.

Ministry without clarity is insanity. Are you ready for a better way?

In this groundbreaking work, based on Will Mancini's 15 years and over 10,000 hours of church team facilitation, *God Dreams* reveals a simple and powerful planning method that will bring energy and focus to your church like never before.

First, *God Dreams* shows how to reclaim the role of long-range vision today by providing 12 vision templates, each with biblical, historical and contemporary illustrations. These vision starters will dramatically accelerate your team's ability to find complete agreement regarding your church's future.

Second, *God Dreams* explains how to overcome the fruitless planning efforts that many church teams experience. With a tool called the Horizon Storyline, leaders can connect short-term action steps with the long-range dream, while leveraging the power of storytelling to make the plan “stick.” This tool will galvanize a diverse team of ministry leaders and volunteers with unprecedented enthusiasm.

Imagine leading with a refreshed sense of freedom and confidence, with a totally new way to inspire your church. Imagine the ability to harness the energy and resources of your people towards a specific dream of gospel impact, in your church and in your lifetime.

<https://www.amazon.com/God-Dreams-Templates-Finding-Focusing/dp/143368845X>

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<http://goddrea.ms/>

<https://www.willmancini.com/goddreams>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=acGLoDr8MM8> PastorCast God Dreams with Will Mancini - YouTube

https://www.goodreads.com/author/show/483865.Will_Mancini

[Images for will mancini, author god dreams](#)

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

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[Images for warren bird, author god dreams](#)

[Images for God Dreams: 12 Vision Templates for Finding and Focusing Your Church's Future by Will Mancini, Warren Bird](#)

If you had a magic wand, what would you wish for? – Laurie Skow-Anderson

DREAM TEAMS can help your congregation imagine God's will for your congregation's future. This workshop will help you form a DREAM TEAM, hear stories about what dream teams have accomplished, and resources that will help a dream team discover a new future for your congregation. The tools we will explore are:

- 1) The Purple Cow Effect
- 2) A Parable for the next 100 years: 180 Degrees
- 3) Prayer
- 4) Bible study to help discern God's will for the future

[Full List of Workshops and Times](#)

https://s3.amazonaws.com/media.cloversites.com/0a/0a854394-3a19-4d9f-b1ae-f93021508921/documents/Workshops_for_Web_Updated-2.pdf

[Images for DREAM TEAMS can help your congregation imagine God's will for your congregation's future](#)

[Images for discern God's will for the future](#)

<http://nswi.org/about-us/our-staff>

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

[Images for Laurie Skow-Anderson](#)

<https://twitter.com/lskowanderson>

<https://www.pinterest.co.uk/lskowanderson/>

Turning Point: 180 Degrees – Laurie Skow-Anderson

Are we asking the right questions? If we ask the wrong questions, then we'll probably get the wrong answer. Most of the congregations I visit want to know what they need to do to get the young people to come back to church, fill up the pews again, and put more money in the offering plate. Are those really the questions we need to be asking? Come to this workshop to learn about better questions to ask and get a small group discussion guide to help your congregation to begin to ask new and better questions. Other resources on asking better questions and setting goals will be shared. Maybe this is a question to start with: "If your church would burn down tonight, would anyone miss it?"

[Full List of Workshops and Times](#)

https://s3.amazonaws.com/media.cloversites.com/0a/0a854394-3a19-4d9f-b1ae-f93021508921/documents/Workshops_for_Web_Updated-2.pdf

[Images for asking the right questions](#)

[The Church that Dreams Again – ThomRainer.com](#)

One factor I can share with you at this point is simple but profound. In each of those churches, a group of leaders began to dream again.

<http://thomrainer.com/2014/05/church-dreams/>

[Images for Church that Dreams Again – ThomRainer](#)

<http://thomrainer.com/2013/07/i-am-a-church-member-who-dreams-dreams-a-statement-of-church-revitalization/>

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<http://thomrainer.com/2017/01/691620/> How to Adjust When Church Giving Increases – Rainer on Leadership #291 – ThomRainer.com

<https://www.amazon.com/Thom-S.-Rainer/e/B0011GLMVG>

http://www.goodreads.com/author/show/27470.Thom_S_Rainer

[Images for Thom Rainer \(author\)](#)

[The Last Lecture Quotes by Randy Pausch - Goodreads](#)

"Give yourself permission to **dream**. Fuel your kids' dreams too. Once in a while, that might even mean letting them stay up past their bedtimes."

"There should be some lessons learned and how you can use the stuff you hear today to achieve your dreams or enable the **dreams** of others. And as you get older, you may find that "enabling the dreams of others" thing is even more fun."

— Randy Pausch, *The Last Lecture*

<https://www.goodreads.com/work/quotes/3364076-the-last-lecture>

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[Images for yourself permission to dream](#)

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[Images for Bible and Interpreting Dreams](#)

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[Images for dreams-from-god](#)

6) Emerging Church

[A Generous Orthodoxy](#)

[Why I am a missional, evangelical, post/protestant, liberal/conservative, mystical/poetic, biblical, charismatic/contemplative, fundamentalist/Calvinist, Anabaptist/Anglican, Methodist, catholic, green, incarnational, depressed- yet hopeful, emergent, unfinished Christian by Brian D. McLaren \(Author\)](#)

A confession and manifesto from a senior leader in the emerging church movement. *A Generous Orthodoxy* calls for a radical, Christ-centered orthodoxy of faith and practice in a missional, generous spirit. Brian McLaren argues for a post-liberal, post-conservative, post-protestant convergence, which will stimulate lively interest and global conversation among thoughtful Christians from all traditions. In a sweeping exploration of belief, author Brian McLaren takes us across the landscape of faith, envisioning an orthodoxy that aims for Jesus, is driven by love, and is defined by missional intent. *A Generous Orthodoxy* rediscovers the

mysterious and compelling ways that Jesus can be embraced across the entire Christian horizon. Rather than establishing what is and is not 'orthodox,' McLaren walks through the many traditions of faith, bringing to the center a way of life that draws us closer to Christ and to each other. Whether you find yourself inside, outside, or somewhere on the fringe of Christianity, *A Generous Orthodoxy* draws you toward a way of living that looks beyond the 'us/them' paradigm to the blessed and ancient paradox of 'we.'



