

Interim Ministry Resources

Chapter 15 Mission

Contents 1
Resources (4) 2

#	Page	Topic
1)	2	Assimilate
2)	3	Baby Boomers
3)	5	Cell Group Congregation
4)	12	Children
5)	12	Church
6)	15	Church Growth
7)	33	Church Shopper
8)	33	Community
9)	36	Community Ministry
10)	37	Community Organizing
11)	39	Congregation
12)	42	Context
13)	43	Conversation
14)	45	Conversion
15)	47	Denomination

Resources

1) Assimilate

A Four-Step Process to Assimilate People in Church | Paul Chappell

A dream without a plan is a wish.

So, as a pastor or local church ministry leader, it's not enough to simply have a *dream* to make a big impact for Christ in your community and to see many people come to Christ. You need a developed plan.

<https://paulchappell.com/2017/06/30/a-four-step-process-to-assimilate-people-in-a-church/>

Images for A Four-Step Process to Assimilate People in Church | Paul Chappell

<http://digitalcommons.liberty.edu/cgi/viewcontent.cgi?article=1408&context=doctoral> [PDF] Designing a Program for the Assimilation of New Members into the Life and Ministry of the Local Church

<http://www.christianpost.com/news/develop-a-plan-to-assimilate-members-14079/> Develop a Plan to Assimilate Members

Images for Assimilation Ministry images on Pinterest

www.churchgrowth.net/seminars/WTF-N1.ppt [PPT] How to Assimilate Newcomers into Your Church – Church Growth

Images for Assimilate Newcomers into Your Church – Church Growth

http://www.ngumc.org/files/fileslibrary/boardoflaity/summary_and_detail_report.pdf [PDF] New Member Retention and Assimilation

Images for New Member Retention and Assimilation

<https://garyrohrmayer.typepad.com/files/assimilation-report.pdf>

Images for Assimilating New People into the Church

How to Build Assimilation Bridges for New Members/Attendees – Parish Paper

I. The Architecture of New Member/Attendee Assimilation	Page 2
Removing the Barbed Wire	Page 2
Drawing the Blueprint	Page 3
Constructing an Assimilation-Effective Church	Page 3
When Do Newcomers Assimilate?	Page 5
When Do New Members Drop Out?	Page 5
How Does Assimilation Happen?	Page 5
II. Bridges to Group Involvement	Page 6
Church Age Factors	Page 7
Church Size Factors	Page 7
Groups that Facilitate Assimilation	Page 8
How to Involve Newcomers in Groups	Page 8
Cell Groups	Page 9
III. Bridges to Friends	Page 10
How to Facilitate Friendships	Page 11
New Member Classes	Page 11
What Counts most	Page 11
IV. Bridges to Ministry Roles and Responsibilities	Page 12
Six Crucial Questions	Page 12
The New Member Interview	Page 13
Achieving Accountability for Results	Page 14
Birth Date Behaviors	Page 15
Numerous Entry-Level Positions	Page 15
Financial Stewardship	Page 16
Leadership Roles	page 16
V. Bridges to Spiritual Growth Experiences	Page 17
The Church's Central Goal	Page 17
A Poor Track Record	Page 17
What Is Spiritual Growth?	Page 17
What Causes Spiritual Growth?	Page 18
Small Group Methods	Page 18
Do We Elevate People?	Page 19

[PDF]Church Effective Nugget, Volume 7: How to Build Assimilation Bridges for New Members/Attendees

<https://www.theparishpaper.com/sites/default/files/resources/Church%20Effectiveness%20Nuggets-%20Volume%207.pdf>

Images for How to Build Assimilation Bridges for New Members/Attendees – Parish Paper

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

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

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

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

6 Ways to Evaluate Your Church's Strategy to Assimilate New Believers – ThomRainer.com

Taking these steps will require some work, but no church should be pleased when new believers disappear.

<http://thomrainer.com/2014/01/6-ways-to-evaluate-your-churchs-strategy-to-assimilate-new-believers/>

[Images for 6 Ways to Evaluate Your Church's Strategy to Assimilate New Believers – ThomRainer.com](https://thomrainer.com/2014/01/6-ways-to-evaluate-your-churchs-strategy-to-assimilate-new-believers/assimilation-rectangle/)

<https://thomrainer.com/2014/01/6-ways-to-evaluate-your-churchs-strategy-to-assimilate-new-believers/assimilation-rectangle/>
<https://www.pinterest.com/pin/427912402071355090/> 6 Ways to Evaluate Your Church's Strategy to Assimilate New Believers

<http://thomrainer.com/2014/03/seven-ways-to-help-new-members-stick/>

<http://thomrainer.com/2016/08/healthy-churches-will-look-like-10-years-rainer-leadership-252/>

<http://thomrainer.com/2011/10/closing-the-back-door-in-churches-four-keys/>

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<https://thomrainer.com/2018/12/the-five-most-common-ways-churches-guide-new-believers/>

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<https://thomrainer.com/2019/01/six-reasons-your-new-member-class-is-not-effective/>

#2

<http://thomrainer.com/category/guests/assimilation/>

<http://www.christianitytoday.com/pastors/2007/july-online-only/012705.html> Four Principles to Membership Retention | CT Pastors

