

# Interim Ministry Resources

## Chapter 14 Vision

Resources (3)

### Future

#### A bold step into the future - Living Lutheran

Something is in the wind and that phrase is not one that I use lightly. I'm referring to the rather important September 17-18 summit between the ELCA, a predominantly White church body, and the African Methodist Episcopal Zion Church, a predominantly Black church body.

It is a significant meeting given the fact that the formation of the African Methodist Episcopal Zion Church was in response to people of African Descent not being welcomed in the mainline Methodist church.

<http://www.elca.org/en/Living-Lutheran/Blogs/2011/09/110919>

[Images for bold step into the future - Living Lutheran](#)

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

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

#### Beyond Accompaniment: Guiding a Fractured Community to Wholeness by William A. Nordenbrock

Second, a dream or vision for the **future** needs to be bold and provocative. A vision has to reflect a reality that is not yet realized. It has to be more than an articulation of the status quo, even the status quo that reflects the best of who and what the church is today. A vision statement is that positive image that leads to positive action, that image of the church that can pull the organization or church into its desired future.

<https://books.google.com/books?isbn=0814639380>

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[Images for dream or vision for the future bold and provocative](#)

When a community experiences a fracture in its communal life, what tools can be used to foster reconciliation? How can right relationship be restored when there is conflict in the Body of Christ? In *Beyond Accompaniment*, William Nordenbrock proposes the use of a process that is based in the theory of Appreciative Inquiry as a ministerial method to guide a community from brokenness to communion. His practical application of this process in his work with St. Agatha Catholic Church in Chicago? A community whose pastor had been accused and convicted of sexually abusing minors in the parish? Will be beneficial for communities experiencing conflict of any kind.

Nordenbrock helps us focus on the positive aspects of our communities in order to discover that our redemption and reconciliation with God, won for us by Christ, is inseparable from the reconciliation and communion that Christians are to live with one another.

<https://www.amazon.com/Beyond-Accompaniment-Fractured-Community-Wholeness/dp/0814633072>

<https://www.goodreads.com/book/show/10986303-beyond-accompaniment>

<https://www.barnesandnoble.com/w/beyond-accompaniment-william-a-nordenbrock/1115135962>

<https://litpress.org/Products/3307/Beyond-Accompaniment>

<https://www.yaledivinitybookstore.com/beyond-accompaniment-guiding-fractured-community-wholeness>

<https://www.taosinstitute.net/resources/dissertations/other-noteworthy-dissertations/bill-nordenbrock-dissertation>

[https://books.google.com/books/about/Beyond\\_Accompaniment.html?id=QI4-wKKZh7UC](https://books.google.com/books/about/Beyond_Accompaniment.html?id=QI4-wKKZh7UC)

[Images for William A. Nordenbrock, author](#)

[Images for Beyond Accompaniment: Guiding a Fractured Community to Wholeness by William A. Nordenbrock](#)

#### Bold inspirational goals chart UCC course into the future

The four bold inspirational goals: A bold, public voice; reachable and welcoming congregations; engaged discipleship; and excellent and diverse leadership.

<http://www.ucc.org/synod-archive/news/index.jsp?page=4>

[Images for Bold inspirational goals chart UCC course into the future](#)

#### Boom Bust & Echo 2000: Profiting from the Demographic Shift in the New Millennium [David K. Foot, Daniel Stoffman, Brian Gable]

Demographics - the study of human populations - are a powerful, but often underused, method for understanding the past and predicting the **future**. In *Boom, Bust & Echo 2000: Profiting from the Demographic Shift in the New Millennium*, economist David Foot and journalist Daniel Stoffman take a look at the importance of demographics. They try to predict what baby boomers, "baby busters", the "echo generation", and other groups in the coming years can expect. This fully-revised edition of the highly successful *Boom, Bust & Echo 2000* contains the most recent information on demographic trends in Canada and how they can affect your future.

Demographics play a critical role in the nation's economy and social life, and they affect every one of us as individuals. The more we understand demographic realities, the better prepared we will be to cope with them - and to turn them to our advantage.

In Canada, the aging of those born between 1947 and 1966 - the baby boom generation - has changed the economy, driven housing and other markets, and transformed social mores and lifestyles. As the boomers enter mid-life, as the "baby-busters" behind them come of age, and as the "echo generation," the children of the boomers, reaches maturity, how will the country change? Where will Canadians choose to live? What are the prospects for employment? Which investments will be favored? What lies ahead for Canada's health care and education systems?

Everyone who plans for the **future** - whether it be for a large corporation, a retail store, a school system, a nonprofit enterprise, or for personal well-being - needs effective forecasting tools. *Boom, Bust & Echo 2000* goes beyond the traditional methods of focus groups and opinion surveys to an analysis of statistical facts. Here is an original and indispensable work filled with arresting insights, provocative assertions, and practical answers.

<http://www.amazon.com/Boom-Bust-Echo-2000-Demographic/dp/1551990296>

[https://www.goodreads.com/book/show/1410509.Boom\\_Bust\\_Echo\\_2000](https://www.goodreads.com/book/show/1410509.Boom_Bust_Echo_2000)

<http://www.footwork.com/book.asp>

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/David\\_Foot](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/David_Foot)

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=o\\_LOTHRrX0A](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=o_LOTHRrX0A) David Foot – YouTube

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Gy7y2w9i\\_aA](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Gy7y2w9i_aA) David Foot on Aging Society & Youth – YouTube

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PZFJgWmElb0> Dr David Foot - World-Renowned Demographics Expert, Speaker – YouTube

<https://www.amazon.com/David-K.-Foot/e/B000APY614>

[http://www.goodreads.com/author/show/590122.David\\_K\\_Foot](http://www.goodreads.com/author/show/590122.David_K_Foot)

Images for David K. Foot, author

<http://www.footwork.com/index.asp>

<https://www.amazon.com/Daniel-Stoffman/e/B001JS41CK>

[https://www.goodreads.com/author/show/474808.Daniel\\_Stoffman](https://www.goodreads.com/author/show/474808.Daniel_Stoffman)

Images for Daniel Stoffman, author

Images for *Boom Bust & Echo 2000: Profiting from the Demographic Shift in the New Millennium* [David K. Foot, Daniel Stoffman, Brian Gable]

Images for understanding the past and predicting the future

### Changing a Church's Culture Changes Its Future | The Parish Paper

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II. Is Relocation Enough?	Page 3
III. Does Our Theology Have a Visionary Focus?	Page 7
A. What Is Our Mission Action Plan?	Page 8
B. What Is Our Vision?	Page 8
C. What Is Our Mission?	Page 9
D. What Are Our Values?	Page 10
E. What Is Our Strategy?	Page 11
IV. Does Our Leadership Structure Overcome Change-Resistance?	Page 14
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VI. Do We Engage a Large Percentage of Attendees in Ministries?	Page 17
VII. Is Our Pastor Equipped to Serve this Particular Church?	Page 22
VIII. Ten-Week Visionary Leadership Curriculum	Page 26
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**[PDF] Church Effective Nugget, Volume 34 - Changing a Church's Culture Changes Its Future | The Parish Paper**

<https://www.theparishpaper.com/sites/default/files/resources/Church%20Effectiveness%20Nuggets-%20Volume%2034.pdf>

<http://www.theparishpaper.com/files/resources/Church%20Effectiveness%20Nuggets-%20Volume%2034.pdf>

<https://www.theparishpaper.com/free-resources> Church Effective Nugget, Volume 34: Changing a Church's Culture Changes Its Future

Images for Changing a Church's Culture Changes Its Future | The Parish Paper

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

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

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

<https://www.theparishpaper.com/back-issue-index> Back Issue Index | The Parish Paper

### Christianity after Religion: The End of Church and the Birth of a New Spiritual Awakening by Diana Butler Bass (Author)

Diana Butler Bass, one of contemporary Christianity's leading trend-spotters, exposes how the failings of the church today are giving rise to a new "spiritual but not religious" movement. Using evidence from the latest national polls and from her own cutting-edge research, Bass, the visionary author of *A People's History of Christianity*, continues the conversation began in books like Brian D. McLaren's *A New Kind of Christianity* and Harvey Cox's *The Future of Faith*, examining the connections—and the divisions—between theology, practice, and community that Christians experience today. Bass's clearly worded, powerful, and probing *Christianity after Religion* is required reading for anyone invested in the **future** of Christianity.

<http://www.amazon.com/Christianity-After-Religion-Spiritual-Awakening/dp/0062003739>

<http://www.goodreads.com/book/show/13426043-christianity-after-religion>

<https://www.barnesandnoble.com/w/christianity-after-religion-diana-butler-bass/1104239991#/>

<http://www.harpercollins.com/books/Christianity-After-Religion-Diana-Butler-Bass/?isbn=9780062003737>

<http://www.harpercollins.com/browseinside/index.aspx?isbn13=9780062003737>

<https://dianabutlerbass.com/books/christianity-after-religion-the-end-of-church-and-the-birth-of-a-new-spiritual-awakening/>

<http://www.lifeandleadership.com/book-summaries/bass-christianity-after-religion.html>

[https://www.heartsandmindsbooks.com/2012/03/great\\_new\\_books\\_on\\_sale\\_diana/](https://www.heartsandmindsbooks.com/2012/03/great_new_books_on_sale_diana/)

<https://vialogue.wordpress.com/2012/06/30/christianity-after-religion-notes-review/>

<http://www.billdahl.net/featured/christianity-after-religion-the-end-of-church-and-the-birth-of-a-new-spiritual-awakening-by-diana-butler-bass-a-review-by-bill-dahl/>  
<http://www.spiritualityandpractice.com/book-reviews/view/22277/christianity-after-religion>  
[http://www.huffingtonpost.com/diana-butler-bass/the-end-of-church\\_b\\_1284954.html](http://www.huffingtonpost.com/diana-butler-bass/the-end-of-church_b_1284954.html)  
<http://www.readthespirit.com/explore/diana-butler-bass-finds-hope-in-christianity-after-religion/>  
<http://www.faithinbooks.com/faith-a-practice/theology/item/458-christianity-after-religion>  
<http://www.bobcornwall.com/2012/05/christianity-after-religion-review.html>  
<http://www.prweb.com/releases/christianityafterreligion/dianabutlerbass/prweb9194670.htm>  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=L5DoQMgyjC0> "Christianity After Religion" author Diana Butler Bass Interview: State of Belief  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VK9vqnQaF2M> Christianity After Religion: Diana Butler Bass at All Saints Church, Pasadena  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=L5DoQMgyjC0> "Christianity After Religion" author Diana Butler Bass Interview: State of Belief  
<https://www.publishersweekly.com/pw/by-topic/industry-news/religion/article/68320-diana-butler-bass-on-why-conventional-religion-is-fading-into-history.html>  
[http://www.ucobserver.org/interviews/theologians/2012/03/butler\\_bass/](http://www.ucobserver.org/interviews/theologians/2012/03/butler_bass/)  
<http://dianabutlerbass.com/books/christianity-after-religion-the-end-of-church-and-the-birth-of-a-new-s>  
[http://www.religioustolerance.org/prog\\_chr3.htm](http://www.religioustolerance.org/prog_chr3.htm)  
<https://www.uccresources.com/products/embracing-spiritual-awakening-diana-butler-bass-on-the-dynamics-of-experiential-faith?variant=804915549>  
<https://www.trinitylittlerock.org/news/2015/07/31/announcing-cathedral-insights-lecture-series>  
Images for Christianity after Religion by Diana Butler Bass (Author)

### Church: A Generous Community Amplified for the Future by C. Andrew Doyle (Author)

*Church* casts a vision of the Church with clarity and hope, life-giving principles that will guide the future Church, a significant navigational tool for anyone who stand at the helm of a Christian community. In a world of volatility, uncertainty, complexity, and ambiguity, *Church* is one of the most hopeful, realistic, enthusiastic, positive, informed, and empowering assessments to date of where we are today as Christians and as the Episcopal Church empowering assessments of where we are today as Christians and as the Episcopal Church and how we are step into our future.

<http://www.amazon.com/Church-Generous-Community-Amplified-Future/dp/1508952299>  
<http://www.goodreads.com/book/show/25566754-a-generous-community>  
<https://www.faithandleadership.com/c-andrew-doyle-imagining-church-future>  
<http://texasbishop.blogspot.com/> Saturday, July 4, 2015  
[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/C.\\_Andrew\\_Doyle](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/C._Andrew_Doyle)  
<http://www.epicenter.org/bishop-andy-doyle/>  
<https://twitter.com/texasbishop?lang=en>  
<http://www.episcopalchurch.org/staff/rt-rev-c-andrew-doyle>  
[http://www.amazon.com/Generous-Community-Being-Church-Missionary/dp/0819232300/ref=pd\\_bxgy\\_14\\_img\\_y](http://www.amazon.com/Generous-Community-Being-Church-Missionary/dp/0819232300/ref=pd_bxgy_14_img_y)  
<https://www.amazon.com/Andrew-Doyle/e/B0094JM4J8>  
[http://www.goodreads.com/author/show/13993817.Andrew\\_Doyle](http://www.goodreads.com/author/show/13993817.Andrew_Doyle)  
Images for C. Andrew Doyle (Author) generous community  
Images for Church: A Generous Community Amplified for the Future by C. Andrew Doyle (Author)

### Church of the Future | Living Lutheran

How will it look? Certainly, the next stage along the pilgrim way & seldom boring

To start with, we certainly believe that God intends the church of the future to be more than a system of belief or a commodity that can be programmed, packaged, marketed and tweeted as the ever-elusive new and improved quick fix. Christian beliefs and practices are intended to foster a way of life as disciples of Jesus Christ that *in tum* send us into God's world to imitate the forgiveness, mercy and love of God. Claimed by God in baptism and drawn by the Spirit, we are invited to participate in the life and mission of Jesus Christ within community and in God's world. This is a gift to which the Spirit calls people; it is not something we create or can force.