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https://books.google.com/books/about/A_Generous_Orthodoxy.html?id=MUtyY3jwel0C
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9nyUxFQ79-s> Brian D. McLaren - Generous Orthodoxy Audiobook ch. 1 - YouTube
<http://catdir.loc.gov/catdir/toc/ecip0518/2005025202.html>
<https://www.amazon.com/gp/richpub/listmania/fullview/2SR33ESKTUJ49> Recommended Reading for the Emerging Church
<http://generousorthodoxy.org/>
<https://brianmclaren.net/a-generous-orthodoxy/>
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Images for Brian D. McLaren (Author)
Images for A Generous Orthodoxy by Brian D. McLaren (Author)

A New Kind of Christianity: Ten Questions That Are Transforming the Faith [Brian D. McLaren]

We are in the midst of a paradigm shift in the church. Not since the Reformation five centuries ago have so many Christians come together to ask whether the church is in sync with their deepest beliefs and commitments. These believers range from evangelicals to mainline Protestants to Catholics, and the person who best represents them is author and pastor Brian McLaren.

In this much anticipated book, McLaren examines ten questions facing today's church—questions about how to articulate the faith itself, the nature of its authority, who God is, whether we have to understand Jesus through only an ancient Greco-Roman lens, what exactly the good news is that the gospel proclaims, how we understand the church and all its varieties, why we are so preoccupied with sex, how we should think of the future and people from other faiths, and the most intimidating question of all: what do we do next? Here you will find a provocative and enticing introduction to the Christian faith of tomorrow.

<http://www.amazon.com/New-Kind-Christianity-Questions-Transforming/dp/0061853992>
<http://www.goodreads.com/book/show/6712499-a-new-kind-of-christianity>
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[Images for A New Kind of Christianity \[Brian D. McLaren\]](#)

A New Year's Challenge from Off the Grid

By Pastor Angela Fairbanks

How might you be surprised by God this year?

After well over a year of hearing all kinds of questions about Off the Grid, asking “what if?” together, and imagining together with folks near and far, I decided this time I'd offer something new: An Off the Grid New Year's Challenge.

Don't worry. I'm not recommending that you add a new program. I'm not recommending that you try a new curriculum. I'm not even recommending that you start a new task force. Nor bend over backwards. I'm not recommending that you do more than you already do so prayerfully and faithfully. But, I will encourage you in what you already do — worship, meet, eat, pray, play. So, how about we tithe our time? Tithe time? How would that look for the sake of the gospel?

At church, what if:

- A tithe/tenth of your church council meetings were held out in the community at the local bar/restaurant/coffee shop? (That's approximately once a year.)
- A tithe/tenth of your committee meetings were held at the local bar/restaurant/coffee shop?
- A tithe/tenth of these meetings were spent together with leaders in your town/community?
- In a tithe/tenth of these meetings, we asked “what if” and “what is God up to here?” (For a 60-minute meeting, that would be just 6 minutes.)
- Your pastor challenged a tithe/tenth of folks from your congregation to try skipping worship(!) together? (Challenge 5-10 folks to skip worship the following week and instead gather together in a home for a meal. Each person invites a seeker friend/neighbor who doesn't have a faith community.)

NOTE: These are not just a change of location but adopting a new posture—being open to God surprises.

You never know what you will encounter along the way!

At home, what if:

- You invited a seeker friend or neighbor for a tithe/tenth of your family dinners? (Because you might be the only faith community they'll ever know!)
- You tithed your social time with a seeker friend(s)/neighbor(s) developing intentional friendship/relationships?
- We tithed our time at home in meaningful conversations with our children? (According to Faith Inkubators, parents spend on average just 35 minutes per week in meaningful conversation—not instruction or scolding—with their children.)
- We tithed our play time—scrapbooking, quilting, walking, yoga, golf, fishing, hunting, etc. — with a seeker friend/neighbor?
- A tithe/tenth of our prayers were for God to surprise us along the way?

Everyone who is “off the grid” (where we're all called as the body of Christ) needs a GPS, so I'll send you on your way with my GPS prayer: Gracious God, go before us to prepare and provide, and sustain and surprise us with the Holy Spirit. In Jesus' name, we pray. Amen.

I look forward to hearing how God surprises you in 2014!

Thank you for all you do for the sake of the gospel,

Pastor Angela Fairbanks

Off the Grid

offthegridpastor@gmail.com

[Pastor Angela Fairbanks serves Off the Grid, an **emerging**, Christ-centered, seeker community in the Chequamegon Bay area that welcomes doubt, explores faith, and embraces paradox (an otherwise fancy way of saying that we need God, need each other, and don't have all the answers).]

[Northwest Synod of Wisconsin | Evangelical Lutheran Church of America](#)

http://www.nswi.org/webfiles/fnitools/documents/a_new_years_challenge_off_the_grid.pdf

<https://www.linkedin.com/pub/angela-fairbanks-jacobson/30/125/284>

[Images for Pastor Angela Fairbanks](#)

Off the Grid Community: Where Faith and Doubt Intersect Beyond our Doors

Rev. Angela Fairbanks, Off the Grid Community, Ashland area

Walking Together: a congregational resource event

What in the world is Off the Grid? In a world where the church is in crisis and more and more folks are leaving church, we seek God's transformation in our midst. Now more than ever, we are called beyond our doors to join others where they find sanctuary, whether it be in homes, coffee shops, or bars. And God meets us there! Come be engaged, question together, learn about Off the Grid (the NW WI synod's newest Synodically Authorized Worshipping Community/SAWC), and enhance your congregation's own sense of missional identity along the way. “Off the Grid is an **emerging**, Christ-centered, seeker community in the Chequamegon Bay Area that welcomes doubt, explores faith, and embraces paradox (an otherwise fancy way of saying that we need God, need each other, and don't have all the answers).”

http://www.nswi.org/webfiles/fnitools/documents/program_book_3.16.13.pdf

Page 10

[Images for Off the Grid Community: Where Faith and Doubt Intersect Beyond our Doors](#)

[Images for Rev. Angela Fairbanks, Off the Grid Community, Ashland area](#)

[Images for Off the Grid emerging, Christ-centered, seeker community](#)

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An Emergent Theology for Emerging Churches [Ray S. Anderson, Brian McLaren]

If the emerging church movement is looking for a theology, Ray Anderson offers clear and relevant theological guidance for it in this timely book. Reaching back through time, Anderson roots an emergent theology in what happened at Antioch, where Saul (Paul) and Barnabas were set apart for a mission to establish churches outside of Jerusalem--among Gentiles who had to be reached in their own cultures. He shows how the Lord Holy Spirit himself revolutionized and inspired how the message of salvation was offered to others, and provided a model to follow. Explaining that an emergent theology is messianic, revelational, kingdom-coming and eschatological, this book addresses many of the concerns of those looking for a church that is contemporary, yet true to the gospel. If you wrestle with the challenges that face the church in these "postmodern" days, you will benefit from this book.