<https://www.amazon.com/High-Expectations-Remarkable-Secret-Keeping/dp/0805412662>

<http://www.lifeway.com/womensministry/2014/01/27/5-ways-to-evaluate-your-strategy-to-assimilate-new-believers/>

<http://chucklawless.com/2016/04/9-trends-in-church-membership-and-assimilation-processes/>

<http://www.joshhunt.com/highexpectations.htm>

<https://www.churchgrowth.org/thom-rainer/>

Images for thom rainer (author)

2) Baby Boomers

Baby Boomers and Beyond: Tapping the Ministry Talents and Passions of Adults Over Fifty by Amy Hanson (Author)

How ministry leaders can help older adults be a vital part of Christian community

With the explosion of the older adult population, this important book explores the opportunities and challenges that this presents for the Christian community. Amy Hanson challenges us to let go of many old stereotypes regarding aging and embrace a new paradigm that sees older adults as active, healthy and capable of making significant contributions.

- Debunks the myths of aging that keep us from fully embracing the potential of people in life's second half
- Offers suggestions on how to re-invent ministry with older adults
- Focuses on unleashing older adults to serve and make an impact on churches and congregations
- A volume in the Leadership Network series

The author shows church leaders how they can unleash the power of the baby boomer population to strengthen their congregations.



<https://www.amazon.com/Baby-Boomers-Beyond-Ministry-Passions/dp/0470500794>

<https://www.goodreads.com/book/show/16465727-baby-boomers-and-beyond>

<https://www.wiley.com/en-us/Baby+Boomers+and+Beyond%3A+Tapping+the+Ministry+Talents+and+Passions+of+Adults+over+50-p-9780470500798>

<https://www.christianbook.com/boomers-tapping-ministry-talents-passions-adults/amy-hanson/9780470500798/pd/500794>

<https://www.barnesandnoble.com/w/baby-boomers-and-beyond-amy-hanson/1100296564>

https://books.google.com/books/about/Baby_Boomers_and_Beyond.html?id=CeBOqD_A-DgC

<https://denverinstitute.org/amy-hanson-on-baby-boomers-and-beyond/>

<https://covbooks.com/collections/crescendo-resources/products/baby-boomers-and-beyond-tapping-the-ministry-talents-and-passions-of-adults-over-50-leadership-networks>

<https://www.lifeway.com/en/product/baby-boomers-and-beyond-tapping-the-ministry-talents-and-passions-of-adults-over-50-P005332200>

<https://www.baptiststandard.com/news/faith-culture/churches-need-to-rethink-service-options-for-aging-boomers/>

<https://thecrg.org/resources/baby-boomers-and-beyond-tapping-the-ministry-talents-and-passion-of-adults-over-50>

<https://static1.squarespace.com/static/54359e01e4b0f271f6e89590/t/585aac182e69cf2bd551677a/1482337305456/Baby+Boomer+Resources.pdf>

<https://www.amazon.com/Amy-Hanson/e/B003AW4ZEM>

https://www.goodreads.com/author/show/30027.Amy_Hanson

Images for Amy Hanson, author Baby Boomers and Beyond

Images for Baby Boomers and Beyond: Tapping the Ministry Talents and Passions of Adults Over Fifty by Amy Hanson (Author)

Baby boomers: Where are they? In transition and looking for something real – The Lutheran

At a time when youth and family ministry is seen as the antidote to dwindling church rolls, baby boomers are often overlooked as a segment for targeted ministry. Heatherly points to the boomers at Joy: they craved fellowship with their peers and yearned for candid discussion about their unique time-of-life issues, which range from rebellious teens to retirement savings.

http://www.thelutheran.org/article/article.cfm?article_id=7046

[Images for Baby boomers: Where are they? In transition and looking for something real – The Lutheran](https://www.livinglutheran.org/contact-us/)

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

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

Boomers, Millennials, and the Growing Tension: Nine Lessons in Generation Dynamics

The Scriptures have much to say about generations, but one place where the generational air is particularly thick is in the Pastoral Epistles (1 and 2 Timothy and Titus). Here, Paul (our Boomer counterpart) is nearing the end of his life and passing the gospel baton to his spiritual progeny in Timothy and Titus (our Millennials). It's especially acute in 2 Timothy, as Paul senses himself on death's doorstep.

Here are nine lessons in generational dynamics gleaned from the Pastoral Epistles:

<http://www.desiringgod.org/blog/posts/boomers-millennials-and-the-growing-tension-nine-lessons-in-generational-dynamics>

[Images for Boomers, Millennials, and the Growing Tension: Nine Lessons in Generation Dynamics](#)

Five Implications for Churches as the Boomers Retire - ThomRainer.com

There are very few churches that will not feel the impact of the retiring Boomers.