### The Lutheran | March 2014 Issue

[http://www.thelutheran.org/article/article.cfm?article\\_id=11888](http://www.thelutheran.org/article/article.cfm?article_id=11888)  
Images for Church of the Future | Living Lutheran

### Church on the Edge of Somewhere: Ministry, Marginality, and the Future [George B. Thompson Jr.]

Most congregations today exist in what George Thompson calls the "middle of anywhere." They live comfortably with their surrounding culture, focusing their energies on serving the needs of their current members. These congregations have many strengths and gifts that they can exercise without changing a thing. But Thompson envisions a deeper, more prophetic call for congregations to explore the meaning of being in the world but not of it--a church on the "edge of somewhere." Thompson sees a church that is deeply engaged in ministering to the community while calling on others to commit to doing the same. By analyzing the interaction between a congregation's focus of identity and their stance with the world, Thompson has created a helpful grid for congregations to place themselves on today's cultural map. A congregation that sees itself as existing on the margins of society will look different than one that sees itself as embedded in society. A congregation that hears a call to serve the surrounding community will look different from one that focuses on its internal needs. Knowing where they stand now is the key for congregations to discover where they must go in the future to fully live out their call to be God's people in the world.

<http://www.amazon.com/Church-Edge-Somewhere-Ministry-Marginality/dp/1566993482>  
[https://www.goodreads.com/book/show/2488328.Church\\_on\\_the\\_Edge\\_of\\_Somewhere](https://www.goodreads.com/book/show/2488328.Church_on_the_Edge_of_Somewhere)  
<https://rowman.com/ISBN/9781566993487/Church-on-the-Edge-of-Somewhere-Ministry-Marginality-and-the-Future>  
<https://books.google.com/books?isbn=1566994853>  
<http://geoffreyhoare.blogspot.com/2007/12/convention.html>  
[http://www.churchleadership.com/leadingideas/leaddocs/2008/300108\\_bookreview.html](http://www.churchleadership.com/leadingideas/leaddocs/2008/300108_bookreview.html)  
<https://alban.org/archive/craving-community/>  
<https://alban.org/archive/being-the-church-today/>  
<https://www.amazon.com/George-B.-Thompson/e/B001JRZMTM>  
[http://www.goodreads.com/author/show/1104766.George\\_B\\_Thompson\\_Jr](http://www.goodreads.com/author/show/1104766.George_B_Thompson_Jr)  
Images for George B. Thompson Jr., author  
Images for Church on the Edge of Somewhere: Ministry, Marginality, and the Future [George B. Thompson Jr.]

## Commitment to New Leadership and the Future Issues

- consensus and excitement about the shared vision for the future
- getting a good match between the pastor and the congregation
- clear and shared expectations between clergy and congregation
- clean exit of interim pastor and consultant

## Toolbox

- planning for start-up period
- modeling clear exiting skills
- interim shares insight with incoming pastor
- ministers-in-transition support programs
- make sure transition rituals are in place

## Symptoms of Non-Resolution

- anxiety and rushing the search process
- trying to hire the interim
- unrealistic or unclear expectations of the new pastor
- inability to agree on choice of pastor
- low energy level, lack of humor
- failure to issue a call

## Signs of Resolution

- focus on the future
- enthusiastic preparations (housing, installation, start-up) for new pastor
- clarity and consensus on leadership style desired of new pastor
- increasing levels of involvement and ownership in process
- appreciation of interim process and leaders
- willingness to say goodbye to interim
- evident energy and healthy humor

[PDF]Interim Ministry Handbook - Northern Texas – Northern Louisiana Mission Area

<https://www.ntnl.org/wp-content/uploads/2014/01/Interim-Ministry-Handbook-Interim-Pastor.pdf> Section IV A Toolbox for the Developmental Tasks by R. Neil Chafin

Images for Interim Ministry Developmental Tasks Commitment to New Leadership and the Future

## Congregational Megatrends (Once and Future Church Series) [Charles Jeffrey Woods]

This book is written as a resource to help pastors and laity  
(1) talk about the changes transpiring in congregations and  
(2) shape a new congregation for the future.

<http://www.amazon.com/Congregational-Megatrends-Future-Church-Series/dp/156699165X>

[https://www.goodreads.com/book/show/668591.Congregational\\_Megatrends](https://www.goodreads.com/book/show/668591.Congregational_Megatrends)

<https://rowman.com/ISBN/9781566994958/Congregational-Megatrends>

<https://books.google.com/books?isbn=1566994950>

[http://www.goodreads.com/author/show/358703.Charles\\_Jeffrey\\_Woods](http://www.goodreads.com/author/show/358703.Charles_Jeffrey_Woods)

[https://www.google.com/?gws\\_rd=ssl#q=Images+for+Congregational+Megatrends+CHARLES](https://www.google.com/?gws_rd=ssl#q=Images+for+Congregational+Megatrends+CHARLES)

<https://www.amazon.com/Charles-Jeffrey-Woods/e/B001K8IXS2>

[http://www.goodreads.com/author/show/358703.Charles\\_Jeffrey\\_Woods](http://www.goodreads.com/author/show/358703.Charles_Jeffrey_Woods)

Images for Charles Jeffrey Woods, author congregational megatrends

Images for Congregational Megatrends (Once and Future Church Series) [Charles Jeffrey Woods]

## Congregations as Learning Communities: Tools for Shaping Your Future [Dennis G. Campbell]

In our rapidly evolving religious scene, congregations that are open to continuous learning and willing to respond to external and internal change, will be the ones that achieve new vitality and health. Dennis Campbell describes what those congregations will look like and provides four tools to help a congregation shape its community into what God would have it be. Systems thinking,

congregational culture, appreciative inquiry, and scenario planning are explained and illustrated, and readers will be shown how to apply the principles to their setting.

<http://www.amazon.com/Congregations-Learning-Communities-Shaping-Future/dp/1566992370>  
<https://rowman.com/ISBN/9781566992374/Congregations-as-Learning-Communities-Tools-for-Shaping-Your-Future>  
<https://thecrg.org/resources/congregations-as-learning-communities-tools-for-shaping-your-future>  
<https://books.google.com/books?isbn=1566994977>  
[https://books.google.com/books/about/Congregations\\_as\\_Learning\\_Communities.html?id=s1n1AwAAQBAJ](https://books.google.com/books/about/Congregations_as_Learning_Communities.html?id=s1n1AwAAQBAJ)  
<https://books.google.com/books?isbn=1566996708>  
<https://twitter.com/dennisgcampbell>

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Images for Dennis G. Campbell, author congregations learning

Images for Congregations as Learning Communities: Tools for Shaping Your Future [Dennis G. Campbell]

#### Create Your Own Future!: Alternatives for the Long-Range Planning Committee [Lyle E. Schaller]

This book is for church leaders, both clergy and lay, who seek to challenge the status quo and implement change in their congregations. Schaller's plan of intervention suggests that the long-range planning committee is the most effective vehicle of change. He systematically addresses the issues this committee faces, such as knowing when to intervene, how to decide which issues to tackle, how to face financial concerns, when to implement the plan, and how to overcome resistance.

Key Features: Involves volunteer leaders in planning for future; Suggests long-range planning committee as a vehicle for change; Presents a plan for implementing change in a congregation

Key Benefits: Addresses demands for higher quality congregational life; Discusses when to choose tradition or new approaches; Explains when to study and when to act; Shows how to implement a plan; Illustrates how to overcome resistance.

<http://www.amazon.com/Create-Your-Own-Future-Alternatives/dp/0687098467>  
[http://books.google.com/books?id=9wTsCNikx1UC&source=gbs\\_book\\_similarbooks](http://books.google.com/books?id=9wTsCNikx1UC&source=gbs_book_similarbooks)  
[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Lyle\\_E.\\_Schaller](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Lyle_E._Schaller)  
<http://www.ministrymatters.com/all/entry/5884/remember-lyle-e-schaller-the-interventionist>  
[http://www.abingdonpress.com/lyle\\_e\\_schaller](http://www.abingdonpress.com/lyle_e_schaller)  
<https://www.amazon.com/Lyle-E.-Schaller/e/B0011R1J9K>  
[http://www.goodreads.com/author/show/179868.Lyle\\_E\\_Schaller](http://www.goodreads.com/author/show/179868.Lyle_E_Schaller)  
Images for Lyle E. Schaller  
Images for Create Your Own Future! by Lyle Schaller

#### Creating the Future Together: Methods to Inspire Your Whole Faith Community [Loren B. Mead, Billie T. Alban]

Congregations today face a multitude of challenges in trying to adapt to a quickly changing world. Balancing new concerns with core values is a complicated process that can leave too many members feeling that their voices and needs are not being met. Loren B. Mead and Billie T. Alban have developed *Creating the Future Together* to share their knowledge of how congregations can use large group methods to navigate these new waters.

Large group methods involve getting all the stakeholders together to work on major issues of common concern. Mead and Alban outline four such methods—two for identifying a preferred future and two designed to create community and discover common interests. This book is not meant to be a how-to volume; its primary purpose is to familiarize leaders with these whole-system approaches and to provide a conceptual framework for evaluating their potential usefulness against any given challenge. The authors also share stories from a variety of Christian and Jewish faith communities where ordinary religious leaders, lay and clergy together, have faced issues related to change using large group methods. Combining their wealth of experience in leading religious and secular bodies through times of change, Mead and Alban bring hope to faith communities as they work to embrace, and even thrive through, the need for change.

<http://www.amazon.com/Creating-Future-Together-Methods-Community/dp/1566993644>  
<http://astore.amazon.com/interimini06-20/detail/1566993644>  
<https://www.goodreads.com/book/show/4805377-creating-the-future-together>  
<https://alban.org/archive/methods-that-generate-change/>  
<https://rowman.com/ISBN/9781566993647/Creating-the-Future-Together-Methods-to-Inspire-Your-Whole-Faith-Community>  
<http://www.lifeandleadership.com/book-summaries/mead-and-alban-creating-the-future-together.html>  
[http://hrr.hartsem.edu/leadership/consultants\\_mead.html](http://hrr.hartsem.edu/leadership/consultants_mead.html)  
<https://www.amazon.com/Loren-B.-Mead/e/B001JRXERO>  
[https://www.goodreads.com/author/show/179866.Loren\\_B\\_Mead](https://www.goodreads.com/author/show/179866.Loren_B_Mead)  
Images for loren b. mead (author)  
<https://alban.org/archive/wisdom-from-loren-mead/>  
[https://www.goodreads.com/author/show/115386.Billie\\_T\\_Alban](https://www.goodreads.com/author/show/115386.Billie_T_Alban)  
Images for Billie T. Alban, author

Images for Creating the Future Together: Methods to Inspire Your Whole Faith Community [Loren B. Mead, Billie T. Alban]

#### Five Challenges for the Once and Future Church (Once and Future Church Series) [Loren B. Mead]

Mead presents five key challenges facing today's churches and how they represent opportunities for the evolutionary, transformative changes he believes must take place in congregations if the church is to remain a viable institution into the twenty-first century. Readers of Mead's *Once and Future Church* and *Transforming Congregations for the Future* will want to continue the journey begun with those books. A must for congregational leaders at all levels.

<http://www.amazon.com/Five-Challenges-Future-Church-Series/dp/1566991757>



<https://books.google.com/books?isbn=1566995256>  
<https://www.overdrive.com/media/1680497/five-challenges-for-the-once-and-future-church>  
<https://alban.org/2014/09/25/loren-mead-still-stuck-on-the-importance-of-the-local-church/>  
[Images for Five Challenges for the Once and Future Church \(Once and Future Church Series\) \[Loren B. Mead\]](#)  
<http://www.livingchurch.org/loren-b-mead>  
<http://www.biblio.com/loren-b-mead/author/30530>  
<http://www.livingchurch.org/loren-b-mead>  
<https://www.amazon.com/Once-Future-Church-Collection/dp/1566992486>  
<https://www.goodreads.com/book/show/22777132-once-and-future-church-collection>  
<https://www.overdrive.com/media/1867563/the-once-and-future-church-collection>  
<https://rowman.com/Action/SERIES/ /RL3OFC/Once-and-Future-Church-Series>  
[Images for Once and Future Church Series](#)

### **The Once and Future Church Collection (Once and Future Church Series) [Loren B. Mead]**

In 1991, *The Once and Future Church* by Alban Institute founder and former director Loren B. Mead created an instant sensation in congregational circles with its prophetic insights into the life of the church in a post-Christendom era. Still often-quoted and in demand, the book stands as Alban's all-time best seller. Two subsequent titles, *Transforming Congregations for the Future* and *Five Challenges for the Once and Future Church*, extended Mead's original vision with similar success. To celebrate the tenth anniversary of the publication of *The Once and Future Church*, Alban released all three of these books as a single, special edition hardcover. In addition to these classic texts in beautiful, newly designed formats, this Collection features an interview with Loren Mead discussing how his views have changed since the books' first publications and his current thoughts on directions for the church in the 21st century. This hardcover volume is the perfect gift for graduating seminary students, new congregational leaders, or for pastors whose original editions of these three books may be dog-eared or missing--and a wonderful addition to every church library. All who love the church and pray for the future of our congregations will value this opportunity to have Loren Mead's seminal works in a single, long-lived edition.

<http://www.amazon.com/The-Once-Future-Church-Congregation/dp/1566990505>  
<https://www.goodreads.com/book/show/2378647.The-Once-and-Future-Church-Collection>  
<https://rowman.com/ISBN/9781566996631>  
<https://books.google.com/books?isbn=1566996635>  
[Images for The Once and Future Church Collection \(Once and Future Church Series\) \[Loren B. Mead\]](#)

### **The Once and Future Church: Reinventing the Congregation for a New Mission Frontier (Once and Future Church Series) [Loren B. Mead]**

Mead takes a broad look at past and present changes in the church and postulates a future to which those changes are calling us. Denominations, once structured to deliver resources to far-off lands of foreign mission, now encounter the mission field in the layperson's workplace and the community surrounding the local congregation. Thus, the church is called to reinvention for this new mission frontier. What do we do in the meantime? Mead provides a fascinating look at where we may be headed and how some of us are already working to get there. A study guide is included at the end of the book.

<http://www.amazon.com/Once-Future-Church-Reinventing-Congregation/dp/1566990505>  
<https://www.goodreads.com/book/show/1108786.The-Once-and-Future-Church>  
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[http://www.transformingchurch.com/resource/toolbox/2005/10/the\\_once\\_and\\_fu.php](http://www.transformingchurch.com/resource/toolbox/2005/10/the_once_and_fu.php)  
<https://books.google.com/books/about/The-Once-and-Future-Church.html?id=7f5YAwAAQBAJ>  
[http://hrr.hartsem.edu/leadership/consultants\\_mead.html](http://hrr.hartsem.edu/leadership/consultants_mead.html)  
<https://alban.org/archive/wisdom-from-loren-mead/>  
[Images for Reinventing the Congregation for a New Mission Frontier](#)

### **Transforming Congregations for the Future (Once and Future Church Series) [Loren B. Mead]**

In this third volume of the Once and Future Church Series Loren Mead focuses on what he sees as the age-old call of the church - living and breathing the good news promise of spiritual transformation for all to see. He explores how we as the church may need to change as institutions and as individuals within institutions. Anyone who has read *The Once and Future Church* will want to explore the next step as Mead challenges us to examine the transformations inherent in God's call to renew His church.