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[Images for Ray S. Anderson, author](#)

[Images for An Emergent Theology for Emerging Churches \[Ray S. Anderson, Brian McLaren\]](#)

Beyond Church Planting. Pathways for Emerging Churches.: Robert E. Logan and Neil Cole

Authentic kingdom ministry flows out of who God is ... who we are ... how we relate to each other ... and how we fulfill God's purpose for his people. If you want to plant a church that ... Experiences God, Cultivates true followers of Jesus Christ, Develops organically within the culture, Empowers its members to serve fruitfully, Grows and reproduces itself, Then *Beyond Church Planting* is for you!

Forged out of the crucible of experience, this groundbreaking resource will help you avoid the mistakes of the past and gain insights that will pave the way for the emergence of fruitful multiplication of disciples, leaders, churches, and movements.

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[Images for Neil Cole \(Author\)](#)

[Images for Beyond Church Planting. Pathways for Emerging Churches.: Robert E. Logan and Neil Cole](#)

Big Questions, Worthy Dreams: Mentoring Emerging Adults in Their Search for Meaning, Purpose, and Faith Revised 10th Anniversary Edition Edition. by Sharon Daloz Parks (Author)

The "twenty-something" years of young adulthood are increasingly recognized as critical but puzzling. These are years of searching, when most people make formative life decisions, for good and for ill. Looking for place and purpose in a changing world and asking new questions of meaning and faith, young adults reexamine their earlier beliefs and assumptions, as they encounter a bewildering array of new experiences and complex choices. In today's society, too many wander through this challenging time alone, without the presence of mentoring voices. Building on the foundation she established in her classic work, *The Critical Years*, Sharon Daloz Parks urges thoughtful adults to assume responsibility for providing strategic mentorship during this important

decade in life. She reveals also, however, the ways young adults are influenced not only by individual mentors but also by mentoring environments. Furthermore, Parks asserts, the wider culture as a whole plays a mentoring role in the formation of each new generation of young adults, shaping the future of the culture itself. Through exploring young adult meaning-making and faith, and particularly the power of adult mentors to determine its quality, we may more fully recognize how young adults and their mentors can fuel the power and promise of cultural renewal. Parks draws on her own research and insights from developmental psychology, religion, theology, leadership, and ethics to examine the underlying developmental patterns of this unique time of life-- when one is no longer an adolescent and yet not quite fully adult. She shares a wealth of practical experience gained from thirty years of working with young adults. Through thought-provoking examples from across a broad range of contexts, professionals, educators, community leaders, supervisors, and parents will discover the many ways they can responsibly serve as guides and mentors to young adults.

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[Images for Sharon Daloz Parks \(Author\)](#)
[Images for Big Questions, Worthy Dreams: Mentoring Emerging Adults in Their Search for Meaning, Purpose, and Faith Revised 10th Anniversary Edition Edition. by Sharon Daloz Parks \(Author\)](#)

B-Side Community

For close to two years now, Eau Claire residents Matt and Suzie Kendziera have provided shelter, food, and a sense of community to all who need it through an organization they call the B-Side Community. Located on North Farwell Street in Downtown Eau Claire, the B-Side Community works through the B-Side garage in what many residents believe to be one Eau Claire's poorest housing areas. The Kendzieras are founders of the B-Side community and are the faces, along with a small staff, behind the garage doors. They said their aim with the garage is to, above anything else, be a source of comfort for Eau Claire community members in need of support.

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[Images for Matt and Suzie Kendziera](#)
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<http://www.beinit.org/bio/>
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https://s3.amazonaws.com/media.cloversites.com/25/25aaae2f-1202-4915-a96f-3d70fb32d40f/documents/Matt_and_Suzie_K_Bio.pdf

Did You Know?

The vocabulary of the church is in the process of some change, with new words being used to describe the different approaches and styles of doing mission in the 21st century. Definitions of three of these terms follow.

While they aren't exact, and would be challenged by some, they are used today by many leaders in the church, including myself.

- Postmodern: The perspectives, values and culture of people born since 1964—GenX and Millennials. They are significantly different from those of previous generations in North America.
- Transformational: The process of leading existing congregations with set and increasingly ineffective styles and patterns of worship and community life into new models for Great Commission ministry in their changing local settings. See the [Transforming](#)

Church Web site.

• **Emergent**: The ministry of congregations and leaders committed to engaging people with the gospel in the terms, images and perspectives of postmodern generations—including a radical blend of ancient church practices with future technology and culture. See the **Emerging Leaders Network Web site**.

Tom Lyberg

The Lutheran | Lutheranism 101: Culture or confession?

http://www.thelutheran.org/article/article.cfm?article_id=5895

[Images for blend of ancient church practices with future technology and culture](https://www.livinglutheran.org/contact-us/)

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

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Discerning the Shape of the Emerging Church » Alban

I find it helpful to name what is beginning to shimmer in our collective peripheral field of vision as the “emerging church.” A new way of “doing” and “being” the mission of God in a postmodern, post-Christian culture, the emerging church often reveals itself in liminal experiences—bubbling up slowly from the ground of our awareness, showing itself just beyond the threshold of our ability to see it clearly. Its outlines are faint. We can’t yet discern the exact shape it will take. It’s far too early to describe the developing image accurately. But we all have had experiences that hint at where we should look for the birth of this new way of being church. My guess is that within 50 years, we’ll all be able to discern its shape far more clearly. But that doesn’t mean we don’t have the resources to begin that discernment right now.

Alban at Duke Divinity School » Discerning the Shape of the Emerging Church

<https://alban.org/archive/discerning-the-shape-of-the-emerging-church/>

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[Images for Discerning the Shape of the Emerging Church » Alban](http://www.amazon.com/The-Postmodern-Parish-New-Ministry/dp/156699280X)

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Door openers - The Lutheran Magazine

Emerging churches renew Lutheran traditions & provide new entry points

Can you think of a time when someone opened a hotel door for you, greeted you with a smile and ushered you into a welcoming lobby? The door opener: someone who saw you and your baggage and invited you to make yourself at home.

That’s the welcome, baggage and all, offered by more than a dozen emerging church communities (see “[Glossary](#)”) in various stages of development within the [ELCA](#). They are the door openers for many who don’t go to church, who identify as “spiritual but not religious.”