<https://thomrainer.com/2014/05/five-implications-churches-boomers-retire/>

[Images for Five Implications for Churches as the Boomers Retire - ThomRainer.com](#)

<https://thomrainer.com/2017/12/four-considerations-baby-boomer-pastors/>

<https://thomrainer.com/2013/01/last-chances-for-churches-to-reach-50-million-americans/>

<https://thomrainer.com/2014/03/eight-implications-of-aging-boomer-pastors-and-church-staff/>

<https://thomrainer.com/2018/07/baby-boomers-returning-church/>

<https://thomrainer.com/2019/06/six-reasons-why-churches-should-not-abandon-the-boomer-generation-rainer-on-leadership-545/>

<https://thomrainer.com/category/generations/boomers/>

<https://thomrainer.com/category/generations/>

<https://churchexecutive.com/archives/the-big-baby-boomer-opportunity>

<https://static1.squarespace.com/static/54359e01e4b0f271f6e89590/t/585aac182e69cf2bd551677a/1482337305456/Baby+Boomer+Resources.pdf>

<http://pastors.com/boomers-dont-do-senior-adult-shift-to-mentoring/>

<https://boomerality.files.wordpress.com/2018/10/08713-babyboomerresources.pdf>

<https://outreachmagazine.com/author/thom-rainer/page/4>

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

How Churches Can Reach out to Baby Boomers

In the year that I have worked on the material for this book, I have had many long talks with pastors and church workers about my thoughts on baby boomers. The importance of churches understanding the baby boomers keeps popping up, so I felt it helpful to add these thoughts on how churches can reach out to the baby-boom bulge. These thoughts are directed especially at those of you who work in Christian organizations and churches on either a lay or professional level.

[Help! I'm a Baby Boomer - Epilogue - Hans Finzel](#)

<http://www.ccel.us/hans.epi.html>

[Images for Churches Reach out to Baby Boomers](#)

<https://missionnorthwest.org/s/Baby-Boomer-Resources.pdf>

Report Challenges Current Assumptions about the Baby Boom Generation

Despite everything written and broadcast about Baby Boomers, one major fact has been overlooked by experts and the media:

Nearly 75 percent, or about 57 million Boomers, come from economically poor, working class or small family-owned business roots.

ReFirement Research

<http://www.refirement.com/Pages/ResearchPage.html>

[Images for Baby Boom Generation](#)

What Should The Church Do With Boomers? - Maurilio Amorim

So, my counsel to the church that wants to reach out to Boomers: don't give a building to fund. Give us a passion to pursue. Yes, you'll get the building thrown in with everything else that comes from being fully engaged in ministry. A seat on the board is great, and you probably need our experience and wisdom, but a piece of our heart is so much better.

<http://www.maurilioamorim.com/2011/01/what-should-the-church-do-with-boomers/>

[Images for What Should The Church Do With Boomers? - Maurilio Amorim](#)

<https://www.agroup.com/blog/what-should-the-church-do-with-boomers/>

<https://www.aarp.org/personal-growth/spirituality-faith/info-04-2011/churches-reach-out-to-boomers.html>

<http://www.ministrymatters.com/all/entry/727/those-elusive-baby-boomers>

https://qbod-assets.s3.amazonaws.com/legacy/kintera-files/older-adult-pdf/SAGE_FALL2016WEB.pdf

<https://www.pinterest.com/navboomermedia/reach-baby-boomers/>

Why Am I Back in Church? - The New York Times

Academics and pastors alike have long known that as people get older, they tend to become more religious, and it turns out that **boomers** are no exception. A **survey** conducted by Gallup in 2010 found that people ages 50 to 64 were more likely to say they

frequently went to church, temple or mosque than those 18 to 29 did. The figures were 43 percent versus 35 percent, and for the group containing the oldest segment of the baby boom population – 65 and up – the figure was 53 percent.

<https://www.nytimes.com/2012/10/04/booming/04question-booming.html>

[Images for Why Am I Back in Church? - The New York Times](#)

<https://www.nytimes.com/2018/03/25/opinion/easter-church-faith.html>

<https://www.nytimes.com/2013/04/21/opinion/sunday/luhmann-why-going-to-church-is-good-for-you.html>

<https://www.nytimes.com/2018/04/16/opinion/church-jimmy-carter.html>

<https://www.nytimes.com/2017/04/15/opinion/sunday/save-the-mainline.html>

<https://www.nytimes.com/2017/08/01/opinion/drive-in-church-florida.html>

3) Cell Group Congregation

Biblical Foundations for the Cell-Based Church by Joel Comiskey (Author)

Why cell church? Is it because David Cho's church is a cell church and happens to be the largest church in the history of Christianity? Is it because cell church is the strategy that many "great" churches are using?

Ralph Neighbour repeatedly says, "Theology must breed methodology." Joel Comiskey has arrived at the same conclusion. Biblical truth is the only firm foundation for anything we do. Without a biblical base, we don't have a strong under-pinning upon which we can hang our ministry and philosophy. We can plod through most anything when we know that God is stirring us to behave biblically.

In the first section of this book, Comiskey establishes why the Bible is the only true foundation for small group ministry. He then looks at how the Trinity is our example for community. He covers the family in the Old Testament and how the most prominent image of the church is God's family. He then explore how Jesus called out a new family and utilized houses to establish this new family.

In section two, Comiskey explains why and how the early church met in homes and gathered those house churches together to celebrate. He discusses relational evangelism, and how leaders developed naturally through the house church strategy.

In the third section, the author applies the theology of the first two sections to the church today, attempting to give practical examples about how the New Testament Church can inform and instruct the 21st Century Church today.