<http://www.amazon.com/Transforming-Congregations-Future-Church-Series/dp/1566991269>  
<https://rowman.com/ISBN/9781566996822/Transforming-Congregations-for-the-Future>  
[http://books.google.com/books?id=yP5YAwAAQBAJ&dq=Transforming+Congregations+for+the+Future&source=gbs\\_navlinks\\_s](http://books.google.com/books?id=yP5YAwAAQBAJ&dq=Transforming+Congregations+for+the+Future&source=gbs_navlinks_s)  
<https://books.google.com/books/about/Transforming-Congregations-for-the-Future.html?id=14X8Wf0yGSAC>  
<http://www.goodreads.com/book/show/428357.Transforming-Congregations-for-the-Future>  
<https://alban.org/archive/wisdom-from-loren-mead/>  
<https://alban.org/2014/09/25/loren-mead-still-stuck-on-the-importance-of-the-local-church/>  
<https://books.google.com/books?isbn=1566994594>  
[Images for Transforming Congregations for the Future](#)

## Wisdom from Loren Mead » Alban

In 1991, *The Once and Future Church* by Alban Institute founder and president emeritus Loren B. Mead created an instant sensation in congregational circles with its prophetic insights into the mission of the church in a post-Christendom era. Two subsequent titles extended Mead's original vision with similar success. *Transforming Congregations for the Future* (1994) examines closely research on American religion and discusses its serious implications for the apostolic and discipleship tasks of the church. In *Five Challenges for the Once and Future Church* (1996), Mead explores the opportunities and challenges presented by issues of clericalism, community, institutional frameworks, spirituality, and mission. In celebration of the twentieth anniversary of the publication of *The Once and Future Church*, Alban is proud to release all three of these books as ebooks.

Twenty years later, Loren Mead's classic works still speak to the present time and now to a new generation of congregational and denominational leaders. Consider the excerpts below taken from throughout the series.

### Alban at Duke Divinity School » Wisdom from Loren Mead

<https://alban.org/archive/wisdom-from-loren-mead/>

Images for Wisdom from Loren Mead » Alban

<http://www.amazon.com/The-Once-Future-Church-Congregation/dp/1566990505>

<http://www.amazon.com/Transforming-Congregations-Future-Church-Series/dp/1566991269>

<http://www.amazon.com/Five-Challenges-Future-Church-Series/dp/1566991757>

<https://www.episcopalcafe.com/loren-mead-author-teacher-and-priest-has-died/>

<https://alban.org/loren-mead/>

<https://alban.org/2014/09/25/loren-mead-still-stuck-on-the-importance-of-the-local-church/>

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

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

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

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

### Deep Economy: The Wealth of Communities and the Durable Future [Bill McKibben]

In this powerful and provocative manifesto, Bill McKibben offers the biggest challenge in a generation to the prevailing view of our economy. *Deep Economy* makes the compelling case for moving beyond "growth" as the paramount economic ideal and pursuing prosperity in a more local direction, with regions producing more of their own food, generating more of their own energy, and even creating more of their own culture and entertainment. Our purchases need not be at odds with the things we truly value, McKibben argues, and the more we nurture the essential humanity of our economy, the more we will recapture our own.

<http://www.amazon.com/Deep-Economy-Wealth-Communities-Durable/dp/0805087222>

<http://www.goodreads.com/book/show/3586970-deep-economy?rating=1>

<http://www.billmckibben.com/deep-economy.html>

<https://us.macmillan.com/books/9780805087222>

[http://books.google.com/books/about/Deep\\_Economy.html?id=AMiU\\_cIYEY4C](http://books.google.com/books/about/Deep_Economy.html?id=AMiU_cIYEY4C)

<http://www.treehugger.com/corporate-responsibility/book-review-deep-economy-by-bill-mckibben.html>

<https://www.nytimes.com/2007/04/22/books/review/Morrow.t.html?mtref=www.google.com&qwh=B1229671E96407E978845BCA2952F51E&gwt=pay&assetType=REGIWALL>

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Deep\\_Economy](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Deep_Economy)

<https://www.amazon.com/Bill-McKibben/e/B001H6G9ME>

[http://www.goodreads.com/author/show/43861.Bill\\_McKibben](http://www.goodreads.com/author/show/43861.Bill_McKibben)

Images for Bill McKibben, author

Images for Deep Economy: The Wealth of Communities and the Durable Future [Bill McKibben]

### Developing Future Leaders | CT Pastors | Christianity Today

Seven principles for training the next generation of church leaders.

<https://www.christianitytoday.com/pastors/2013/winter/developing-future-leaders.html>

Images for Developing Future Leaders | CT Pastors | Christianity Today

<https://www.christianitytoday.com/pastors/2011/june-online-only/buildingfuture.html>

<https://www.christianitytoday.com/pastors>

### Dreams for the future - Christian Leader

As we pray and ask God to use us and help us to have that impact, what does the future hold? As a leader, I'm convinced that if we have no vision we'll get nowhere for sure! But to have a vision of the future means seeking God, not just coming up with our own ideas.

<https://christianleadermag.com/dreams-for-the-future/>

Images for Dreams for the future - Christian Leader

## Future Directions - ELCA

Our values are grounded in faith, in our biblical and Lutheran confessional sources and our love of God and neighbor. They speak to the way this church lives and practices our faith, and they will guide how we journey forward in Christ as church together.

### Telling the story of the church we are becoming

We are confident about who we are in Christ and what God is calling us to do.

#### Our Shared Purpose

Together in Jesus Christ we are freed by grace to live faithfully, witness boldly and serve joyfully.

#### Our Vision

A world experiencing the difference God's grace and love in Christ makes for all people and creation.

#### Leadership

The future of this church relies on the leaders of tomorrow – and it takes all of us to identify, encourage and equip those being called to ministry, in all of its forms, including leadership for our mission in the world.

#### Congregational Vitality

We aspire to have congregations whose faith shines in their relationships with God, each other, and their community.

## THE FIVE GOALS

Goal 1: A thriving church spreading the gospel and deepening faith for all people

Goal 2: A church equipping people for their baptismal vocations in the world and this church

Goal 3: An inviting and welcoming church that reflects and embraces the diversities of our communities and the gifts and opportunities that diversity brings.

Goal 4: A visible church deeply committed to working ecumenically and with other people of faith for justice peace and reconciliation in communities and around the world.

Goal 5: A well-governed, connected and sustainable church.

<https://elca.org/future>

[Images for Future Directions - ELCA](#)

<https://www.elca.org/future> Called Forward Together in Christ: A process to discern the ELCA's future

[Images for Future Directions - - Evangelical Lutheran Church in America](#)

[Images for process to discern the ELCA's future](#)

<https://www.elca.org/News-and-Events/7820> ELCA Conference of Bishops, others to examine future direction, priorities

[https://download.elca.org/ELCA%20Resource%20Repository/Future\\_Directions\\_Paper\\_Called\\_Forward\\_Together\\_in\\_Christ.pdf](https://download.elca.org/ELCA%20Resource%20Repository/Future_Directions_Paper_Called_Forward_Together_in_Christ.pdf)

[http://download.elca.org/ELCA%20Resource%20Repository/Future\\_Directions\\_Paper\\_Called\\_Forward\\_Together\\_in\\_Christ.pdf?\\_ga=2.210949778.683977515.1498088081-537152160.1467910353](http://download.elca.org/ELCA%20Resource%20Repository/Future_Directions_Paper_Called_Forward_Together_in_Christ.pdf?_ga=2.210949778.683977515.1498088081-537152160.1467910353)

## Future Search: Getting the Whole System in the Room for Vision, Commitment, and Action: Marvin Weisbord, Sandra Janoff

*Future Search* is among the best-established and most effective methods for enabling people to make and implement ambitious plans. It has been used to redesign IKEA's product pipeline in Sweden, develop an integrated economic development plan in Northern Ireland, and demobilize child soldiers in Southern Sudan. Written by the originators, this book is the most up-to-date account of this powerful change method.

This third edition is completely revised, reorganized, and updated with nine new chapters. It contains new cases and examples, advice on combining Future Search with other methods, and a summary of formal research studies. The chapters on facilitating diversity provide a theory, philosophy, and method for working with any task group.

Marvin Weisbord and Sandra Janoff offer specific guidance for Future Search sponsors, steering committees, participants, and facilitators and new ideas for sustaining action after the Future Search ends. They've added striking evidence of Future Search's efficacy over time, examples of its economic benefits, guidelines for making Future Searches green, and much more. They include a wealth of resources—handouts, sample client workbooks, follow-up methods, and other practical tools.

If you want to do strategic planning, product innovation, quality improvement, organizational restructuring, mergers, or any other major change requiring stakeholder engagement, this book is your guide.

[http://www.amazon.com/Future-Search-Getting-System-Commitment/dp/1605094285/ref=dp\\_ob\\_title\\_bk](http://www.amazon.com/Future-Search-Getting-System-Commitment/dp/1605094285/ref=dp_ob_title_bk)

[https://www.goodreads.com/book/show/1214814.Future\\_Search](https://www.goodreads.com/book/show/1214814.Future_Search)

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[https://books.google.com/books/about/Future\\_Search.html?id=N6E9aoknPc4C](https://books.google.com/books/about/Future_Search.html?id=N6E9aoknPc4C)

[http://www.marvinweisbord.com/index.php/book\\_descriptions/](http://www.marvinweisbord.com/index.php/book_descriptions/)

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[http://www.goodreads.com/author/show/579549.Marvin\\_Ross\\_Weisbord](http://www.goodreads.com/author/show/579549.Marvin_Ross_Weisbord)

[Images for Marvin Weisbord](#)

<http://www.futuresearch.net/>

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Future\\_Search](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Future_Search)

<https://vimeo.com/9582760> Future Search Interview Marvin Weisbord & Sandra Janoff on Vimeo

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=V2ttQN6y2vk> Future Search - Sandra Janoff - YouTube

<http://www.leadershipforwomen.com.au/empowerment/leadership/sandra-janoff-marvin-weisbord>

<https://www.bkconnection.com/experts/marvinweisbord>



<https://www.provenmodels.com/23/six-boxes/marvin-r.-weisbord>  
<https://www.well.com/~bbear/weisbord.html>  
<https://www.linkedin.com/in/marvin-weisbord-49116294>  
<http://bkconnection.aidcvr.com/authorbiobooks.asp?Type=AUTH&SEL=MARVINR.WEISBORD>  
<https://www.futuresearch.net/method/workshops/leaders.cfm>  
<https://www.bkconnection.com/experts/sandrajanoff>  
[http://www.goodreads.com/author/show/474186.Sandra\\_Janoff](http://www.goodreads.com/author/show/474186.Sandra_Janoff)  
Images for Sandra Janoff  
<https://www.linkedin.com/in/sandra-janoff-65bb59>  
<https://www.facebook.com/sandra.janoff>  
Images for Future Search: Getting the Whole System in the Room for Vision, Commitment, and Action: Marvin Weisbord, Sandra Janoff

## Future - Wikipedia

The future is the time after the present. Its arrival is considered inevitable due to the existence of time and the laws of physics. Due to the apparent nature of reality and the unavoidability of the future, everything that currently exists and will exist can be categorized as either permanent, meaning that it will exist forever, or temporary, meaning that it will end.<sup>[1]</sup> In the Occidental view, which uses a linear conception of time, the future is the portion of the projected timeline that is anticipated to occur.<sup>[2]</sup> In special relativity, the future is considered absolute future, or the future light cone.<sup>[3]</sup> In the philosophy of time, presentism is the belief that only the present exists and the future and the past are unreal. Religions consider the future when they address issues such as karma, life after death, and eschatologies that study what the end of time and the end of the world will be. Religious figures such as prophets and diviners have claimed to see into the future. Future studies, or futurology, is the science, art, and practice of postulating possible futures. Modern practitioners stress the importance of alternative and plural futures, rather than one monolithic future, and the limitations of prediction and probability, versus the creation of possible and preferable futures. Predeterminism is the belief that the past, present, and future have been already decided. The concept of the future has been explored extensively in cultural production, including art movements and genres devoted entirely to its elucidation, such as the 20th-century movement futurism.

<https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Future>  
Images for future

## Futurecast: What Today's Trends Mean for Tomorrow's World [George Barna]

The world and culture are changing at a pace beyond anything ever seen in history. But where will all these changes lead? What's in store for our government, economy, families, and churches? Between the Internet and other news media, we're getting a lot of opinions, but the challenge is finding accurate facts that give us a real sense of what's happening—and what's likely to come. In *Futurecast*, bestselling author and renowned researcher George Barna presents a timely look at the world we're creating every day, and offers solid data to show the path our country is on and the emerging trends that will shape our world—and change each of our lives.

<http://www.amazon.com/Futurecast-Todays-Trends-Tomorrows-World/dp/1414324065>  
<http://books.google.com/books/about/Futurecast.html?id=8xgdAY2CxMwC>  
<http://www.publishersweekly.com/978-1-59859-970-1>  
<http://www.billdahl.net/featured/futurecast-by-george-barna-a-review-by-bill-dahl/>  
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<http://www.barna.org/>  
[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/George\\_Barna](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/George_Barna)  
<http://www.outreach.com/events/christian-speakers/George-Barna.aspx>  
<https://www.amazon.com/George-Barna/e/B000APJB4G>  
[http://www.goodreads.com/author/show/32052.George\\_Barna](http://www.goodreads.com/author/show/32052.George_Barna)  
Images for george barna, author  
Images for Futurecast [George Barna]

## Revolution [George Barna]

World-renowned pollster George Barna has the numbers, and they indicate a revolution is already taking place within the Church - one that will impact every believer in America. Committed, born-again Christians are exiting the established church in massive numbers. Why are they leaving? Where are they going? And what does this mean for the future of the Church? Using years' worth of research data, and adhering to an unwavering biblical perspective, Barna predicts how this revolution will impact the organized church, how Christ's body of believers should react, and how individuals who are considering leaving (or those who have already left) can respond. For leaders working for positive change in the church and for believers struggling to find a spiritual community and worship experience that resonates, Revolution is here. Are you ready?