Those unaffiliated with any religion, according to a [2007 Pew Forum survey](#), include 1 in 4 young adults (aged 18 to 29) in the U.S. That number may be even higher, said Robert C. Fuller, author of *Spiritual but Not Religious* ([Oxford University Press](#), 2001) and a professor of religious studies at [Bradley University](#), Peoria, Ill.

“I think up to 40 percent of the adult population may be without attachment to any religious organization,” he said, pointing to such surveys as a 2005 [Gallup](#) poll and a 2000 religious census by the [Association of Statisticians of American Religious Bodies](#). “I often ask people: ‘What’s the largest religious group in America?’ Most say Roman Catholics or Baptists. I say: ‘No. The largest religious group in America is those who may be very religious or spiritual but [are] unchurched.’”

http://www.thelutheran.org/article/article.cfm?article_id=7145

[Images for Door openers - The Lutheran Magazine](#)

[Images for Emerging churches renew Lutheran traditions & provide new entry points](#)

Embracing Emergence Christianity: Phyllis Trickle on the Church’s Next Rummage Sale by Phyllis Tickle (Author), Tim Scorer (Contributor)

Author, historian and keen cultural observer Phyllis Tickle invites us to join her in examining the changing face of Christianity and culture. Phyllis surveys 2000 years of Western history, identifying the great upheavals that occur in Western culture and Christianity every 500 years. The last was the Great Reformation of the 1500’s; the next is happening now. What are the implications of this “Great Emergence,” both culturally and spiritually? What are the key questions and issues that need to be addressed? Where might we be headed next? And, perhaps most importantly, where are you, at this moment? Might you be an emergence Christian?

The six sessions are: 1) Emergence 101, 2) Where Now Is the Authority? 3) The 20th Century and Emergence, 4) Gifts from Other Times, 5) How Then Shall We Live? and 6) Hallmarks of Emergence.

The Participant's Workbook contains all the material needed for use by class participants as well as notes for the class leader to facilitate each session; leadership can be shared among members of the group.

DVD SOLD SEPARATELY. There are six sessions on the DVD. Each session begins with a video presentation by Phyllis Tickle, lasting from 10-15 minutes. Ms. Tickle's presentation is followed by filmed interaction with a small group. The Participant Workbook then helps your small group "join the dialogue" in your own setting.

Phyllis Tickle, founding editor of the religion department of Publisher's Weekly, is frequently quoted in print sources like USA Today, Christian Science Monitor, and NY Times as well as in electronic media like PBS, NPR, Hallmark Channel and innumerable blogs and websites. She is an authority on religion in America and a much sought after lecturer and workshop leader. In addition to lectures and numerous essays, Tickle is the author of over two dozen books in religions and spirituality.

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[Images for Tim Scorer, author](#)

[Images for Embracing Emergence Christianity: Phyllis Tickle on the Church's Next Rummage Sale by Phyllis Tickle \(Author\), Tim Scorer \(Contributor\)](#)

Emergence Christianity: What It Is, Where It Is Going, and Why It Matters [Phyllis Tickle]

Whatever else one might say about *Emergence Christianity*, says Phyllis Tickle, one must agree it is shifting and re-configuring itself in such a prodigious way as to defy any final assessments or absolute pronouncements. Yet the insightful and well-read Tickle offers us a dispatch from the field to keep us informed of where Emergence Christianity now stands, where it may be going, and how it is aligning itself with other parts of God's church. Through her careful study and culture-watching, Tickle invites readers to join this investigation and conversation as open-minded explorers rather than fearful opponents.

As readers join Tickle down the winding stream of *Emergence Christianity*, they will discover fascinating insights into concerns, organizational patterns, theology, and most pressing questions. Anyone involved in an emergence church or a traditional one will find here a thorough and well-written account of where things are - and where they are going.

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<https://it.pinterest.com/pin/397090892116311694/> Emergence Christianity: What It Is, Where It Is Going, and Why It Matters by Phyllis Tickle - Pinterest

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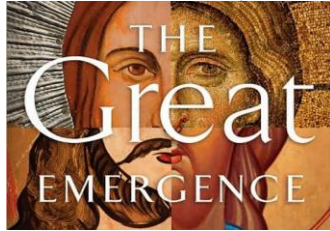
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[Images for Emergence Christianity: What It Is, Where It Is Going, and Why It Matters \[Phyllis Tickle\]](#)

The Great Emergence: How Christianity Is Changing and Why [Phyllis Tickle]

Rooted in the observation that massive transitions in the church happen about every 500 years, Phyllis Tickle shows readers that we live in such a time right now. She compares the Great Emergence to other “Greats” in the history of Christianity, including the Great Transformation (when God walked among us), the time of Gregory the Great, the Great Schism, and the Great Reformation.

Combining history, a look at the causes of social upheaval, and current events, *The Great Emergence* shows readers what the Great Emergence in church and culture is, how it came to be, and where it is going. Anyone who is interested in the future of the church in America, no matter what their personal affiliation, will find this book a fascinating exploration.



- <http://www.amazon.com/The-Great-Emergence-Christianity-Changing/dp/080107102X>
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<http://www.phyllistickle.com/books/the-great-emergence/>
[Images for The Great Emergence: How Christianity Is Changing and Why \[Phyllis Tickle\]](#)

discern some instructive patterns and enable us to live more faithfully in our own day. Note the pattern:

- c. 2000 BC: The Patriarchal Era begins when God calls Abram.
- c. 1500 BC: The Exodus of Israel out of Egypt
- c. 1000 BC: King David rules over Israel
- c. 500 BC: Israel resettled in the Land after the Babylonian Exile
- c. 0 AD: The life, ministry, death and resurrection of Jesus Christ and the beginnings of the apostolic Church
- c. 500 AD: Schism splitting Oriental Christianity from the eastern and western Church, the Fall of Rome, the “Dark Ages,” the rule of Pope Gregory I
- c. 1000 AD: The Great Schism between eastern and western Churches
- c. 1500 AD: The Protestant Reformation

Key to understanding the contemporary significance of this observation is to note that we are at such a five-hundred year mark at the beginning of the 21st century. Thus, the subtitle of Tickle's book: "How Christianity is Changing and Why."