<http://www.amazon.com/Biblical-Foundations-Cell-Based-Church-Comiskey-ebook/dp/B009XN0IKC>

<http://www.goodreads.com/book/show/19246013-biblical-foundations-for-the-cell-based-church>

<https://books.google.com/books?isbn=0984311033>

https://books.google.com/books/about/Biblical_Foundations_for_the_Cell_Based.html?id=tFLKbPDUdFOC

<http://joelcomiskeygroup.com/articles/churchLeaders/cellreadinglistbibliography.htm>

https://joelcomiskeygroup.com/en/resources/books_recommended/

https://joelcomiskeygroup.com/en/resources/cell_basics/

<http://www.markhowelllive.com/biblical-foundations-for-the-cell-based-church/>

<https://core.ac.uk/download/pdf/58827092.pdf>

Page 151

<http://www.comiskey.org/family/resume.html>

<http://www.touchusa.org/Web/Articles/pdf/planting.pdf>

<https://www.thriftbooks.com/a/joel-comiskey/233331/>

<https://www.amazon.com/Joel-Comiskey/e/B001K7U4JO>

http://www.goodreads.com/author/show/385938.Joel_Comiskey

[Images for joel comiskey \(author\)](#)

[Images for Biblical Foundations for the Cell-Based Church by Joel Comiskey \(Author\)](#)

Home Cell Group Explosion by Joel Comiskey (Author), C. Peter Wagner (Foreword)

Home Cell Group Explosion is the most researched and practical book ever written on cell group evangelism! Joel Comiskey traversed the globe to find out why certain churches and small groups are successful in reaching the lost. He found the answers and freely shares them within this volume. If you are a pastor or small group leader, you should devour this book! It will encourage you and give you simple, practical steps for dynamic small group life and growth.

<http://www.amazon.com/Home-Cell-Group-Explosion-Comiskey/dp/1880828421>

<https://www.christianbook.com/home-cell-group-explosion/joel-comiskey/9781880828427/pd/828422>

<https://www.bookdepository.com/Home-Cell-Group-Explosion-Joel-Comiskey/9781880828427>

<https://www.waterstones.com/product/home-cell-group-explosion/joel-comiskey/c-peter-wagner/9781880828427>

<http://www.joelcomiskeygroup.com/biblicalFoundations/chapter1.html>

<https://joelcomiskeygroup.com/wp-content/uploads/2017/10/comiskeyDissertation.pdf>

https://joelcomiskeygroup.com/en/resources/church_leadership/en_readinglist/

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Page 208

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Page 168

<https://www.amazon.com/C.-Peter-Wagner/e/B000AP9EY8>
https://www.goodreads.com/author/list/53097.C_Peter_Wagner
[Images for C. Peter Wagner author](#)
[Images for Home Cell Group Explosion by Joel Comiskey \(Author\), C. Peter Wagner \(Foreword\)](#)

How to Lead a Great Cell Group Meeting.. . So People Want to Come Back by Joel Comiskey (Author)

Your leaders really can lead cell group meetings that cause the members to say "WOW!" This book will show your leaders how to: • hear God during the meeting • structure the meeting so that it flows • spur the group members to participate and share openly • create stimulating questions • listen effectively • and see the details that create a warm, inviting atmosphere for unbelievers.

<https://www.amazon.com/Lead-Great-Group-Meeting-People/dp/1880828278>
<http://www.touchusa.org/resources/how-to-lead-a-great-cell-group-meeting-digital-edition.asp>
<http://www.touchusa.org/Store/GCMsample.pdf>
<http://www.touchusa.org/store/greatcoach.pdf>
<http://www.comiskey.org/family/resume.html>
<http://www.joelcomiskeygroup.com/articles/PlantingChurches/PlantingCellChurches.html>
https://joelcomiskeygroup.com/en/resources/phd_tutorials/en_cellleadership/
https://books.google.com/books/about/How_to_Lead_a_Great_Cell_Group_Meeting_S.html?id=M6An7PNaBEUC
<https://churchleaders.com/smallgroups/small-group-articles/331325-why-the-best-small-group-leaders-are-facilitators-joel-comiskey.html>

[Images for How to Lead a Great Cell Group Meeting.. . So People Want to Come Back by Joel Comiskey \(Author\)](#)

Making Disciples in the Twenty-First Century Church: How the Cell-Based Church Shapes Followers of Jesus [Joel Comiskey]

What is the main objective of cell ministry? We know that the goal of the Christian life is to glorify God and to enjoy him forever. But does God have a particular purpose for the cell-based church? I've come to the conclusion that the primary goal of cell ministry is to make disciples who make disciples. Christ commanded his disciples to reproduce themselves (Matthew 28:18-20). But how were they supposed to do that? This book answers that question. Most discipleship books assume that discipleship is an individualistic endeavor. And yes, there are important individual spiritual disciplines (e.g., personal devotions, etc.). Yet in Matthew 28, Jesus was talking to a group of disciples. He wanted them to follow his example by making disciples in a group. The early church continued Christ's pattern by making disciples through the house churches that celebrated together in public worship. In this book, I explain how the cell church makes disciples. In the cell, a potential disciple is transformed through community, priesthood of all believers, group evangelism, and team multiplication. The cell system ensures each leader has a coach and that training happens. Then the cells gather together to worship and grow through the teaching of God's Word. The goal of the two-wing church is to make disciples who make disciples. This book will help you understand why and how to become a cell-based church. Whether you're planting a cell church or transitioning from a traditional church, this book will help you get there.