<http://www.amazon.com/Revolution-George-Barna/dp/1414310161>  
<http://www.goodreads.com/book/show/695164.Revolution>  
<http://books.google.com/books/about/Revolution.html?id=0DpgzEyrTIsC>  
<http://www.9marks.org/books/book-review-revolution-george-barna>  
[http://jollyblogger.typepad.com/jollyblogger/2005/11/book\\_review\\_rev.html](http://jollyblogger.typepad.com/jollyblogger/2005/11/book_review_rev.html)  
<http://www.brenhughes.com/Extras/Revolution.pdf>  
<http://www.christianitytoday.com/ct/2006/january/13.69.html>  
<http://www.barna.org/>

<https://www.amazon.com/George-Barna/e/B000APJB4G>  
[http://www.goodreads.com/author/show/32052.George\\_Barna](http://www.goodreads.com/author/show/32052.George_Barna)  
[Images for george barna, author](#)  
[Images for Revolution \[George Barna\]](#)

### Interim reflecting, dreaming and action | The Lutheran

Trained intentional interim pastors help congregations examine five areas. These are based on the developmental tasks of interim ministry listed in *Critical Moment of Ministry: A Change of Pastors* by Loren B. Mead (Alban Institute, 1986).

#### 1. Look back

Who were we in the past? What were some of the defining moments of our ministry? What do we miss? What are we glad is gone?

#### 2. Who are we now?

How has our community and ministry setting changed? Who do we want to become? What new ministries do we want to embrace?

#### 3. We're not alone

What resources do our synod and the ELCA have to offer us? How can we increase our mutual ministry with the church-at-large?

#### 4. Who's on first? What's on second?

Who will do *what* in the new mission plan? Are the talents of each leader being used effectively where they are currently serving? Do leaders want to change positions or stretch by doing something new?

#### 5. Focus on the future

Give a healthy goodbye to the interim pastor and a well-planned welcome for the new settled pastor. Move ahead into a well-defined future.

[http://www.thelutheran.org/article/article.cfm?article\\_id=4024](http://www.thelutheran.org/article/article.cfm?article_id=4024)

[Images for Interim reflecting, dreaming and action | The Lutheran](#)

### Lead for the Future, Not from the Past – ThomRainer.com

Using this list, consider if you might be “leading from the past tense.”

<http://thomrainer.com/2015/03/lead-future-past/>

[Images for Lead for the Future, Not from the Past – ThomRainer](#)

<http://thomrainer.com/2016/04/the-next-future-church-staff-position-pastor-of-community-evangelism/>

<http://thomrainer.com/2013/01/the-death-of-the-mall-and-the-future-of-church-buildings/>

<http://thomrainer.com/2016/07/ten-traits-healthiest-churches-ten-years-now/>

<http://thomrainer.com/2017/05/eight-signs-church-may-closing-soon/> #4

<http://thomrainer.com/2017/10/dying-churches-hope-revitalize-replant-001/> #1

<http://thomrainer.com/2016/06/whats-next-church-technology/>

<http://thomrainer.com/send2015/>

<http://thomrainer.com/2015/06/the-future-of-denominations-rainer-on-leadership-130/>

<http://www.churchcentral.com/ceditors/thom-rainer/>

<http://www.lifeway.com/pastors/2017/07/11/future-church-facilities-feat-dr-thom-rainer-pastor-talk-ep-17/>

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

[https://www.goodreads.com/author/show/27470.Thom\\_S\\_Rainer](https://www.goodreads.com/author/show/27470.Thom_S_Rainer)

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

### Leading for the Future » Alban

Leaders for the future have the legs of a marathoner. Marathoners are in it for the long haul, and so must be leaders for the future.

The work that needs to be done won't be accomplished soon. The transitions that are taking place in society are leading us to something new, but we don't yet know what that is and probably won't know for some time to come. It is, after all, a postmodern, post-Christendom world we live in now. We are unable to describe it in any way other than to say what it is not. Someday we will know what it is, but we've got a way to go until then. That means leaders for the future will need to stick with their mission. They will need to try and fail and try again. They will need to keep learning, discovering, discerning the new things God is doing and calling us to become. They will need to deal with those who resist change, those who clamor for more and faster change, those who are tired, those who are fearful, those who are annoyed, those who want to give up.

### Alban at Duke Divinity School » Leading for the Future

<https://alban.org/archive/leading-for-the-future/>

[Images for postmodern, post-Christendom world](#)

<https://alban.org/archive/postmodern-worship-three-views-theres-more-to-it-than-if-you-build-it-they-will-come/>

<http://www.ethicsdaily.com/the-postmodern-parish-new-ministry-for-a-new-era-cms-3700>

<https://alban.org/category/leadership/>

<https://leadership.divinity.duke.edu/what-we-offer/>

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

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

### LIFT: Practical Ideas for 21<sup>st</sup> Century Congregations - Northwest Synod of Wisconsin

- The official acronym: – Living into the Future Together
- My practical adaptation: –Listening to God, Inquiring of our neighbors, Feeding the Hungry and Telling the story

[http://www.nswi.org/webfiles/fnitools/documents/lift\\_practical\\_best\\_practices\\_for\\_21st\\_century\\_congregations\\_beth\\_lewis.pdf](http://www.nswi.org/webfiles/fnitools/documents/lift_practical_best_practices_for_21st_century_congregations_beth_lewis.pdf)  
[info@nswi.org](mailto:info@nswi.org)  
[https://www.elca.org/tools/contact\\_us](https://www.elca.org/tools/contact_us)  
[Images for Living into the Future Together - ELCA](#)

### Looking ahead | The U.S. Congregational Life Survey

So, your congregation has it figured out: "This is who we are, this is what matters to us."

But here's the next question: Where should we go from here?

Knowing that — having a clear vision for the **future** and a sense of how to make it happen — is definitely a congregational strength.

<http://www.uscongregations.org/blog/2014/02/17/looking-ahead/>  
[Images for Looking ahead | The U.S. Congregational Life Survey](#)  
[Images for clear vision for the future](#)

### Looking into the future with Laurie Skow-Anderson

Welcome to a new feature dedicated to the future--and renewing congregations. Each week, Laurie Skow-Anderson, Director for Evangelical Mission, will focus on steps that congregations can take to help them change and thrive. To assist you along on the journey, we have created a new Missional Toy Box chocked full of resources you can use. It is now available on our website: [www.nswi.org](http://www.nswi.org). We encourage you to look around in the toy box to find playful and imaginative ways to explore renewal in your congregation. To get you started, we will highlight a different toy (resource) each week.

This week we are using a kaleidoscope to call your attention to the toy box section called "Reimagining the Future." If you've ever looked through a kaleidoscope, you'll know that with every turn the patterns change. It's a little like looking at the future!

Question: What is the first step in renewing a congregation?

Answer: Prayer. Renewal is impossible without a deep listening to God. Pastors, recommit yourself to pray for your congregation and your context, and do not assume everyone knows how to pray. If you are serious about leading renewal, consider participating in Spiritual Direction or Clergy Coaching. Be intentional about teaching the members of your congregation to pray. Start a renewal prayer group. Set aside a season for prayer and instruct the entire congregation to pray just this one prayer, "LORD, what is your will for this congregation?" Teach the congregation to be silent and listen for God's answer. Create a space for members to share their "God sightings" and how God's will is being revealed to them through this prayer.

**This Week in the Northwest Synod of Wisconsin – ELCA Week of November 2, 2014**

<http://archive.constantcontact.com/fs191/1101126434512/archive/1119056299793.html>

<http://nswi.org/about-us/our-staff> [info@nswi.org](mailto:info@nswi.org)

[Images for Looking into the future with Laurie Skow-Anderson](#)

This week we are using a toy stethoscope to call your attention to the toy box section called *Change of Culture*. Change isn't easy. Sometimes when people are uncomfortable, conflicts can arise. In this section of the toy box, you will find ideas about leading change, facing the giants and why change is hard. Now you are ready for the next step in renewing a congregation--prayer.

Renewal is only possible when we listen to God and when we listen to neighbor. It's a special kind of listening that could be described as listening with your heart, not just your ears. And that's where the toy stethoscope comes in. Like the child in the photo above, you need to be open to what you may hear. Try to set aside judgments for now and just listen. Look for the meaning behind what you see/hear. In other words, listen with your ears and your heart.

Try this experiment in prayer/listening with your heart:

1. Invite a group of willing folks to go out into your context for ministry. Ask them to find a public place, like a restaurant, coffee house, grocery store, park bench, street corner, high school gym, intersection of corn fields and dairy barns, library, gas station, bar or wherever the people in your context gather.
  2. Ask them to sit alone and for one hour pray this prayer: *Lord, help me see what you see.*
- Just look and listen to whatever God tells or shows you. What does God see when God looks at your community?
3. At the end of an hour, gather the group together back at church or some other central location and talk about what you saw/heard. What did God show you?
  4. Then ask: What does this mean for our ministry? What is God inviting us to do? How is God inviting us to join in God's mission to redeem the world?
  5. Make a plan to do it!

**This Week in the Northwest Synod of Wisconsin – ELCA Week of November 9, 2014**

<http://archive.constantcontact.com/fs191/1101126434512/archive/1119141659816.html>

Welcome to the third installment dedicated to the future - and renewing congregations. This week, Laurie Skow-Anderson, Director for Evangelical Mission, focuses on the next step congregations can take to help them change and thrive.

This week we found a Jenga game in the toy box! If you have ever played this game, you know that it helps to have a steady hand -and confidence! It also helps keep the tower of blocks from tumbling down if you have a solid foundation. Hmm, sounds like those same attributes would serve you well in congregation renewal!

Are you ready for the next step in renewing a congregation? It's prayer. Wait a minute, wasn't prayer the answer last week? Of course. Prayer builds a strong foundation, and helps you gain some confidence so that you will have a steady hand! Read on . . .

Prayer is the foundation of our relationship with God. Without this foundation of listening to God, discerning God's will, renewal will never move forward. Being attentive to God's will and the movement of the Holy Spirit is the only way to begin a renewal process. Those whose personal lives have been transformed by prayer are able to lead a renewal effort in a congregation. Teach folks how to pray for each other. Before meetings begin by praying for member's highs and lows. Form prayer partners in the congregation and encourage folks to pray for each other. Take time for prayer requests from the congregation during worship. Ask the question: How do you need God's help today? Pray about the requests immediately. Many leaders try to skip this step for congregational renewal thinking that it isn't important. It is the most important.

**This Week in the Northwest Synod of Wisconsin – ELCA Week of November 16, 2014**  
<http://archive.constantcontact.com/fs191/1101126434512/archive/1119191520625.html>

Welcome to the fourth installment dedicated to the future--and renewing congregations. This week, Laurie Skow-Anderson, Director for Evangelical Mission, focuses on the next step congregations can take to help them change and thrive. What did we find in the toy box this week? Big glasses to help us read and study because the next step in congregational renewal is Bible Study.

Congregational renewal isn't rocket science. It is all about prayer and Bible Study. The generous folks in the Western North Dakota Synod shared a helpful Missional Bible Study to begin the process of renewal in your congregation. You will find it in the Missional Toy Box.

The Missional Toy Box is now available on our website: <http://nswi.org/> It will take a little longer to get all of the "toys" in working order, but you are encouraged to look around in the toy box to find playful and imaginative ways to explore renewal in your congregation.

**This Week in the Northwest Synod of Wisconsin – ELCA Week of November 30, 2014**  
<http://archive.constantcontact.com/fs191/1101126434512/archive/1119351473619.html>

Welcome to the fifth installment dedicated to the future--and renewing congregations. This week, Laurie Skow-Anderson, Director for Evangelical Mission, focuses on the next step congregations can take to help them change and thrive.

What did we find in the toy box this week? Garden tools to help us dig a little deeper because the next step in congregational renewal is Bible Study (sound familiar?).

Another effective way of leading Bible study is called Dwelling in the Word. Simply use the Sunday preaching lesson. Read it slowly out loud two or three times. Read it silently an additional time and then pray silently: "Lord, what are you saying to us today through these words?" Discuss using these questions.

What is God doing in this reading?

What are the people of faith doing in this reading?

What is God saying to us personally or to our church today through these words?

The Missional Toy Box is now available on our website: <http://nswi.org/> It will take a little longer to get all of the "toys" in working order, but you are encouraged to look around in the toy box to find playful and imaginative ways to explore renewal in your congregation.

**This Week in the Northwest Synod of Wisconsin – ELCA Week of December 7, 2014**  
<http://archive.constantcontact.com/fs191/1101126434512/archive/1119440230066.html>

Some folks have an Elf on the Shelf, but at the synod office our "elves" don't have time to sit on a shelf. They are busy filling the toy box for Christmas!

All of the "toys" are ready, so you will find plenty of resources when you click on the links. Thanks for your patience.

Peek into the Missional Toy Box now to find imaginative ways to explore renewal in your congregation.

**This Week in the Northwest Synod of Wisconsin – ELCA Week of December 14, 2014**  
<http://archive.constantcontact.com/fs191/1101126434512/archive/1119493071772.html>

<http://nswi.org/walking-together> TURNING POINT: 180 DEGREES -LAURIE SKOW-ANDERSON WORKSHOP POWERPOINT  
[info@nswi.org](mailto:info@nswi.org)

#### Ministry and Mission in Uncertain Times - Google Books Result

It is a time of great change, an exciting and challenging time, as we move from one era to another.

<https://books.google.com/books?isbn=1566994454> Border Crossings: Churches Living Boldly into the Future by Marcia Bailey

[Images for Churches Living Boldly into the Future](https://rowman.com/ISBN/9781566994453/Ministry-and-Mission-In-Uncertain-Times)

<https://rowman.com/ISBN/9781566994453/Ministry-and-Mission-In-Uncertain-Times>

[Images for Ministry and Mission in Uncertain Times](https://www.slideserve.com/steel-stokes/ministry-and-mission-in-uncertain-times)

<https://www.slideserve.com/steel-stokes/ministry-and-mission-in-uncertain-times>

#### Ministry for a New Time: Case Study for Change – (Once and Future Church Series) by James C. Fenhagen (Author), Celia Allison Hahn (Author)

We live at the emergence of an era not yet named. It is a turbulent time for the Church. Bizarre reaction is popular as protection against uncertainty. This stunning book embraces the hope of a world in transformation and offers ways of re-conceiving and refashioning your work in vigorous fidelity to Gospel. For you who deem the health and credulity of the church's ministry and its pastoral leadership are important. The book informs the church and clergy how to look deeply into the ground of spirituality which nourishes and sustains both. Making spiritual connections can be painstaking, at odds with the culture's values, language, and thought patterns. This links faith to ministry in a way that preserves the integrity of both.