[IM Book Review: The Great Emergence | internetmonk.com](#)

<http://www.internetmonk.com/archive/im-book-review-the-great-emergence>

[Images for IM Book Review: The Great Emergence | internetmonk.com](#)

Embracing Spiritual Awakening Guide: Diana Butler on the Dynamics of Experiential Faith by Diana Butler Bass (Author), Tim Scorer (Contributor)

In this newest installment, Diana Butler Bass expands on the ideas she developed in her recent book, *Christianity after Religion*, exploring what Christianity may look like "beyond religion and beyond the church." Segments include (1) Arriving, (2) Believing, (3) Behaving, (4) Belonging and (5) Awakening.

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[Images for Diana Butler Bass \(Author\)](#)

https://www.goodreads.com/author/list/43629.Tim_Scorer

[Images for Tim Scorer, author](#)

[Images for Embracing Spiritual Awakening Guide: Diana Butler on the Dynamics of Experiential Faith by Diana Butler Bass \(Author\), Tim Scorer \(Contributor\)](#)

Emergent Manifesto of Hope, An (emersion: Emergent Village resources for communities of faith) [Doug Pagitt, Tony Jones]

Many have heard of the emerging church, but few feel they can grasp what the emerging church believes and represents. *An Emergent Manifesto of Hope* is a collection of divergent voices, writing about, and representing the latest thinking from those within the emerging church. This unprecedented collection includes articles from twenty-five contributors including important voices in the emergent conversation such as Brian McLaren, Dan Kimball, and Sally Morgenthaler. The articles cover a broad range of topics, such as spirituality, theology, multiculturalism, post-colonialism, sex, evangelism, and the Bible. Any person interested in what the emerging church believes will find *An Emergent Manifesto of Hope* a perfect place to start.

<http://www.amazon.com/Emergent-Manifesto-of-Hope-emersion-communities/dp/B002U0KROC>

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[Images for Emergent Manifesto of Hope - YouTube](#)

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[Images for Tony Jones](#)

[Images for Emergent Manifesto of Hope \[Doug Pagitt, Tony Jones\]](#)

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[Images for \(emersion: Emergent Village resources for communities of faith\)](#)

Emerging Church Books by Doug Pagitt – Christianbook.com

[A Christianity Worth Believing: Hope-filled, Open-armed, Alive-and-well Faith for the Left Out...](#)

Excerpt

An increasing number of believers are developing deeper and more critical questions about their Christian faith. While they remain committed to the church, they no longer feel attuned to its messages and at times have doubts about the sustainability of contemporary Christianity. In *A Christianity Worth Believing*, Doug Pagitt demonstrates how one can embrace such questions, and explore new ways to answer them, while ultimately deepening their faith. Addressing topics such as Jesus, sin, the Bible, humanity, church and the Kingdom of God, Pagitt approaches these topics in a personal and engaging way, offering readers a fresh and innovative new way of thinking about Christianity. Setting aside the worn and tired debates on theological topics, Pagitt offers fresh insight, provocative possibilities, and the hopeful message of Christ presented in a lively and accessible way.

[Church Re-imagined: The Spiritual Formation of People in Communities of Faith](#)

Excerpt

This book isn't about quick-fix methods or bulleted, how-to lists. And it's certainly not a dry lecture about a heady theological topic. Instead *Church Re-Imagined* is about striving, trying and experimenting with the idea that the old ways of approaching spiritual formation may not be the only avenues toward living lives in harmony with God in our day. Inside these pages you'll spend a full week with Solomon's Porch - a holistic, missional, Christian community in Minneapolis - and get a front row seat at their gatherings, meetings, and meals. Along the way, you'll also discover what spiritual formation looks like in a church community that moves beyond education based practices by including worship, physicality, dialogue, hospitality, belief, creativity, and service as means toward spiritual formation rather than mere appendices to it. *Church Re-Imagined* is ideal for thinkers, pastors, church leaders, and anyone else seeking fresh ways of experiencing life with God.

[Preaching Re-imagined: The Role of the Sermon in Communities of Faith](#)

Excerpt

Doug Pagitt is convinced that our preaching needs to move beyond mere individual "speaching." Thus, in *Preaching Re-Imagined* he explores an approach to preaching that is shaped by the community, engages the community and calls the community to follow God in the way of Jesus. Doug will challenge you to think about preaching in creative, communal and Christ honoring ways.

[BodyPrayer: The Posture of Intimacy with God](#)

Excerpt

It's possible for prayer to become so routine that it's almost meaningless. Head-oriented prayer can focus on getting the words just right, while leaving out the rest of who you are. BodyPrayer helps you become fully engaged in prayer as you connect with God using more than mere words.

By practicing various postures of prayer; many of them identical to those modeled in Scripture; you will open your life more fully to God. Body prayer involves all of who you are as you enter into communion with God, either individually or with other believers.

Join Christians throughout history who used their entire being as a prayer; in expressions of joy, gratitude, and entreaty, as well as worship and devotion to God. This biblically-based guide will help you practice a richer, more meaningful expression of prayer; one that involves your body as well as your soul.

[Practitioners: Voices within the Emerging Church](#)

Excerpt

Explore postmodernism, missionality, community, worship, justice, and cultural engagement with today's progressive emerging church leaders. Listen in on a fascinating discussion among Chris Seay, Doug Pagitt, David Ruis, and others as they grapple with crucial issues now facing this evolving movement. Their fresh ideas will help you think in new ways within the context of Scripture.

[Listening to the Beliefs of Emerging Churches](#)

Excerpt

What are the beliefs of the new movement known as the emerging church---on Scripture, Christ, atonement, world religions, and other issues? In this thought-provoking debate, John Burke, Mark Driscoll, Dan Kimball, Doug Pagitt, and Karen Ward discuss their sometimes controversial views under the editorship of author and educator Robert Webber.

http://www.christianbook.com/html/static/doug_pagitt.html

[Images for Emerging Church Books by Doug Pagitt – Christianbook.com](#)

Emergents: A sense of play | The Lutheran

Many emerging communities incorporate a sense of play into worship and community gatherings. They are ministries of word and sacrament but "definitely [don't] look like a traditional worship service," said Jill E. Rowland, an [ELCA](#) pastor who serves [Soul Café](#) in Hood River, Ore. At its Thursday potluck dinner, participants may be asked to bring something that connects to Scripture, to write a group poem, or bring their favorite readings and music that illustrate what "Reformation" means to them. The sense of play extends even to the language used. Ryan Marsh, a synodically authorized lay leader of [Church of the Beloved](#), Edmonds, Wash., is called an architect. "I help to create a structure for us to play in and build around," he said. Creating that structure takes a lot of listening and "being keen to what God's Spirit is growing locally," he added.