<http://www.amazon.com/Making-Disciples-Twenty-First-Century-Church/dp/1935789422>
<https://www.goodreads.com/book/show/17301237-making-disciples-in-the-twenty-first-century-church>
<https://www.barnesandnoble.com/w/making-disciples-in-the-twenty-first-century-church-joel-comiskey/1114334175>
<https://www.christianbook.com/disciples-twenty-century-church-shapes-followers/joel-comiskey/9781935789420/pd/789420>
<http://www.ruthschristianbookstore.com/product.asp?sku=9781935789420>
https://joelcomiskeygroup.com/en/resources/cell_basics/en_comm_discipleship/
https://joelcomiskeygroup.com/en/resources/leadership_development/en_purposesmallgroups/
<http://www.eden.co.uk/shop/making-disciples-in-the-twenty-first-century-church-4267107.html>

[Making Disciples in the Twenty-First Century Church: How the Cell-Based Church Shapes Followers of Jesus](#)

<http://www.amazon.com/Grow-Deepen-Your-Relationship-Christ/dp/0975581937>

[Images for Making Disciples in the Twenty-First Century Church: How the Cell-Based Church Shapes Followers of Jesus \[Joel Comiskey\]](#)

Myths and Truths of the Cell Church: Key Principles that Make or Break Cell Ministry [Joel Comiskey]

Most of the modern day cell church movement is biblical, dynamic, and positive. Sadly, errors and false assumptions have also crept in to confuse and lead astray an otherwise healthy movement. Joel Comiskey, in this ground-breaking book, exposes the myths of the cell church movement and then offers positive principles and insights to guide churches and leaders on the right path.

<http://www.amazon.com/Myths-Truths-Cell-Church-Principles/dp/0984311076>
<https://books.google.com/books?isbn=1935789406>
https://books.google.com/books/about/Myths_and_Truths_of_the_Cell_Church.html?id=oN3glaSmIVwC
https://books.google.com/books/about/Myths_and_Truths_of_the_Cell_Church.html?id=EzHcngEACAAJ

[Images for Myths and Truths of the Cell Church: Key Principles that Make or Break Cell Ministry \[Joel Comiskey\]](#)

The Church that Multiplies: Growing a Healthy Cell Church in North America by Joel Comiskey (Author)

Does the cell church strategy work in North America? We hear about exciting cell churches in Colombia and Korea, but where are the dynamic North American cell churches? This book not only declares that the cell church concept does work in North America but dedicates an entire chapter to examining North American churches that are successfully using the cell strategy to grow in quality and quantity. This book provides the latest statistical research about the North American church and explains

why the cell church approach restores health and growth to the church today. More than anything else, this book will provide practical solutions for pastors and lay leaders to use in implementing cell-based ministry.

<http://www.amazon.com/The-Church-that-Multiplies-Growing/dp/0979067936>
<https://www.goodreads.com/book/show/2678790-the-church-that-multiplies>
<https://www.barnesandnoble.com/w/church-that-multiplies-joel-comiskey/1008632838>
<https://books.google.com/books?isbn=0979067979>
https://books.google.com/books/about/The_Church_That_Multiplies.html?id=2EJwj5cWIZUC
<http://www.goodreads.com/book/show/2678790-the-church-that-multiplies>
<http://joelcomiskeygroup.com/articles/churchLeaders/ElimLessons.htm>
<http://www.touchusa.org/resources/passion-and-persistence.asp>

The Church That Multiplies: Growing a Healthy Cell Church in North America

[Images for The Church that Multiplies: Growing a Healthy Cell Church in North America by Joel Comiskey \(Author\)](#)

The Navigation Guide for Making Cell Groups Work: A Toolbox of Ideas and Strategies for Transforming Your Church by Joel Comiskey, Milton Scott Boren, Ralph Webster Neighbour

This massive compilation is filled with hundreds of articles by pastors and experts, including helpful articles such as how to transition your church's calendar and budget to allow for a growing holistic small group (cell group) ministry; how to choose team members to implement the transition; tips on how to prototype groups; and much, much more!

One of the most valuable tools found in this resource is a revealing readiness assessment tool, which will help you determine weaknesses (if any) in four key areas of church health, all of which are required for a successful transition.