<http://www.barnesandnoble.com/w/ministry-for-a-new-time-james-c-fenhagen/1001604381?ean=9781566991568>

<https://www.amazon.com/James-C.-Fenhagen/e/B001K8FIQM>

[Images for James C. Fenhagen \(Author\)](#)

<http://www.nspeidiocese.ca/resou/Healthy%20Congregations%20Resource%20List.pdf>

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

[http://m.library2.smu.ca/bitstream/handle/01/25160/kempton\\_nancy\\_masters\\_ast\\_2005.PDF?sequence=2&isAllowed=y](http://m.library2.smu.ca/bitstream/handle/01/25160/kempton_nancy_masters_ast_2005.PDF?sequence=2&isAllowed=y)

[https://www.goodreads.com/author/list/135716.Celia\\_Allison\\_Hahn](https://www.goodreads.com/author/list/135716.Celia_Allison_Hahn)

[Images for Celia Allison Hahn \(Author\)](#)

[Images for Ministry for a New Time: Case Study for Change – \(Once and Future Church Series\) by James C. Fenhagen \(Author\), Celia Allison Hahn \(Author\)](#)

<https://www.amazon.com/Once-Future-Church-Collection/dp/1566992486>

<https://rowman.com/Action/SERIES/RL/RL3OFC>

[Images for Once and Future Church Series](#)

## Navigating the Future

I invite not only your prayers for the developmental work being addressed here at Salem in these in-between days, but also room in our hearts and minds for the humility and the grace to see and to claim the guiding hand of our gracious God in our very midst. Salem is Christ's Church, not ours. Christ is the bridegroom, we are his bride. I am hopeful that as a congregation "on an urgent mission", that we can proceed judiciously, faithfully, and constructively towards the future that God will help us to build. The need of the Gospel in individual lives, in families, in churches, and in communities, is everywhere present. Let us continue to step up, and to step out into the future to which God has already invited us.

Pr. Paul (intentional interim pastor)

[\[PDF\] November 2012.pdf - Salem Lutheran Church](#)

<http://www.salemlongville.org/pdf/November%202012.pdf>

[Images for Navigating the Future](#)

## On the future of the church and seminaries – Perspectives on Congregational Leadership

At the risk of misreading my tea leaves, here's my guess: there will be a continued increase in the variety of expressions of the church experience. We will likely continue to see bleeding edge growth in house churches, cell groups, multi-sites, mega churches, emergent, in addition to the existing variety in styles among traditional congregational models.

<http://perspectivesig.blogspot.com/2010/12/on-future-of-church-and-seminaries.html>

[Images for On the future of the church and seminaries – Perspectives on Congregational Leadership](#)

## On the Verge: A Journey into the Apostolic Future of the Church (Exponential Series) by Alan Hirsch (Author), Dave Ferguson (Author)

The church is on the verge of massive, category shifting, change. Contemporary church growth, despite its many blessings, has failed to stem the decline of Christianity in the West. We are now facing the fact that more of the same will not produce different results. Our times require a different kind of church—an apostolic, reproducing, movement where every person is living a mission-sent life. Many of the best and brightest leaders in the contemporary church are now making the shift in the way they think, lead, and organize. Motivated partly by a vision of the church as ancient as it is new, and with a driving desire to see Biblical Christianity establish itself in Western cultural contexts, we are indeed seeing a new form of the church emerge in our day. Hirsch and Ferguson call this "apostolic movement" because it is more resonant with the form of church that we witness in the pages of the New Testament and in the great missional movements of history. In this book, Hirsch and Ferguson share a rich array of theology, theory, and best practices, along with inspiring stories about leaders who have rightly diagnosed their churches' failure to embrace a biblical model of mission and have moved toward a fuller expression of the gospel. On the Verge will help church leaders discover how these forerunners and their insights are launching a new apostolic movement—and how any church can get involved.

<http://www.amazon.com/On-Verge-Journey-Apostolic-Exponential/dp/0310331005>

<https://www.goodreads.com/book/show/11115358-on-the-verge>

<http://www.barnesandnoble.com/w/on-the-verge-alan-f-hirsch/1100488256>

<https://www.christianbook.com/verge-journey-into-apostolic-future-church/alan-hirsch/9780310331001/pd/331000>

<https://books.google.com/books?id=BxI4h8FqZXoC>

<https://books.google.com/books?isbn=0310421799>

<http://www.churchplanting.com/dave-ferguson/#.VwuOzPkrKUK>

<http://robwegner.org/post/29334931082/interview-on-future-travelers-with-alan-hirsch>

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

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Alan\\_Hirsch](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Alan_Hirsch)

[https://www.goodreads.com/author/list/56757.Alan\\_Hirsch](https://www.goodreads.com/author/list/56757.Alan_Hirsch)

[Images for Alan Hirsch \(Author\) author](#)

<https://www.amazon.com/Dave-Ferguson/e/B001JSE63Y>

[http://www.goodreads.com/author/show/126850.Dave\\_Ferguson](http://www.goodreads.com/author/show/126850.Dave_Ferguson)

[Images for Dave Ferguson \(Author\)](#)

[Images for On the Verge: A Journey into the Apostolic Future of the Church \(Exponential Series\) by Alan Hirsch \(Author\), Dave Ferguson \(Author\)](#)

<http://www.zondervan.com/exponential-series-complete-set>

[Images for Exponential Series missional books](#)



### Paradigms: The Business of Discovering the Future [Joel Arthur Barker]

How would like to spot future trends before the competition?

We all know the rules for success in our business or professions, yet we also know that these rules--paradigms-can change at any time. What Joel Barker does in *Paradigms: The Business of Discovering the Future* is explain how to spot paradigm shifts, how they unfold, and how to profit from them. Through the power of this method - paradigm spotting - you can:

find the people in your organization most likely to spot a new trend

help your key people adept when a massive change is occurring

learn to effectively grapple with your "intractable problems" and improve your results incalculably.

In addition, *Paradigms* is full of concrete examples of paradigm shifts and predictions for the future, and contains a new introduction detailing recent developments and pointing out areas to watch for paradigm shifts.

<http://www.amazon.com/Paradigms-The-Business-Discovering-Future/dp/0887306470>

<https://www.goodreads.com/book/show/832754.Paradigms>

<https://www.barnesandnoble.com/w/paradigms-joel-a-barker/1110785830>

[http://books.google.com/books/about/Discovering\\_the\\_future.html?id=0UJxAAAAMAAJ](http://books.google.com/books/about/Discovering_the_future.html?id=0UJxAAAAMAAJ)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NhJ3JoRRhI8> Joel Barker Demo Video - YouTube

[http://www.iaff.org/hr/conference/hrc\\_2010/postConference/PDF/12c\\_PARADIGMS.pdf](http://www.iaff.org/hr/conference/hrc_2010/postConference/PDF/12c_PARADIGMS.pdf)

[http://www.starthrower.com/business\\_of\\_paradigms.htm](http://www.starthrower.com/business_of_paradigms.htm)

<http://www.executiveevolution.com/docs/Paradigm.pdf>

<https://www.trainingabc.com/joel-barker-training-videos-DVDs/>

[https://www.brainyquote.com/quotes/authors/j/joel\\_a\\_barker.html](https://www.brainyquote.com/quotes/authors/j/joel_a_barker.html)

<http://www.tnellen.com/ted/tc/paradigm.html>

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wOXWSg\\_PyTQ](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wOXWSg_PyTQ) CFBusinessForum - Joel Barker - The Importance of Paradigms in the 21st Century – YouTube

<http://www.formavision.com/dlgs/dlgsenglish/thebusinessofparadigms.pdf>

<http://files.eric.ed.gov/fulltext/ED360945.pdf> [PDF] How to Use Barker's Paradigm Concepts to Help Solve Major Higher Education Problems and Help Create a Vital Future for Institutional Research and Planning

<https://www.pinterest.com/pin/207587864056429765/> Discover ideas about Paradigm Shift

<https://www.pinterest.com/pin/268808671482453995/> #PreSponse Paradigms: The Business of Discovering the Future by Joel Arthur Barker.

<https://www.pinterest.com.mx/pin/451134087645006039/> Paradigms: The Business of Discovering the Future: Joel Arthur Barker

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

<https://www.amazon.com/Joel-Arthur-Barker/e/B000APESLM>

[http://www.goodreads.com/author/show/178889.Joel\\_A\\_Barker](http://www.goodreads.com/author/show/178889.Joel_A_Barker)

Images for Joel Arthur Barker, author

Images for The Business of Discovering the Future [Joel Arthur Barker]

### Parallel Development: A Pathway for Exploring Change and a New Future in Congregational Life - Episcopal Church

As a pathway for exploring the future of the church, the strategy of "parallel development" makes it possible to start up new directions and new initiatives alongside the older and more established forms of our life and mission. The new and old exist side by side.

#### Parallel Development - Episcopal Church

[http://archive.episcopalchurch.org/documents/CDR\\_series3\(2\).pdf](http://archive.episcopalchurch.org/documents/CDR_series3(2).pdf)

Images for Parallel Development: A Pathway for Exploring Change and a New Future in Congregational Life - Episcopal Church

<http://episcopalvoices.proboards.com/index.cgi?board=episcopal&action=display&thread=1089>

[http://www.episcopalchurch.org/growth\\_23206\\_ENG\\_HTML.htm?menupage=61609](http://www.episcopalchurch.org/growth_23206_ENG_HTML.htm?menupage=61609)

<http://www.amazon.com/Parallel-Development-Exploring-Congregational-Vitality/dp/B00AS2TXL2>

### Pastors Share Hopes for the Church's Future After COVID-19 – State of the Church > Research - Barna Group

This week, hosts Nieuwhof and Kinnaman were joined by fellow faith leaders Mike Todd, Jo Saxton and Skye Jethani to discuss the importance of authenticity, how churches plan to restructure after the pandemic is over and what pastors say is their greatest hope for the Church after COVID-19.

<https://www.barna.com/research/church-hope-covid/>

Images for Pastors Share Hopes for the Church's Future After COVID-19 – State of the Church > Research - Barna Group

<https://podcasts.apple.com/us/podcast/churchpulse-weekly/id1503586969>

### Phyllis Tickle: Evangelist of the Future [Tony Jones, Jon M. Sweeney, Jana Riess, Brian McLaren, Sybil MacBeth, Doug Pagitt, Lauren F. Winner]

Phyllis Tickle has had a significant impact on the religious landscape in America over her 50-year career. As a college dean, a publishing gadfly, and an advocate of the church's emergence, she has garnered a loyal following in the tens of thousands. Among those she's influenced are influential church leaders themselves, including Diana Butler-Bass, Brian McLaren, Nadia Bolz-Weber, Peter Rollins, Doug Pagitt, Jon M. Sweeney, Jana Riess, Lauren F. Winner, and others. In this volume, they reflect of Phyllis's influence, and on the challenge that Phyllis's work poses the future church.

<http://www.amazon.com/Phyllis-Tickle-Evangelist-Tony-Jones/dp/1612613756>

<https://www.goodreads.com/book/show/17739426-phyllis-tickle>

<https://www.barnesandnoble.com/w/phyllis-tickle-tony-jones/1116874850>

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<http://kellypigott.com/?p=785>  
<http://www.commercialappeal.com/lifestyle/phyllis-tickle-evangelist-of-the-future-retiring>  
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<https://www.indiebound.org/book/9781612613758?aff=jonestony>  
<https://www.amazon.com/Tony-Jones/e/B001IR3E1G>  
[https://www.goodreads.com/author/show/173340.Tony\\_Jones](https://www.goodreads.com/author/show/173340.Tony_Jones)  
[Images for Tony Jones, author phyllis tickle: evangelist](#)  
<http://www.phyllistickle.com/>  
[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Phyllis\\_Tickle](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Phyllis_Tickle)  
<https://www.facebook.com/phyllis.a.tickle/>  
<https://www.amazon.com/Phyllis-Tickle/e/B001IGLRSY>  
[http://www.goodreads.com/author/show/1434.Phyllis\\_A\\_Tickle](http://www.goodreads.com/author/show/1434.Phyllis_A_Tickle)  
[Images for phyllis tickle](#)  
[Images for Phyllis Tickle: Evangelist of the Future \[Tony Jones, Jon M. Sweeney, Jana Riess, Brian McLaren, Sybil MacBeth, Doug Pagitt, Lauren F. Winner\]](#)

### Prepare Your Church for the Future by Carl F. George (Author)

By analyzing the present-day church and examining societal trends, Carl George presents a model that can mobilize your church for outreach.

<https://www.amazon.com/Prepare-Your-Church-Future-George/dp/0800753658>  
<http://bakerpublishinggroup.com/books/prepare-your-church-for-the-future/166670>  
<http://www.churchgrowth.net/products/books/items/churchfuture.htm>  
<https://www.amazon.com/Carl-F.-George/e/B001KHAKIY>  
[https://www.goodreads.com/author/show/587072.Carl\\_F\\_George](https://www.goodreads.com/author/show/587072.Carl_F_George)  
[Images for Carl F. George \(Author\)](#)  
[Images for Prepare Your Church for the Future by Carl F. George \(Author\)](#)

### Principles Of Leadership-Drucker

6. Know the value of foresight. You can't predict the **future** but you must assess the future aspect of present events.

[http://www.ministryhealth.net/mh\\_articles/260\\_gm\\_drucker\\_principles\\_leadership.html](http://www.ministryhealth.net/mh_articles/260_gm_drucker_principles_leadership.html)  
[Images for Principles Of Leadership-Drucker](#)  
[Images for assess the future aspect of present events](#)

### Pursuing the Full Kingdom Potential of Your Congregation (TCP Leadership Series) [George W. Bullard Jr.]

"Full Kingdom potential," says George Bullard, "is a journey, not a destination. To reach your full Kingdom potential, its pursuit must be your enduring passion and desire." Drawing on his more than four decades of experience in congregational leadership, Bullard offers not just another process for congregational redevelopment. He learns from the past to take congregations on a spiritual journey that is open-ended, custom-made, and locally owned. His focus is on capacity building in each congregation, calling for a narrative approach to futuring in the life of congregations that responds to new things God is seeking to do in and through members of the congregation.