The Lutheran | June 2008 Issue

http://www.thelutheran.org/article/article.cfm?article_id=7181

[Images for Emergents: A sense of play | The Lutheran](#)

'Emerging' Church is a Gen X not a Gen Y Phenomenon

The Contemporary Church model grew out of boomer culture, and thus naturally reflecting many of its values. So, it is with the Emerging Church, which grew out of Gen X culture, reflecting many of its shared values. Yeah, but I heard you say that you don't believe in generational theories. Don't worry, I did not either, that was until trying to get their heads around Gen Y's and their culture. So, I read everything on Gen Y and interviewed as many Gen Y's as I could, and it dawned on me they were totally different than Gen Xers. If anything, Y's are more like boomers than Gen Xers, hence the reason why advertisers call them echo boomers. They are boomers on steroids.

<http://marksayers.wordpress.com/older-articles/%E2%80%98emerging%E2%80%99-church-is-a-gen-x-not-a-gen-y-phenomenon/>

[Images for 'Emerging' Church is a Gen X Phenomenon](#)

Emerging church - Wikipedia

The emerging church is a [Christian](#) movement of the late 20th and early 21st centuries that crosses a number of theological boundaries: participants are described as [Protestant](#), post-Protestant, [evangelical](#),^[1] [post-evangelical](#), [liberal](#), [post-liberal](#), [conservative](#), post-conservative, [anabaptist](#), [reformed](#), [charismatic](#), [neocharismatic](#), and post-charismatic. Emerging churches can be found throughout the globe, predominantly in [North America](#), [Western Europe](#), [Australia](#), [New Zealand](#), and [Africa](#).^{[2][3][4]} while others worship in traditional [Christian denominations](#).

Proponents believe the movement transcends such "modernist" labels of "conservative" and "liberal," calling the movement a "conversation" to emphasize its developing and decentralized nature, its vast range of standpoints, and its commitment to dialogue. Participants seek to live their faith in what they believe to be a "postmodern" society. What those involved in the conversation mostly agree on is their disillusionment with the organized and institutional church and their support for the [deconstruction](#) of modern Christian [worship](#), modern [evangelism](#), and the nature of modern Christian community.

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

[Images for emerging church](#)

Emerging Churches: Creating Christian Community in Postmodern Cultures [Eddie Gibbs, Ryan K. Bolger]

The "emerging church" movement is perhaps the most significant church trend of our day. The emerging church offers and encourages a new way of doing and being the church. While it largely resonates with an eighteen-to-thirty-four-year-old audience - the first fully postmodern generation--it is also gaining popularity with older Christians and encompasses a broad array of traditional and contemporary churches. *Emerging Churches* explores this movement and provides insight into its success.

Filled with the latest research and interesting, anecdotal testimonies from those on the cutting edge of ministry, this book provides pastors, church leaders, and interested readers with an insightful glimpse into the thriving churches of today - and tomorrow.

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Page 60

Page 115

Footnote 7

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 Images for Ryan K. Bolger
[Images for Emerging Churches: Creating Christian Community in Postmodern Cultures \[Eddie Gibbs, Ryan K. Bolger\]](#)

Church Next: Quantum Changes in How We Do Ministry by Eddie Gibbs (Author)

Change is now. Competition from non-traditional and Eastern religions join with the pressures of both modernism and postmodernism to squeeze Christianity. While new church models have sprung up to meet these challenges, they each have strengths and limitations. Eddie Gibbs, a well-known church strategist and practitioner, candidly analyzes these models while proposing nine areas in which the church will need to transform to be biblically true to its message and its mission to the world. With vigor and insight Gibbs shows how we can move.

Here is a book that brings together deep understanding of the quantum shifts taking place in our culture along with concrete suggestions for implementing a proactive mission strategy.



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 Images for Eddie Gibbs (Author)
[Images for Church Next: Quantum Changes in How We Do Ministry by Eddie Gibbs \(Author\)](#)

Emerging Ministry: Being Church Today (Lutheran Voices) by Nathan Frambach

Curious about the world in which we live and informed by the emerging church conversation, Nathan Frambach asks, "What does it mean to be the church as we live – not as we think or remember or long for, but as we live God's mission today?" In response, the author suggests that being church today will look more like a local kiosk than a big-box chain. It will be characterized by the diffusion of indigenous leadership that is always on mission – incarnational, mobile, agile, and culturally authentic. And – it will be birthed by the Spirit of God. Includes an extensive list of additional resources and questions for reflection/discussion following each chapter. To participate in discussions about being church today visit www.emergingministryonline.org



<http://store.augsburgfortress.org/store/product/8176/Emerging-Ministry-Being-Church-Today>
<http://store.augsburgfortress.org/store/contributor/5164/Nathan-C-P-Frambach>
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Images for Nathan Frambach, author
Images for *Emerging Ministry: Being Church Today (Lutheran Voices)* by Nathan Frambach
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<http://www.elca.org/News-and-Events/5045> 'Lutheran Voices' Series Introduced; Online Discussion this Month
Images for lutheran voices

Explaining the Emergent Church in 500 Words | Adam J Copeland

Churchy stuff carries with it a lot of insider language. What the heck is a “narthex?” What does “ELCA” stand for and how is the “E” for “Evangelical” different from what some call — using a more blanket term — “evangelicals?” And, when you hear the word “worship” are the images that come to mind as do when your neighbor hears “worship?”

I've been running into language issues a lot lately, especially concerning my work with The Project F-M, a new faith community begun with the emergent church movement — not solely, but certainly — in mind. But this is difficult to explain to many folks including, say, grandmothers, newspaper reporters, and people outside of Christian faith community. So, here's 500 words. Not the definitive 500 words on what emergent or emerging church is. Not even true for everyone. But, my 500 words to help explain what my community is/may be about.

Here goes nothing...500 words:

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Images for Explaining the Emergent Church in 500 Words | Adam J Copeland
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Page 179

Five Streams of the Emerging Church | Christianity Today

Key elements of the most controversial and misunderstood movement in the church today

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

In *The Practicing Congregation* (Alban, 2004), Diana Butler Bass explored the phenomenon of “intentional congregations,” an *emerging* style of congregational vitality in which churches creatively and intentionally re-appropriate traditional Christian practices such as hospitality, discernment, contemplative prayer, and testimony. Against the steady flow of stories highlighting “mainline decline,” *The Practicing Congregation* suggested that there is a new and often overlooked renaissance occurring in mainline Protestant churches.