<http://www.touchusa.org/resources/the-navigation-guide-for-making-cell-groups-work-digital-edition.asp>

<http://www.touchusa.org/store/NAVSample.pdf>

<http://www.abebooks.com/9781880828489/Making-Cell-Groups-Work-Navigation-1880828480/plp>

<http://www.amazon.com/Making-Cell-Groups-Navigation-Guide/dp/1880828480>

<https://www.eden.co.uk/shop/making-cell-groups-work-navigation-guide-3979185.html>

[Images for The Navigation Guide for Making Cell Groups Work: A Toolbox of Ideas and Strategies for Transforming Your Church](#)

The Relational Disciple: How God uses Community to Shape Followers of Jesus by Joel Comiskey (Author)

Jesus lived with His disciples for three years and taught them life lessons in a relational atmosphere. After three years, He commanded them to "go and do likewise" (Matthew 28:18-20). Our God, the Trinity, is a relational God. He lives in perfect harmony with the other members of the Godhead. His Word is full of exhortations to love and serve one another. This book will show you how. The isolationism present in the western world is creating a hunger for community, and the world is longing to see relational disciples in action. This book will encourage Christ-followers to allow God to use family, friends, **cells**, and mission communities to mold and shape them into relational disciples.

<http://www.joelcomiskeygroup.com/relational/press.html>

<http://www.amazon.com/The-Relational-Disciple-Community-Followers/dp/0979067995>

<http://www.joelcomiskeygroup.com/relational.html>

<https://books.google.com/books?isbn=0984311025>

<https://books.google.com/books?isbn=1935789112>

https://books.google.com/books/about/The_Relational_Disciple.html?id=4VvIcRpaRp4C

<http://joelcomiskeygroup.com/download/LIVE-ENCOUNTER-GROW-SHARE-LEAD.pdf>

<https://www.powells.com/book/-9780979067990>

<https://digitalcommons.liberty.edu/cgi/viewcontent.cgi?article=1675&context=doctoral>

Page 133

<https://digitalcommons.andrews.edu/cgi/viewcontent.cgi?article=1123&context=dmin>

Page 154

[Images for The Relational Disciple: How God uses Community to Shape Followers of Jesus by Joel Comiskey \(Author\)](#)

2000 Years of Small Groups: A History of Cell Ministry in the Church [Joel Comiskey]

This book explores how God has used small groups throughout church history, specifically focusing on the early church to the present time. God not only established the early church as a house to house movement, but he also has used small groups throughout church history. This book chronicles the small group or cell movement from Jesus all the way to the modern day cell explosion.

<http://www.amazon.com/2000-Years-Small-Groups-Ministry/dp/1935789597>

<https://www.barnesandnoble.com/w/2000-years-of-small-groups-joel-comiskey/1118903182>

https://joelcomiskeygroup.com/en/resources/phd_tutorials/en_history/

http://celycecomiskey.tripod.com/new_page_2.htm

2000 Years of Small Groups: A History of Cell Ministry in the Church

[Images for 2000 Years of Small Groups: A History of Cell Ministry in the Church \[Joel Comiskey\]](#)

Christ's Basic Bodies: Embracing God's Presence, Power, and Purposes in Holistic Small Group Life, Cell Groups, Home Groups, Life Groups, and Biblical Communities by Ralph. W. Neighbour Jr. (Author), Mark Neubauer (Illustrator), Michael Mack (Editor), Randall Neighbour (Editor)

This book reveals the source of stagnant small groups... focusing on everything except the presence of Christ! Ralph Neighbour does an excellent job explaining the mindset of the current small group member, who worships a historical Jesus, not an everlasting, indwelling Christ. Pastors understand this distinction, but small groups are not filled with seminary graduates, are they?

You and your small group ministry will be powerfully impacted by what Neighbour has to offer in this book! For a sample chapter of this book, visit the publisher's web site at touchusa.org.

<http://www.amazon.com/Christs-Basic-Bodies-Embracing-Communities-ebook/dp/B004EENP0>

<http://www.goodreads.com/book/show/5533533-christ-s-basic-bodies>

<http://www.touchusa.org/Web/Articles/pdf/BOCSample.pdf>

http://www.christianbook.com/Christian/Books/easy_find?Ntk=author&Ntt=Ralph%20Neighbour

<https://www.remnantbooks.org/products/author/Ralph%20W.%20Neighbour.%20Jr>

<https://www.thriftbooks.com/a/ralph-w-neighbour-jr/271821/>

http://www.goodreads.com/author/show/5871159.Ralph_W_Neighbour_Jr

Images for Ralph. W. Neighbour Jr. (Author)

http://www.goodreads.com/author/show/158373.Michael_C_Mack

Images for Michael Mack, author christ's basic bodies

Images for Randall Neighbour, author

Images for Christ's Basic Bodies: Embracing God's Presence, Power, and Purposes in Holistic Small Group Life, Cell Groups, Home Groups, Life Groups, and Biblical Communities by Ralph. W. Neighbour Jr. (Author), Mark Neubauer (Illustrator), Michael Mack (Editor), Randall Neighbour (Editor)

The Shepherd's Guidebook: Spiritual and Practical Foundations for Cell Group Leaders [Ralph W. Neighbour Jr.]

This best-seller covers all aspects of cell group life and leadership from a group leader's perspective. Pastors who read this book receive a very clear understanding of cell group life and leadership and go on to use it to train their first group leaders.

Contains useful forms, instructions, and illustrations.