<http://www.amazon.com/Pursuing-Potential-Congregation-Leadership-Partnership/dp/0827229844>  
[http://www.goodreads.com/book/show/951863.Pursuing\\_the\\_Full\\_Kingdom\\_Potential\\_of\\_Your\\_Congregation](http://www.goodreads.com/book/show/951863.Pursuing_the_Full_Kingdom_Potential_of_Your_Congregation)  
[http://www.goodreads.com/author/show/483113.George\\_W\\_Bullard\\_Jr](http://www.goodreads.com/author/show/483113.George_W_Bullard_Jr)  
[Images for George W. Bullard Jr author](#)  
[Images for Pursuing the Full Kingdom Potential of Your Congregation \(TCP Leadership Series\) \[George W. Bullard Jr.\]](#)

- I am interested in empowering congregation's future. I am interested in helping your congregation pursue, perfect, and be pulled towards its full kingdom potential. Page 11

<https://books.google.com/books?isbn=0827230125>  
[http://blog.yahoo.com/\\_E5KA5LANZ7ODMZMHXE45I7W6JY/articles/660844](http://blog.yahoo.com/_E5KA5LANZ7ODMZMHXE45I7W6JY/articles/660844)  
<http://www.chalicepress.com/TCP-Leadership-Series-C157.aspx>  
<http://www.chalicepress.com/TCP-Books-C11.aspx>  
[Images for TCP Leadership Series](#)

### Rerouting the Protestant Mainstream: Sources of Growth and Opportunities for Change [C. Kirk Hadaway, David A. Roozen]

Rerouting the Protestant Mainstream offers a tightly focused analysis of trends, markets, denominational influences, and **future** directions for the church. Hadaway and Roozen explain why some churches are growing and why others are not and show pastors how to go about improving and growing their churches.

<http://www.amazon.com/Rerouting-Protestant-Mainstream-Sources-Opportunities/dp/0687453666>  
<https://books.google.com/books?isbn=1621893189> Page 96  
[Images for C. Kirk Hadaway, author](#)  
[http://www.goodreads.com/author/show/176285.David\\_A\\_Roozen](http://www.goodreads.com/author/show/176285.David_A_Roozen)  
[http://hrr.hartsem.edu/about/roozen\\_vitae.htm](http://hrr.hartsem.edu/about/roozen_vitae.htm)  
[http://hrr.hartsem.edu/about/roozen\\_articles.htm](http://hrr.hartsem.edu/about/roozen_articles.htm)

[Images for David A. Roozen, author protestant mainstream](#)

[Images for Rerouting the Protestant Mainstream: Sources of Growth and Opportunities for Change \[C. Kirk Hadaway, David A. Roozen\]](#)

Rethinking Transitional Ministry by Norman Bendroth » Alban

Nor are all practitioners enamored with the “family systems” approach of interim ministry training. Rev. Dr. Rob Voyle, director of the Transitional Ministry Network and an Episcopal priest and psychotherapist, argues that the Bowen/Friedman model is a medical model that diagnoses disease instead of discovering pockets of health and nurturing those. “The largest extended family anyone can imagine is 50,” Voyle explains, “The family systems model breaks down because most of our congregations are larger than that. The benefit of Bowen is enabling pastors to understand their own family history and how those dynamics impact their ministry. It’s best to see congregations as communities of faith rather than as families.”

Voyle uses and advocates Appreciative Inquiry as the driving model for interim ministry (AI). AI invites participants to tell a story of a time when life within the church was at its best or was most vital and meaningful for them. The purpose of the exercise is not just to recover a pleasant memory but to be curious about why it happened and how to replicate it. This focuses not upon deficits and problems, but upon assets and solutions. “Instead of coming to terms with their history,” he says, “congregations need to come to terms with their **future**.”

[Alban at Duke Divinity School » Rethinking Transitional Ministry](#)

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

[Images for congregations come to terms with their future](#)

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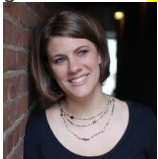
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[Searching for Sunday: Loving, Leaving, and Finding the Church by Rachel Held Evans \(Author\)](#)

From *New York Times* bestselling author Rachel Held Evans comes a book that is both a heartfelt ode to the past and hopeful gaze into the **future** of what it means to be a part of the Church.



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[Images for Searching for Sunday by Rachel Held Evans \(Author\)](#)

### Seeds for the Future: Growing Organic Leaders for Living Churches (TCP Leadership Series) by Robert Dale (Author)

After more than twenty years of leading and lecturing on leadership models based on a CEO approach to leadership, Robert Dale has taken a 180 degree turn. Rather than the “pry and push” mechanical models of industry, Dale has moved to an organic “sow and grow” approach. The issue, says Dale, is whether or not congregational leaders really believe the church of Jesus Christ is alive. If congregations are living communities, they deserve to be lead in ways that plant seeds of faith in good seedbeds and then cultivate the seeds that germinate until harvest. This very old (biblical) and very new (postmodern) way of conceptualizing leadership begins with growing leaders then moves to community health and growth. In *Seeds for the Future*, Robert Dale continually challenges church leaders to practice pastoral leadership in a new way. He uses examples and coaching conversations to weave three growth processes into a practice model for living churches: connecting, centering, and challenging. This new model becomes interlocking, ongoing processes for focusing living communities on growth and health.

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Images for Robert Dale (Author) seeds for the future

Images for *Seeds for the Future: Growing Organic Leaders for Living Churches (TCP Leadership Series) by Robert Dale (Author)*

### 7 habits of highly successful businesses—commentary

4. See the **future** now. Rather than simply keep pace with rivals, top innovators always **consider where the future is heading** and strive to put the solutions tomorrow's audiences will demand in place today.

<http://www.cnbc.com/id/102329997#>

Images for 7 habits of highly successful businesses—commentary 4. See the future now.

Images for **consider where the future is heading**

### [PDF] Talking Together as Christians Cross-Culturally - a Field Guide

This church, the ELCA, imagines for itself a more flourishing multicultural future, **a future for which it may now act in hope**. This field guide is offered as a means to help this church live into that future.

[http://download.elca.org/ELCA%20Resource%20Repository/Talking\\_Together\\_As\\_Christians\\_Cross\\_Culturally\\_A\\_Field\\_Guide.pdf](http://download.elca.org/ELCA%20Resource%20Repository/Talking_Together_As_Christians_Cross_Culturally_A_Field_Guide.pdf)

Images for future for which it may now act in hope

### 10 Predictions About the Future Church and Shifting Attendance Patterns - Carey Nieuwhof

I think the change we're seeing around us might one day be viewed on the same level as what happened to the church after Constantine's conversion or after the invention of the printing press. Whatever the change looks like when it's done, it will register as a seismic shift from what we've known.

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Images for 10 Predictions About the Future Church and Shifting Attendance Patterns - Carey Nieuwhof

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Images for carey nieuwhof (author)

#### [PDF]Ten Qualities of Self-Renewing Faculty. - POD Network

10. They are **future**-oriented.

Self-renewing faculty are future-oriented. They live conscious lives today, with intentionality for tomorrow. They formulate scenarios of the future and rehearse them until they are leading anticipatory lives, vitally connecting their current conditions to desired futures. They create the future in the very act of rehearsing it. They celebrate life - past present, and future. They rejoice.

<https://podnetwork.org/content/uploads/V4-N7-Hudson.pdf>

Images for Self-renewing faculty are future-oriented

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#### [PDF]The Big Learning Event - Margaret Wheatley

- The clarity that the world changes through local communities taking action—that there is no power for change greater than a community taking its **future** into its own hands.

<http://www.margaretwheatley.com/articles/Wheatley-The-Big-Learning-Event.pdf>

Images for community taking its future into its own hands

Images for Margaret Wheatley (author)

#### The Church in an Age of Crisis: 25 New Realities Facing Christianity [James Emery White]

Knowing the signs of the times, and how then to live as people of faith, has never been more pressing for the church. Though many of the signs are disturbing, we ignore them at our great peril. Combining the very best attributes of a biblical prophet and a modern-day reporter, James Emery White offers a look at twenty-five realities facing the church--in the areas of belief, culture, marriage and family, media and technology, and mission--and how they affect us as individuals and as a body of believers. Functioning as both a telescope and a microscope, this hard-hitting examination of the **future** of the church looks into the vastness of the world and into the minute recesses of our hearts. White calls on thoughtful readers to sharpen their spiritual drive and determination in order to meet the challenges of our day--and the future. He calls us to look beyond the daily conflicts in order to see the much larger war in which we are engaged, so that we might play our vital role in preserving and growing Christ's church in the coming age.

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Images for James Emery White, author

Images for The Church in an Age of Crisis: 25 New Realities Facing Christianity [James Emery White]

#### The Coming Church Revolution: Empowering Leaders for the Future [Warren Bird, Carl George]

Church growth leader Carl F. George shows how meta-church renewal empowers people for worship and ministry.

Prominent church consultant Carl F. George peers into the future of the church in the next century and proposes that the keys to growth and vitality lie in recognizing the power of relationships and in empowering leaders to exercise ministry gifts throughout the fabric of the church.



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Images for Carl George, author  
Images for The Coming Church Revolution: Empowering Leaders for the Future [Warren Bird, Carl George]

**The Community of the Future: The Drucker Foundation by Frances Hesselbein (Author), Richard Beckhard (Editor), Marshall Goldsmith (Editor), Richard F. Schubert (Editor)**

This third volume from the acclaimed Drucker Foundation Future Series focuses on the basis of society itself - the community. Featuring the examples of successful communities from New York City to Hawaii, The Community of the Future presents insights from Peter F. Drucker, Stephen R. Covey, Arun Gandhi, Elie Wiesel, James L. Barksdale, and many others. Their powerful essays explore what our communities will look like tomorrow - how we will live, work, communicate, educate our children, and govern ourselves.

This collection shows readers: How to recognize and anticipate the trends that transform society, The impact of new communications technology, including global and virtual communications, How to create organizational communities and communities in the workplace, How to envision and shape communities that will build values and embrace humanity.

From businesses, to communities of faith, to schools, to cyberspace - the gamut of human communities is explored by the world's foremost thinkers.

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Images for The Community of the Future: The Drucker Foundation by Frances Hesselbein (Author), Richard Beckhard (Editor), Marshall Goldsmith (Editor), Richard F. Schubert (Editor)

**The Leader of the Future: New Visions, Strategies and Practices for the Next Era [Frances Hesselbein, Marshall Goldsmith, Richard Beckhard]**

Discover what Stephen Covey, Ken Blanchard, Peter Senge, Rosabeth Moss Kanter, and other business-world luminaries have to say about the direction of leadership for the future. The Drucker Foundation brings together the best business minds in more than 30 never-before-published essays, each one offering a special perspective on leadership and a unique glimpse into the future.

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 Images for *The Leader of the Future: New Visions, Strategies and Practices for the Next Era* [Frances Hesselbein, Marshall Goldsmith, Richard Beckhard]

**The Organization of the Future (The Drucker Foundation) [Frances Hesselbein, Marshall Goldsmith, Richard Beckhard]**

What do employees expect from the organizations they support? How can organizations maintain stability in times of massive change? These are the questions modern organizations face as they struggle to grow and evolve. *The Organization of the Future* offers timeless responses from such leading authorities as Peter F. Drucker, C.K. Prahalad, Nathaniel Branden, Lewis E. Platt, Rosabeth Moss Kanter, Jay R. Galbraith, and Deepak Sethi. Their incisive essays reveal:

- \* How to build "know-how" and "know-who" to develop successful teams
- \* How to prepare for "breakdowns" and create the nimble, change-adept company
- \* How to attract, motivate, and retain the best employees
- \* How seven basic policies can lead to high performance and high self-esteem
- \* How to support work-life balance and provide flexibility for knowledge workers

Each essay provides observations that will help leaders in business, nonprofits, and government keep their organizations healthy, competitive, and poised for the future.

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Images for *The Organization of the Future (The Drucker Foundation)* [Frances Hesselbein, Marshall Goldsmith, Richard Beckhard]

**The End of Christendom and the Future of Christianity: [Douglas John Hall]**

The thesis of this book is that the Christian movement can indeed have a significant future - one that will be faithful to the original vision of the movement and of immense service to our beleaguered world. But to have that future, Christians will have to stop trying to have the kind of future that sixteen centuries of official Christianity in the Western World has conditioned them to covet. Douglas John Hall examines the decline and fall of Christendom and looks at ecclesiastical responses to the end of Christendom. He proposes that the churches make their disestablishment work for good and describes how the Christian movement might serve dominant societies, classes, and institutions in a post-Christian era.