The success of *The Practicing Congregation* made it clear that the next step was to provide examples that would illustrate the concepts laid out in that initial work. In *From Nomads to Pilgrims*, the editors continue to build this narrative, gathering specific stories of congregational vitality and transformation from participants in their research at the Project on Congregations of Intentional Practice, a Lilly Endowment Inc. funded study at Virginia Theological Seminary.

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[Images for From Nomads to Pilgrims: Stories from Practicing Congregations \[Diana Butler Bass Author, J. Stewart-Sicking\]](#)

Jacob's Well | Faith and Leadership

It's one thing to start a church; it's another to keep it going. As Jacob's Well has discovered, even the most cutting-edge, creative and vibrant church has to have organization and structure.

<https://www.faithandleadership.com/jacobs-well>
[Images for Jacob's Well - Faith and Leadership](#)
<http://www.faithandleadership.com/features/articles/jacobs-well>

Listening to the Beliefs of Emerging Churches: Five Perspectives [Mark Driscoll, John Burke, Dan Kimball, Doug Pagitt, Karen Ward, Robert Webber]

What are the beliefs of the new movement known as the emerging church? In thought-provoking debate, prominent emerging leaders John Burke, Mark Driscoll, Dan Kimball, Doug Pagitt, and Karen Ward discuss their sometimes controversial views under the editorship of author and educator Robert Webber. Hear what they say about their views of Scripture, Christ, the atonement, other world religions, and other important doctrines, so you can come to your own conclusions about the emerging church.

A cross-section of five frontline leaders in the controversial emerging church movement shed informative light on their beliefs and basic message to help us understand whether it's all about new methods or a new message or both.

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[Images for Listening to the Beliefs of Emerging Churches: Five Perspectives \[Mark Driscoll, John Burke, Dan Kimball, Doug Pagitt, Karen Ward, Robert Webber\]](#)

Margaret J. Wheatley: Using Emergence to Take Social Innovations to Scale

But networks aren't the whole story. As networks grow and transform into active, working communities of practice, we discover how life truly changes, which is through *emergence*. When separate, local efforts connect with each other as networks, then strengthen as *communities of practice*, suddenly and surprisingly a new system emerges at a greater level of scale. *This system of influence* possesses qualities and capacities that were unknown in the individuals. It isn't that they were hidden; they simply don't exist until the system emerges. They are properties of the system, not the individual, but once there, individuals possess them. And the

system that emerges possess greater power and influence than is possible through planned, incremental change. Emergence is how Life creates radical change and takes things to scale.

<http://www.margaretwheatley.com/articles/using-emergence.pdf>

[Images for Margaret J. Wheatley: Using Emergence to Take Social Innovations to Scale](#)

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[Images for Margaret Wheatley \(Author\)](#)

Multicultural | Emerging Models of Pastoral Leadership

The Catholic Church in the United States is becoming increasingly diverse in terms of culture, race and ethnic backgrounds and age. These realities must be faced with bold and successful initiatives to invite and welcome a new generation of diverse leaders into the ministry ranks as soon as possible. The specific needs of pastoral leaders emerging from within culturally and generationally diverse communities will be the focus of research in the area of recruitment, training and formation.

<http://emergingmodels.org/focus-areas/multicultural/>

[Images for Multicultural | Emerging Models of Pastoral Leadership](#)

Perimeters of Light: Biblical Boundaries for the Emerging Church by Elmer L. Towns (Author), Ed Stetzer (Author)

How far do we go to connect with our culture? Can we “e;sell”e; the Gospel like the world sells soft drinks? Where are the boundaries? The church today is walking a tightrope. On the one hand, we need to proclaim, and more importantly, live the Gospel in such a way that it connects with both seekers and younger people looking for community and authenticity. Yet at what point does this fall into “e;feel good”e; ministry at the expense of biblical truth? These are issues that God's people are now beginning to wrestle with. Elmer Towns and Edward Stetzer provide an intergenerational perspective that sheds biblical light on some tough challenges facing the church.

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[Images for Perimeters of Light: Biblical Boundaries for the Emerging Church by Elmer L. Towns \(Author\), Ed Stetzer \(Author\)](#)

Perspective: A good fit for Lutheran theology | The Lutheran

Those willing to engage in the “**emerging** conversation” may find a surprising correlation with Lutheran theology.

The emerging church isn't another program. It's not a prescription to “fix” congregations. And it's not about church growth, contemporary worship, or youth and young adult ministry. Emerging leaders simply wish to engage in dialogue with the whole church—past, present, and future—about what it means to follow Jesus.

Martin Luther warned that the church should always be reforming — we haven't been entirely faithful to this call. The emergent conversation's greatest gift to Lutheran congregations may be its invitation to reclaim the fundamentals of our faith, rediscover the essentials of our Lutheran and Christian heritage, engage our culture today and join the whole church in dialogue.

But be warned: accepting this invitation means giving up any aspects of “being the church” that are impediments to God's core mission.

http://www.thelutheran.org/article/article.cfm?article_id=7182

[Images for Perspective: A good fit for Lutheran theology | The Lutheran](#)

Practitioners: Voices within the Emerging Church by Greg Russinger (Editor), Alex Field (Editor), Erwin Raphael McManus (Foreword)

"Practitioners: Voices Within the Emerging Church" features challenging essays that tackle "how we do church" from a number of innovative thinkers and practitioners, including Doug Pagitt, Dan Kimball, Pete Greig, David Ruis, Craig Detweiler, Spencer Burke, Joyce Heron, Tim Garrety and Anna Pelky. Foreword by Erwin McManus.

- Visual Storytelling

- The Evolution of Leadership

- Worship Expression and Technology

- Justice Among the Poor
- The Missiology of Art Within Culture

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[Images for Practitioners: Voices within the Emerging Church](#)

Page 11

Quotes by Emerging Church Leaders

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The Church in Emerging Culture: Five Perspectives by Leonard Sweet (Author), Andy Crouch (Author), Brian D. McLaren (Author), Erwin Raphael McManus (Author), Michael Horton (Author), Frederica Mathewes-Green (Author)

What should the church look like today? What should be the focus of its message? How should I present that message?

We live in as pivotal and defining an age as the Great Depression or the Sixties--a period whose definition, say some cultural observers, includes a warning of the church's influence.

The result? A society measurably less religious but decidedly more spiritual. Less influenced by authority than by experience. More attuned to images than to words.

How does the church adapt to such a culture? Or should it, in fact, eschew adapting for maintaining a course it has followed these last two millennia? Or something in between?