<http://www.amazon.com/The-Shepherds-Guidebook-Ralph-Neighbour/dp/1880828553>

http://www.goodreads.com/book/show/1584305.The_shepherd_s_guidebook

https://www.amazon.com/s?ie=UTF8&page=1&rh=n%3A283155%2Cp_27%3ARalph%20W.%20Neighbour

<https://www.facebook.com/ralph.w.neighbour>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qnlTuOjEU-k> Small Groups Pioneers Conversation with Ralph Neighbor – YouTube

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kd2_fWZbGHk Ralph Neighbour – YouTube

Images for The Shepherd's Guidebook: Spiritual and Practical Foundations for Cell Group Leaders [Ralph W. Neighbour Jr.]

Where Do We Go from Here: A Guidebook for the Cell Group Church [Ralph W Neighbour Jr]

With updated data on new cell church models, new information on equipping and harvest events and practical teaching on how to begin a transition, this book will continue to stir hearts to dream about what the church can be. You will find hope for the church in North America and discover the new things that Dr. Neighbour has learned over the last 10 years.

<http://www.amazon.com/Where-Do-We-Here-Guidebook/dp/9992155922>

http://www.goodreads.com/book/show/476813.Where_Do_We_Go_from_Here

https://www.thriftbooks.com/w/where-do-we-go-from-here-a-guidebook-for-the-cell-group-church_ralph-w-neighbour-jr_lorna-jenkins/344230/#isbn=1880828545&idq=2602139

http://www.disciplewalk.com/files/Lecture_Unit_3_Neighbor.pdf

http://www.disciplewalk.com/files/Book_List_Major_League_Disciplemaking.pdf

<http://www.touchusa.org/store/WDWGFHSample.pdf>

Seeking the Lost, Keeping Them, Making Them Disciples: Transforming New Converts from Members to Disciples Through a Christ-Based Discipleship Program

Page 180

<https://www.thriftbooks.com/a/lorna-jenkins/829977/>

Images for Where Do We Go from Here: A Guidebook for the Cell Group Church [Ralph W Neighbour Jr]

Dance with Me, Daddy [Rob Campbell]

"Rob has traveled around the world to discover the principles he now records in this extraordinary book, *Dance with Me, Daddy*. He shoots straight at the heart, helping the reader apply principles that work. He transparently shares his own life, call, and how a church driven by **cells** can penetrate a city, country, and world for Jesus Christ. God will touch you deeply-as he did me-as you read miraculous stories taking place at Cypress Creek Church and throughout the world. Having visited CCC, I can now say that Rob Campbell leads one of the most exciting cell churches in the U.S. Not content with growth in one place, Cypress Creek Church has become a church planting movement."

Joel Comiskey, Author (From Twelve to Three: How to Apply G-12 Principles in Your Church, Reap the Harvest, An Appointment with the King: Ideas for Jump-Starting Your Devotional Life)

http://www.xulonpress.com/bookstore/bookdetail.php?PB_ISBN=9781591604952

<http://www.amazon.com/Dance-With-Daddy-Rob-Campbell/dp/1591604958>

<https://books.google.com/books?isbn=1591604958>

https://books.google.com/books/about/Dance_with_Me_Daddy.html?id=a3SuhAl4k6EC

https://www.goodreads.com/author/show/246013.Rob_Campbell

Images for Dance with Me, Daddy [Rob Campbell]

Heirs Together: Establishing Intergenerational Church by Daphne Kirk

A Church where everyone - adults, young people and children - has one vision and moves together. Too good to be true? Read on... The vision which has inspired Daphne Kirk for over thirty years, and which she has actively sought to pass on to others, is of a church which includes all ages (children, young people and adults) in every aspect of its life. This is the vision of the

intergenerational Church. Daphne writes with great energy and passion, presenting a radical picture of intergenerational **cell** life without glossing over the difficulties of initiating and sustaining that life.

http://www.kevinmayhew.com/heirs-together.html#.Vg6cs_lVhBc
<http://www.amazon.com/Heirs-Together-Establishing-Intergenerational-Church/dp/1840032766>
<http://www.amazon.com/Reconnecting-Generations-Daphne-Kirk/dp/1840038349>
<https://www.amazon.com/Daphne-Kirk/e/B0034OVYTU>
https://www.goodreads.com/author/list/399811.Daphne_Kirk
[Images for Daphne Kirk, author](#)
[Images for Heirs Together: Establishing Intergenerational Church by Daphne Kirk](#)

Helping You Build Cell Churches: A Comprehensive Training Manual for Pastors, Cell Leaders and Church Planters Updated Edition by Brian Sauder (Author), Larry Kreider (Author)

This manual contains the tools you need...it is a biblical blueprint for cell ministry including reaching out, spiritual parenting, mistakes to avoid, leadership training, church government, fivefold ministry in cells, children and youth in cells, church planting, transitioning to a cell-based church, counseling skills for cell leaders, and much more! Join the churches around the world that are adopting the house to house design of the early church and finding it effective in building today.

Written by veteran cell-based leaders of DOVE International®, the field-tested training in this manual is the result of twenty years of experience using the New Testament strategy of building the church through cell groups. DOVE International® started with one cell and has grown into a network of cell-based churches in four continents. Learn from DOVE International's successes and failures in cell-based ministry and church planting. This comprehensive manual covers 51 topics!