<http://www.amazon.com/The-End-Christendom-Future-Christianity/dp/1579109845>  
[http://www.goodreads.com/book/show/197408.The\\_End\\_of\\_Christendom\\_and\\_the\\_Future\\_of\\_Christianity](http://www.goodreads.com/book/show/197408.The_End_of_Christendom_and_the_Future_of_Christianity)  
<http://bybergpreaching.org/blog/media-archive/byberg-2008/>  
[https://www.logos.com/images/PageScans/50057pages/001/50057\\_001\\_01.jpg](https://www.logos.com/images/PageScans/50057pages/001/50057_001_01.jpg)  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=us7HYOyFTJo> Interview with Douglas John Hall 0 - YouTube  
[https://books.google.com/books/about/The\\_End\\_of\\_Christendom\\_and\\_the\\_Future\\_of.html?id=RM1KAWAAQBAJ](https://books.google.com/books/about/The_End_of_Christendom_and_the_Future_of.html?id=RM1KAWAAQBAJ)  
[https://www.ptsem.edu/uploadedFiles/School\\_of\\_Christian\\_Vocation\\_and\\_Mission/Institute\\_for\\_Youth\\_Ministry/Princeton\\_Lectures/Hall-I-Where.pdf](https://www.ptsem.edu/uploadedFiles/School_of_Christian_Vocation_and_Mission/Institute_for_Youth_Ministry/Princeton_Lectures/Hall-I-Where.pdf)  
[https://digitalcommons.luthersem.edu/cgi/viewcontent.cgi?article=1015&context=mth\\_theses](https://digitalcommons.luthersem.edu/cgi/viewcontent.cgi?article=1015&context=mth_theses)  
<http://www2.ptsem.edu/uploadedFiles/IYM/YCCL/Hall-Finding.pdf>  
<http://mattcleaver.com/2009/05/27/book-review-the-end-of-christendom-and-the-future-of-christianity/>  
<http://mattcleaver.com/2009/05/23/douglas-john-hall-on-the-end-of-christendom/>  
[http://thecresset.org/2013/Easter/Lott\\_E3013.html](http://thecresset.org/2013/Easter/Lott_E3013.html)  
[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Douglas\\_John\\_Hall](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Douglas_John_Hall)

<http://www.augsburgfortress.org/media/downloads/9780800699864Intro.pdf>  
<https://homebrewedchristianity.com/2014/04/25/what-christianity-is-not-a-theology-of-the-cross-w-douglas-john-hall/>  
<https://muse.jhu.edu/book/27345>  
<http://www2.ptsem.edu/uploadedFiles/IYM/YCCL/Hall-Finding.pdf>  
[https://en.wikiquote.org/wiki/Douglas\\_John\\_Hall](https://en.wikiquote.org/wiki/Douglas_John_Hall)  
<http://www.religion-online.org/showbook.asp?title=415>  
<https://wipfandstock.com/author/view/detail/id/179488/>  
<https://www.amazon.com/Douglas-John-Hall/e/B001HOB7AK>  
[http://www.goodreads.com/author/show/115008.Douglas\\_John\\_Hall](http://www.goodreads.com/author/show/115008.Douglas_John_Hall)  
Images for Douglas John Hall, author  
Images for The End of Christendom and the Future of Christianity: [Douglas John Hall]

The End to 'Business as Usual'. By Tom Ehrich, part of the Vestry Papers issue on Healthy Practices (January 2011).

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

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

<http://www.ecfvp.org/vestrypapers/healthy-practices/the-end-to-business-as-usual/>  
Images for Vestry Papers - Healthy Practices - The End to Business as Usual - ECF Vital Practices

**The Extreme Future: The Top Trends That Will Reshape the World in the Next 20 Years [James Canton]**

A renowned global futurist prepares businesses and individuals for the radical changes on the horizon. An advisor to three presidents spanning over thirty years, Dr. James Canton identifies probable outcomes and future trends in business, technology, environment, terrorism, population, and medicine to help companies and individuals prepare for the coming complex and volatile global changes, including: How climate change and energy trends will reshape the planet, How astounding medicine trends will enhance people's lives, How the rise of China will bring on a new global power struggle.

In the tradition of *Future Shock*, *Megatrends*, and *The Tipping Point*, *Extreme Future* is the essential forecasting handbook for navigating the twenty-first century.

<http://www.amazon.com/The-Extreme-Future-Trends-Reshape/dp/B001OMHSWQ>  
[http://www.goodreads.com/book/show/122001.The\\_Extreme\\_Future](http://www.goodreads.com/book/show/122001.The_Extreme_Future)  
<https://www.barnesandnoble.com/w/the-extreme-future-james-canton/1112366521>  
[http://books.google.com/books/about/The\\_Extreme\\_Future.html?id=iYnwniwYg3kC](http://books.google.com/books/about/The_Extreme_Future.html?id=iYnwniwYg3kC)  
<http://www.globalfuturist.com/speaking-toolkit/introduction/dr-james-canton.html>  
<https://www.publishersweekly.com/978-0-525-94938-1> Nonfiction Book Review  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=amuDP9ErrfQ> A New Way To Think About Business - Dr. James Canton - Futurist and Global Business Speaker - YouTube  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Yq47WezaQt4> Are You Future Ready? - Dr. James Canton - Futurist & Global Business Keynote Speaker - YouTube  
[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Ya\\_uYIN6OH0](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Ya_uYIN6OH0) James Canton: Renowned Global Futurist, Author, Visionary Business Advisor, Keynote Speaker  
Images for Dr. James Canton - Futurist & Global Business Keynote Speaker - YouTube  
<http://www.slideshare.net/jcanton>  
[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/James\\_Canton](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/James_Canton)  
<https://www.linkedin.com/in/james-canton-8b46481>  
[https://twitter.com/futureguru?ref\\_src=twsrc%5Egoogle%7Ctwcamp%5Eserp%7Ctwgr%5Eauthor](https://twitter.com/futureguru?ref_src=twsrc%5Egoogle%7Ctwcamp%5Eserp%7Ctwgr%5Eauthor)  
<https://www.amazon.com/James-Canton/e/B001JSEEWQ>  
[http://www.goodreads.com/author/show/1001852.James\\_M\\_Canton](http://www.goodreads.com/author/show/1001852.James_M_Canton)  
Images for James Canton, author  
Images for The Extreme Future: The Top Trends That Will Reshape the World in the Next 20 Years [James Canton]

**The Forgotten Ways: Reactivating the Missional Church by Alan Hirsch (Author), Leonard Sweet (Foreword)**

Alan Hirsch is convinced that the inherited formulas for growing the Body of Christ do not work anymore. And rather than relying on slightly revised solutions from the past, he sees a vision of the **future** growth of the church coming about by harnessing the power of the early church--a movement which grew from as few as 25,000 adherents in AD 100 to up to 20 million 200 years later. Similar meteoric growth has also been recorded in history and is currently being in many apostolic movements throughout the world today. How do they do it?

*The Forgotten Ways* proposes the concept of Apostolic Genius as a way to understand what caused the church to experience exponential growth and impact at various times in history, interpreting it for use in our own time and place. From the theological underpinnings to the practical application, Hirsch takes the reader through this dynamic mixture of passion, prayer, and incarnational practice to rediscover the dormant potential of the modern church in the West.

<http://www.amazon.com/The-Forgotten-Ways-Reactivating-Missional/dp/1587431645>  
[http://www.goodreads.com/book/show/228276.The\\_Forgotten\\_Ways](http://www.goodreads.com/book/show/228276.The_Forgotten_Ways)  
[https://www.theforgottenways.org/uploads/what-is-apest-sidebar\\_7\\_0\\_1.pdf](https://www.theforgottenways.org/uploads/what-is-apest-sidebar_7_0_1.pdf)

<http://static1.squarespace.com/static/554a7768e4b089382ab85a49/t/55be207be4b0b7e05678d6a3/1438523515591/Hirsch+TFW+sample.pdf>  
<http://www.alisonmorgan.co.uk/Hirsch%2006.pdf>  
<https://www.cmaresources.org/files/ForgottenWaysHandbook-excerpt.pdf>  
<http://www.leavellcenter.com/resources/Forgotten%20Ways%20Book%20Review.pdf>  
<https://books.google.com/books?id=vrk-mFCRnV4C>  
[Images for The Forgotten Ways: Reactivating the Missional Church by Alan Hirsch \(Author\), Leonard Sweet \(Foreword\)](#)  
[Images for future growth of the church](#)

### The Future of Faith: Harvey Cox

Legendary Harvard religion scholar Harvey Cox offers up a new interpretation of the history and future of religion. Cox identifies three fundamental shifts over the last 2,000 years of church history:

The Age of Faith was when the early church was more concerned with following Jesus' teachings than enforcing what to believe about Jesus.

The Age of Belief marks a significant shift-between the fourth and twentieth centuries-when the church focused on orthodoxy and right beliefs.

The Age of the Spirit, that began in the 1960s and is shaping not just Christianity but other religious traditions today, is ignoring dogma and breaking down barriers between different religions. Spirituality is replacing formal religion.

Reflecting on how his own faith journey mirrors these three historical shifts, Cox personalizes the material in a compelling, practical ways. *The Future of Faith* is a major statement by one of the most revered theologians today.



<http://www.amazon.com/The-Future-Faith-Harvey-Cox/dp/0061755524>  
<http://www.goodreads.com/book/show/6789201-the-future-of-faith>  
<http://www.spiritualityandpractice.com/books/books.php?id=19287>  
[http://www.chaplaincyacademy.com/files/The%20Future%20of%20Faith%20\(Cox,%20Whelan\).pdf](http://www.chaplaincyacademy.com/files/The%20Future%20of%20Faith%20(Cox,%20Whelan).pdf)  
[http://adishakti.org/\\_book\\_review\\_future\\_of\\_faith\\_book.htm](http://adishakti.org/_book_review_future_of_faith_book.htm)  
[http://livingtheresurrection.typepad.com/resurrection\\_life/2009/12/the-future-of-faith-by-harvey-cox-a-book-review.html](http://livingtheresurrection.typepad.com/resurrection_life/2009/12/the-future-of-faith-by-harvey-cox-a-book-review.html)  
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<http://changelog.complete.org/archives/1337-review-the-future-of-faith-by-harvey-cox>  
<http://www.billdahl.net/book-reviews/the-future-of-faith-by-harvey-cox/>  
<http://growingupinfaith.blogspot.com/2009/10/future-of-faithin-review.html>  
<http://www.amazon.com/The-Future-Faith-Harvey-Cox/product-reviews/0061755524>  
<http://alex.huggett.me/2011/07/18/review-the-future-of-faith/>  
[http://www.goodreads.com/author/show/2051822.Harvey\\_Cox](http://www.goodreads.com/author/show/2051822.Harvey_Cox)  
[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Harvey\\_Cox](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Harvey_Cox)  
<http://hds.harvard.edu/people/harvey-g-cox>  
<https://www.amazon.com/Future-Faith-Harvey-Cox/dp/0061755532>  
[http://www.goodreads.com/author/show/2051822.Harvey\\_Cox](http://www.goodreads.com/author/show/2051822.Harvey_Cox)  
[Images for Harvey Cox, author](#)  
[Images for Future of Faith: Harvey Cox](#)

### The Future of Ministry » Alban

In any congregation wanting to look at larger patterns, leaders should work with the whole congregation and identify their own unique "balcony" issues. Yet, the following topics will serve as a starting place for those who wish to start the work:

#### Alban at Duke Divinity School » The Future of Ministry

<https://alban.org/archive/the-future-of-ministry/>  
[Images for Future of Ministry » Alban](#)  
<http://www.amazon.com/The-Once-Future-Church-Congregation/dp/1566990505>  
<http://www.amazon.com/The-Practicing-Congregation-Imagining-Church/dp/1566993059>  
<http://www.amazon.com/The-Postmodern-Parish-New-Ministry/dp/156699280X>  
<https://alban.org/archive/the-leading-edge-leadership-for-a-new-religious-america/>  
[Images for Leading for a New Religious America](#)  
<https://alban.org/archive/leading-for-the-future/>  
[Images for Leading for the Future](#)  
<https://albanroundtable.wordpress.com/2009/08/17/resources-for-developing-the-capacity-to-attach-anew/>  
<https://alban.org/archive/plans-prayers-and-possibilities/>  
<http://www.amazon.com/Humble-Leadership-Being-Radically-Guidance/dp/1566993369>

Images for Plans, Prayers, and Possibilities

<https://alban.org/archive/ten-assumptions-of-appreciative-inquiry/>

<https://alban.org/archive/does-your-congregation-have-a-new-years-resolution/>

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

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

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

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

### The Future of Our Church — Jeremy Height: Living Glocally.

Patience on God. Trust in the power of the Holy Spirit. Habits that were Christ-like and Christ-glorifying.

Those were some of the key markers of the early Church.

And maybe, just maybe, as we seek to avoid doing what has always been done - and dying in the process - we can recover that patient, trust-filled, Christ-like life as the followers of Jesus Christ.

<http://jeremyheight.com/blog/future-of-the-church>

Images for The Future of Our Church — Jeremy Height: Living Glocally.

### The Future of the Church - Francis Chan - YouTube

Whenever we use cleverness to reach this generation aside from prayer, fasting, the Word of God, and the Spirit-filled person, we can actually diminish the cross of its power. #FrancisChan #Millennial #Futureofthechurch

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=50SHZRyEckE>

Images for The Future of the Church - Francis Chan - YouTube

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=V1by0TRhG0s> The Shocking Truth about the Future of the Church-Francis Chan – YouTube

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=C5LAL7FK7\\_g](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=C5LAL7FK7_g) POLITICS AND FUTURE CHURCH – Francis Chan - YouTube

### The Future Starts Now: The Renewable Organization for Faith-Based Groups by various authors (Author)

*The Future Starts Here Now* is produced by A Renewal Enterprise (ARE) out of Minneapolis and is part of the The Renewable Organization Series seeking to help congregations move from a “consumer” to “renewable” model of being church. ARE represents a group of persons whose stated interest is in working with “progressive and mainline” churches.

Their primary reason for producing this material is to address the “resource dependency” approach to being church (consumerism) where church seeks “to acquire “inputs” (e.g. people, dollars) from the environment in order to produce more goods and services (“outputs”) than the church down the street – in order to survive. Resources are seen as objects to “grow” the kingdom.”

In response, they seek to set forth a “renewable” approach or process that focuses on three principles: be who you are, see what you have, and do what matters.

The authors describe their approach as “post-modern” and post-missional,” suggesting that much of the missional conversation today is still objectifying the world (Craig Van Gelder) rather than viewing the world as the arena of God’s activity. Whether intentional or not, this interpretation becomes a reflection of their theology. God’s mission is defined as “to reconcile the whole creation and set people free.” Sounds good, and they even use Scripture as a reference point, but then launch into what sometimes sounds like a New Age mantra: Unleash the Power within You.

The “renewable” process they describe is complex and involves seven renewable practices that are basic community development ideas; a PAWN process for defining strategic purpose and action (although they seem to oppose strategic planning and visioning); and a complex 4-D Cycle for planning and taking action that may work if you can dance the tango.

I think this approach would appeal to our left leaning brothers and sisters who embrace the community development model to being church. It does encourage the church to get into the world where God is, seeks to empower people and offers some helpful pointers for all leaders (e.g. asking purposeful questions, taking place seriously...). It may fall into the category of “post-modern, but it certainly is not post-missional. It appears to be another attempt to “reform” (Van Gelder) the existing church model rather than an experiment at “forming” (Van Gelder) something new.