These are exactly the questions asked in *The Church in Emerging Culture* by five Christian thinker-speaker-writers, each who advocate unique stances regarding what the church's message should be (and what methods should be used to present it) as it journeys through this evolving, postmodern era. The authors are: Andy Crouch - Re:Generation Quarterly editor-in-chief; Michael Horton - professor and reformed theologian; Frederica Mathewes - Green - author, commentator, and Orthodox Christian; Brian D. McLaren - postmodernist, author, pastor, and Emergent senior fellow; Erwin Raphael McManus - author and pastor of the innovative and interethnic L.A.-based church, Mosaic.

Most unique about their individual positions is that they're presented not as singular essays but as lively discussions in which the other four authors freely (and frequently) comment, critique, and concur. That element, coupled with a unique photographic design that reinforces the depth of their at-once congenial and feisty conversation, gives you all access entree into this groundbreaking discourse.

What's more, general editor Leonard Sweet (author of *SoulTsunami* and *AquaChurch*, among several other acclaimed texts) frames the thought-provoking dialogue with a profoundly insightful, erudite introductory essay - practically a book within a book.

The Church in Emerging Culture is foundational reading for leaders and serious students of all denominations and church styles.

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[Images for The Church in Emerging Culture: Five Perspectives by Leonard Sweet \(Author\), Andy Crouch \(Author\), Brian D. McLaren \(Author\), Erwin Raphael McManus \(Author\), Michael Horton \(Author\), Frederica Mathewes-Green \(Author\)](#)

[PDF] The “Emergent” Church - Church Doctor Ministries

FOUR CHOICES

Every pastor and church leader has four choices: (1) Ignore the emergent church, the coming revival, and watch your church maintain, until the last person dies; (2) transition your church and hang on for a wild ride, with a lot of casualties; (3) extend your church, providing another wineskin to reach post-modern, secular people, as part of this coming revival movement; or (4) if you are blessed to have a congregation that is organically unified for mission, divide it and multiply—and watch the Kingdom expand with explosive growth.

<http://churchdoctorministries.com/CDR/CDR%20-%20Vol5No3.pdf>

[Images for “Emergent” Church - Church Doctor Ministries](#)

http://churchdoctorministries.com/resources_old/church-doctor-report/

The Emerging Church: A Model for Change and a Map for Renewal by Bruce Sanguin (Author)

Realizing the importance of creating a practical guide for both ministers and congregations seeking to shift their congregational culture towards a progressive form of Christianity, Bruce Sanguin grounds *The Emerging Church* in the experience of his own congregation, Canadian Memorial United, as way to establish context and to share real-life examples. At the same time, he peppers the book with insights from leading edge science, including the science of emergence, chaos theory, quantum physics, field theory, spiral dynamics, and evolutionary science. Written in language lay people can understand, *The Emerging Church* is filled with no-nonsense, realistic advice on the pitfalls and possibilities of following the vision of the emerging Christian way. Nudged by an evolutionary Spirit and drawn by the love of Christ into an emerging future, the church of the loving and living Christ may be the best kept secret of our day. In *The Emerging Church*, Bruce Sanguin shares the secret with anyone and everyone willing to listen.

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[Images for The Emerging Church: A Model for Change and a Map for Renewal by Bruce Sanguin \(Author\)](#)

The Emerging Church: Vintage Christianity for New Generations by Dan Kimball (Author), Rick Warren (Foreword), Brian D. McLaren (Foreword), Howard Hendricks (Collaborator), Sally Morgenthaler (Collaborator), Chip Ingram (Collaborator), Mark Oestreicher (Collaborator)

Includes samples and photos of emerging church worship gatherings and recommended resources for the emerging church. The seeker-sensitive movement revolutionized the way we did church and introduced countless baby boomers to Jesus. Yet trends show that today's post-Christian generations are not responding like the generations before them. As we enter a new cultural era, what do worship services look like that are connecting with the hearts of emerging generations? How do preaching, leadership, evangelism, spiritual formation, and, most of all, how we even think of 'church' need to change? *The Emerging Church* goes beyond just theory and gets into very practical ways of assisting you in your local church circumstances. There is no one right way, no model for us all to emulate. But there is something better. Dan Kimball calls it 'Vintage Christianity': a refreshing return to an unapologetically sacred, raw, historical, and Jesus-focused missional ministry. Vintage Christianity connects with emerging post-seeker generations who are very open spiritually but are not interested in church. For pastors, leaders, and every concerned Christian, Kimball offers a riveting and easy-to-grasp exploration of today's changing culture and gives insight into the new kind of churches that are emerging in its midst. Included is running commentary by Rick Warren, Brian McLaren, Howard Hendricks, and others.

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Images for The Emerging Church: Vintage Christianity for New Generations by Dan Kimball (Author), Rick Warren (Foreword), Brian D. McLaren (Foreword), Howard Hendricks (Collaborator), Sally Morgenthaler (Collaborator), Chip Ingram (Collaborator), Mark Oestreicher (Collaborator)

[PDF] Using Emergence to Take Social Innovation to Scale – Margaret J. Wheatley

Despite current ads and slogans, the world doesn't change one person at a time. It changes as networks of relationships form among people who discover they share a common cause and vision of what's possible.

<http://www.margaretwheatley.com/articles/using-emergence.pdf>

Images for Using Emergence to Take Social Innovation to Scale – Margaret J. Wheatley

What Can We Learn from the Emerging Church Movement? – The Parish Paper

The emerging church is primarily a reform movement within Christianity. But most examples of the emerging church seem to emphasize reforming the *practices* (how we worship; the nature of how to be the church) more than reforming the *beliefs*. Among the wide variety of emerging church practices, the following are prominent: no denominational ties, no church building, alternative worship and “doing the gospel” instead of merely “discussing the gospel.”

The Parish Paper - April 2010: What Can We Learn from the Emerging Church Movement?

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Why Can't Church Be More Like Camp?

Walking Together - A Congregational Resource Event

Why Can't Church Be More Like Camp?

Dr. Paul Hill, Executive Director, Vibrant Faith Ministries

Many of the characteristics of camp are proven to be transformative in the lives of campers (young and old alike). Plus, these characteristics are quite similar to some of the growing edges of church growth called **Emergent** Christianity. Participants will examine some of the things that happen at camp and will explore how it might look in their congregational setting.



http://www.nswi.org/webfiles/fnitools/documents/program_book_3.16.13.pdf info@nswi.org

Page 6

Images for Why Can't Church Be More Like Camp? Dr. Paul Hill

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