[https://arenewalenterprise.3dcartstores.com/The-Future-Starts-Now-The-Renewable-Organization-for-Faith-Based-Groups\\_p\\_4.html](https://arenewalenterprise.3dcartstores.com/The-Future-Starts-Now-The-Renewable-Organization-for-Faith-Based-Groups_p_4.html)

[http://books.google.com/books/about/The\\_Future\\_Starts\\_Now.html?id=DoSQQAACAJ](http://books.google.com/books/about/The_Future_Starts_Now.html?id=DoSQQAACAJ)

<http://pubpastor.blogspot.com/p/emerging-missional-links.html>

Images for The Future Starts Now: The Renewable Organization for Faith-Based Groups

Images for Renewable Organization Series

### The Future that has Come: The Possibilities for Reaching and Growing the Grassroots by Kennon L. Callahan

In *The Future That Has Come*, Kennon L. Callahan confirms the seven major paradigm shifts that have happened in recent years and the new possibilities that are now open for local congregations. He confirms that the future of the Christian Movement is in reaching and growing the grassroots vast movement of grassroots groupings that are consciously, actively, and happily strong in their dedication to advancing God’s mission.

Throughout this book, Dr. Callahan discusses the distinctive qualities of the grassroots movement, confirms the motivations that genuinely reach people, explores the new world-view that has emerged, examines the cultural shift to an excellent sprinter culture, and shares the nature of mission for our time. He offers practical suggestions for growing the grassroots and shares possibilities for growing creativity and objectives, and building a focus on the whole of life. In the midst of these helpful suggestions, he discusses the future of congregations, and much more.

This wise book offers clear insights on the rich possibilities for the present and the future and encourages grassroots persons to develop a healthy, constructive approach to their mission together.

<https://www.amazon.com/Future-that-has-Come-Possibilities/dp/0787949817>



<https://www.facebook.com/pages/The-Future-That-Has-Come-New-Possibilities-for-Reaching-and-Growing-the-Grassroots/333613826753236>

<https://www.thriftbooks.com/a/kennon-l-callahan/298613/>

<https://www.encyclopedia.com/arts/educational-magazines/callahan-kennon-l>

<https://www.amazon.com/Kennon-L.-Callahan/e/B001HCZUYG>

[http://www.goodreads.com/author/show/156195.Kennon\\_L\\_Callahan](http://www.goodreads.com/author/show/156195.Kennon_L_Callahan)

[Images for kennon l. callahan, author](#)

[Images for The Future that has Come: The Possibilities for Reaching and Growing the Grassroots by Kennon L. Callahan](#)

### 'The NeXt Church' | The Lutheran

The most asked question in my early visits with congregations tends to center around the **future**. While I'm not a time traveler, I do have some guesses. I confess some help from our friends across the pond.

The churches of the United Kingdom, aka Great Britain, have faced the changing landscape for some time. Their website contains a number of stories worth reading. Maybe a field trip to learn from the people at **Fresh Expressions** (<http://www.freshexpressions.org.uk/stories>) is in order? I spent some time this summer digesting what the Brits are doing and brainstormed some possibilities for us in New England:

[http://www.thelutheran.org/article/article.cfm?article\\_id=11044](http://www.thelutheran.org/article/article.cfm?article_id=11044)

[Images for 'The NeXt Church' | The Lutheran](#)

### The #1 reason pastors burn out and how you can avoid it – Margaret Marcuson

4. Let your church's **future** be its responsibility.

<http://margaretmarcuson.com/pastors-burnout/>

[Images for Let your church's future be its responsibility](#)

### The Once and Future Pastor: The Changing Role of Religious Leaders (Once and Future Church Series) by William Chris Hobgood (Author)

Hobgood examines new pressures on clergy that are emerging in the "post-Christendom era:" financial stresses; the effects of a conflicted and confrontational culture; the needs of an increasing number of people living broken or dependent lives; dysfunctional behavior on the part of pastors and parishioners; questions regarding clergy respect and job satisfaction. How is ministry being affected by these changes? What skills will clergy need as they enter the new century? An invaluable resource thoroughly grounded in research and full of practical observations for clergy, judicatory executives, seminary professors, and long-range planners.



<https://www.amazon.com/Once-Future-Pastor-Changing-Religious/dp/1566992001>

<http://www.goodreads.com/book/show/4677671-the-once-and-future-pastor>

<http://www.chalicepress.com/Author.aspx?AuthorID=206>

<http://www.minnesotavalleys.org/Resource%20Center.html>

<https://www.amazon.com/William-Chris-Hobgood/e/B001K8HEFU>

[https://www.goodreads.com/author/show/1664412.William\\_Chris\\_Hobgood](https://www.goodreads.com/author/show/1664412.William_Chris_Hobgood)

[Images for William Chris Hobgood \(Author\)](#)

[Images for The Once and Future Pastor: The Changing Role of Religious Leaders \(Once and Future Church Series\) by William Chris Hobgood \(Author\)](#)

[Images for Once and Future Church Series](#)

### The Power of Great Questions

The appreciative approach of asking what is working and what would "more" look like continually moves people into a realistic and empowered hope for a better **future**. As Cooperrider has also said: "we need to inquire into and discover the root cause of success rather than the root cause of failure." When confronting a problem, we need to get clear on what a successful outcome would be and then explore what resources we need to achieve it, rather than focus on why we can't achieve the goal.

Here are some of my favorite questions:

What is it that you really, love to do?

What would happen to your life if you got to do more of what you really love to do?

What do you need in order to do more of what you love?

### Appreciative Inquiry Tips - Clergy Leadership Institute

<http://www.clergyleadership.com/appreciative-inquiry/appreciative-way-tips.cfm>

[Images for Power of Great Questions](#)

[Images for empowered hope for a better future](#)

### The Present Future: Six Tough Questions for the Church [Reggie McNeal]

In this provocative book, author, consultant, and church leadership developer Reggie McNeal debunks these and other old assumptions and provides an overall strategy to help church leaders move forward in an entirely different and much more effective way. In *The Present Future*, McNeal identifies the six most important realities that church leaders must address including: recapturing the spirit of Christianity and replacing “church growth” with a wider vision of kingdom growth; developing disciples instead of church members; fostering the rise of a new apostolic leadership; focusing on spiritual formation rather than church programs; and shifting from prediction and planning to preparation for the challenges of an uncertain world. McNeal contends that by changing the questions church leaders ask themselves about their congregations and their plans, they can frame the core issues and approach the future with new eyes, new purpose, and new ideas.

<http://www.amazon.com/Present-Future-Questions-Jossey-Bass-Leadership/dp/047045315X>  
<http://books.google.com/books?id=2sGyKJ76ku4C&printsec=frontcover#v=onepage&q&f=false>  
<http://www.thinkingchristian.net/posts/2008/08/the-present-future/>  
<http://jphilwilson.blogspot.com/2006/05/present-future-six-tough-questions-for.html>  
<http://leadnet.org/staff/reggie-mcneal/>  
<http://www.reggiemcneal.org/>  
<https://www.tyndale.com/authors/reggie-mcneal/2890>  
<https://www.amazon.com/Reggie-McNeal/e/B001JS0G5Q>  
[https://www.goodreads.com/author/list/147122.Reggie\\_McNeal](https://www.goodreads.com/author/list/147122.Reggie_McNeal)  
[Images for reggie mcneal author](#)  
[Images for The Present Future: Six Tough Questions for the Church \[Reggie McNeal\]](#)

### The Visionary Leader Talk – Luther Seminary

The visionary talk tells people about the past, present, and **future** of the organization, with emotion. It must clearly convey “the gap” between where your organization is now and where you need to go in order to fulfill the next phase of your mission.

<https://www.luthersem.edu/stewardship/default.aspx?m=6667&post=3819>  
[Images for Visionary Leader Talk – Luther Seminary](#)  
[Images for past, present, and future of the congregation](#)

### Thinking in the Future Tense [Jennifer James]

American business, economics, and society are changing at the speed of light. On the eve of the twenty-first century, the pressure is on, and leaders need to learn faster, think smarter, and free themselves from confining assumptions and old mindsets. In *Thinking in the Future Tense*, bestselling author and business lecturer Jennifer James offers a dynamic new way of achieving these goals, explaining how to master new business trends, products, and services by identifying, interpreting, and exploiting change. This book's practical - and sometimes surprising - insights into this process include: \* We are not just developing new technological skills, we are evolving new personalities and, ultimately, new characters. \* The traditional old-boy “lodge” organizations with bureaucratic mindsets are cracking. James reveals who is falling apart and why, and describes the entrepreneurs and organizations of the future. \* Managers whose perceptions are clouded by nostalgia make hiring, firing, evaluation, and conflict-resolution errors that cost them precious time, money, and goodwill. What it all comes down to, James explains, is the ability to think on the edge of the culture. As witty and intellectually exciting as it is practical, *Thinking in the Future Tense* tells managers how to seize and maintain the competitive edge in time to help their companies - and keep their jobs.

<http://www.barnesandnoble.com/w/thinking-in-the-future-tense-jennifer-james/1100626302>  
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[Images for jennifer james author thinking in the future tense](#)  
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### Three Questions Help Churches Navigate Anxious Times – EthicsDaily

I often ask congregations three questions. Eleven words. How you answer is critical to your **future**:

Who are you?

Why are you here?

Where are you going?

<http://www.ethicsdaily.com/three-questions-help-churches-navigate-anxious-times-cms-18376>

[Images for Three Questions Help Churches Navigate Anxious Times – EthicsDaily](#)

[Images for I often ask congregations three questions: Who are you? Why are you here? Where are you going?](#)

### Turning to One Another: Simple Conversations to Restore Hope to the Future by Margaret J. Wheatley (Author)

"I believe we can change the world if we start talking to one another again."

With this simple declaration, Margaret Wheatley proposes that people band together with their colleagues and friends to create the solutions for real social change, both locally and globally, that are so badly needed. Such change will not come from governments or corporations, she argues, but from the ageless process of thinking together in conversation.

*Turning to One Another* encourages this process. Part I explores the power of conversation and the conditions—simplicity, personal courage, real listening, and diversity—that support it. Part II contains quotes and images to encourage the reader to pause and reflect, and to prepare for the work ahead—convening truly meaningful conversations. Part III provides twelve conversation starters—questions that in Wheatley's experience have led people to share their deepest beliefs, fears, and hopes.



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

[Images for Turning to One Another: Simple Conversations to Restore Hope to the Future by Margaret J. Wheatley \(Author\)](#)

### Two Futures by Nathan Aaseng – Craft of Preaching - Working Preacher

While on vacation in the Canadian Maritime provinces and New England this past month, I saw **two visions of the future church**.

<https://www.workingpreacher.org/craft.aspx?m=4377&post=4687>

[Images for Two Visions of the Future Church by Nathan Aaseng – Craft of Preaching - Working Preacher](#)

### [PDF] Vision, Mission, and Covenant: Congregations Creating a Future Together

Foreword

Who are we, as individual Unitarian Universalist congregations? Who are you, within your own community when you gather on Sunday morning or Saturday afternoon, or Wednesday night, or any of the other times that you gather? Who are you, as a religious community? These are the questions that a vision, mission, and covenant process will help you ask, answer, and articulate in a positive way.

<https://www.uua.org/documents/congservices/visionmissioncovenant.pdf>

[Images for Vision, Mission, and Covenant Congregations Creating a Future Together](#)

### 'We're here to stay': A church faces the future by going back to 'the neighborhood' | The Lutheran

Between spoonfuls of soup, William explains to a professional in a button-down shirt how difficult it is to live on \$539 a month when rent is \$400. Across the table, Edith says she feels lucky to rent a room with a kitchenette for \$70 a week. The two are regulars at a Wednesday community supper at Grace Lutheran Church, Lancaster, Pa., where feeding the hungry is only one objective. For Grace, mission in the new century begins by reconnecting with a neighborhood that has deteriorated in the last 30 years as the 126-year-old church stayed middle-class.

[The Lutheran | January 2001 Issue](#)

<http://www.thelutheran.org/article/issue.cfm?issue=25>

[Images for 'We're here to stay': A church faces the future by going back to 'the neighborhood' | The Lutheran](#)

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

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Images for Jeremiah's Letter to the Exiles in Babylon

Images for plans for your welfare and not for harm, to give you a future with hope

## What Type of Future Are We Building? – The Parish Paper (March 2012)

Three churches: totally different, yet identical! The three churches are miles apart geographically. They are oceans apart in other ways. Each church serves a radically different kind of community. Their members have dissimilar backgrounds and life experiences. Yet the three churches are identical in one way! Their lay leaders made big sacrifices to protect them from sliding into a negative future when they began serving a new generation.

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<http://winnebago-presbytery.org/wp-content/uploads/2007/11/P.P.-3-2012-What-Type-of-Future-Are-We-Building.pdf>

<http://www.wisconsinumc.org/connections/conference-news/the-parish-paper> March 2012 - "What Type of Future Are We Building?"

Images for What Type of Future Are We Building? – The Parish Paper

<https://www.theparishpaper.com/back-issue-index> Back Issue Index | The Parish Paper

## Your Leadership Legacy: Why Looking Toward the Future Will Make You a Better Leader Today [Robert M. Galford, Regina Fazio Maruca]

You should worry about your legacy later in your career, at the edge of retirement—right? Not according to Robert Galford and Regina Maruca. In *Your Leadership Legacy*, these authors argue that thinking about your legacy now makes you a better leader today. Based on stories of top leaders who have shaped successful careers, the book explores the art of “legacy thinking,” helping you to formulate a legacy that will exert a positive effect on your work immediately. The authors provide a disciplined approach to framing your legacy, as well as shaping it over time. They start with the idea that your legacy is defined by how others approach work and life as a result of having worked with you. They then demonstrate how to assess your current impact on those around you, strengthen that impact, and pass along the best of yourself in the process. While many leaders “find themselves” and hone their work accordingly only after a major life crisis, *Your Leadership Legacy* enables all leaders to craft their work and build their legacy unburdened by such crises, and to experience personal satisfaction and achievement throughout their working lives.

<http://www.amazon.com/Your-Leadership-Legacy-Looking-Toward/dp/1591396174>

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Your Leadership Legacy: Why Looking Toward the Future Will Make You a Better Leader Today

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Images for robert m. galford and regina fazio maruca

Images for Your Leadership Legacy: Why Looking Toward the Future Will Make You a Better Leader Today [Robert M. Galford, Regina Fazio Maruca]