<http://www.h2hp.com/product/helping-you-build-cell-churches-manual/>
http://www.h2hp.com/product_authors/larry-kreider/page/3/
<https://www.amazon.com/Helping-Build-Cell-Churches-Comprehensive/dp/1886973385>
https://remnantbooks.secure-chrislands.com/products/category/118/~/product_author_asc?page=2
https://remnantbooks.secure-chrislands.com/products/category/118/~/product_price_asc?page=9
<https://www.remnantbooks.org/products/author/Larry%20Kreider>
<https://www.amazon.com/Larry-Kreider/e/B001JSDZOK>

[Images for Helping You Build Cell Churches: A Comprehensive Training Manual for Pastors, Cell Leaders and Church Planters Updated Edition by Brian Sauder \(Author\), Larry Kreider \(Author\)](#)

Home Cell Groups and House Churches by C. Kirk Hadaway, Stuart A. Wright

Traces the origins of the 1st Century New Testament Christian church from its beginnings in the homes of early converts to church growth and church planting efforts in the late 20th Century.

http://www.goodreads.com/book/show/2045326.Home_Cell_Groups_and_House_Churches
<http://www.amazon.com/Home-Cell-Groups-House-Churches/dp/0805469443>
https://books.google.com/books/about/Home_cell_groups_and_house_churches.html?id=c0--bj-1AJcC
<http://www.religion-online.org/showarticle.asp?title=237> Did You Really Go to Church this Week? Behind the Poll Data
https://joelcomiskeygroup.com/es/recursos/books_recommended/es_recomiendo/ 76.
<http://churchplant.net/wp-content/uploads/2016/09/Is-the-House-Church-a-Pattern-for-Today-rev.3-30-07.pdf>

Page 35

Page 154

[The Shape of Things to Come: Megachurches, Emerging Churches and Other New Religious Structures Supporting an Individualized Spiritual Identity](#)

Page 38

<http://www.episcopalchurch.org/library/author/c-kirk-hadaway>
<https://www.thriftbooks.com/a/c-kirk-hadaway/285566/>
<https://www.amazon.com/C.-Kirk-Hadaway/e/B001HCS13I>
http://www.goodreads.com/author/show/113593.C_Kirk_Hadaway
[Images for C. Kirk Hadaway, author](#)
<https://www.thriftbooks.com/a/stuart-a-wright/549705/>
http://www.goodreads.com/author/show/122082.Stuart_A_Wright

[Images for Stuart A. Wright, author house churches](#)
[Images for Home Cell Groups and House Churches by C. Kirk Hadaway, Stuart A. Wright](#)

How to Reach Your City with Cell (Home) Groups - People of YES!

I want us to take a look at both theoretical and practical aspects of a cell group ministry in the context of the Baptist churches in Antananarivo which have application beyond those geographical borders.

http://peopleofyes.com/mm/files/Cells_Reach_Your_city_pages_18_21_34_Neumann.htm

[Images for How to Reach Your City with Cell \(Home\) Groups - People of YES!](#)

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2MC_QqDSbDU Patterson: Churches that multiply cell groups - YouTube

Redefining Revival: Preparing Your Church for 21st Century Expansion [William A. Beckham]

Those who have read this book tell us the title doesn't fit! Fleshing out what he began in *The Second Reformation*, Beckham casts a vision for transition, cell-based missions, evangelism, and kingdom growth for a **cell church**. Will you be happy with what you have, or grow beyond to see what lies ahead?

<http://www.amazon.com/Redefining-Revival-Preparing-Century-Expansion/dp/188082826X>
<http://www.touchusa.org/store/RRSample.pdf>

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/William_A._Beckham

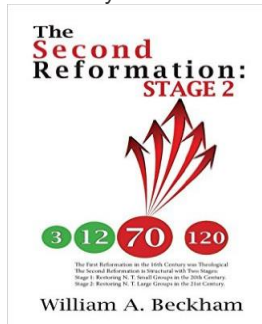
http://www.goodreads.com/author/show/249433.William_A_Beckham

[Images for William A. Beckham \(Author\)](#)

[Images for Redefining Revival: Preparing Your Church for 21st Century Expansion \[William A. Beckham\]](#)

The Second Reformation: Stage 2 [William A. Beckham]

Bill Beckham describes how Jesus used groups of different sizes and relationships (three, twelve, seventy, and one hundred and twenty at Pentecost) to fulfill his global purpose. Beckham demonstrates how we need to relearn Christ's same relational strategy to plant churches and win a lost world for Jesus Christ. Beckham shows how many churches today have allowed an Old Testament theology to dictate their ecclesiology. He then offers practical advice and clear direction to return to the original way to live Church as an expansion movement, like Jesus did. In this book Beckham shows how the **Cell Church** Movement is God's answer to take the church back to a place of fruitfulness and effectiveness. Don't jump head-first into a cell church transition or church plant without reading this book! Beckham brilliantly walks you through the logic of a cell/celebration structure from a biblical and historical perspective. He provides you with a step-by-step strategy for launching your first cells. This wonderful companion to Neighbor's material will ground you in the values and vision necessary for a successful transition to cells.



<http://www.amazon.com/The-Second-Reformation-Stage-2/dp/1935789724>

https://books.google.com/books/about/The_Second_Reformation.html?id=2B375hPch10C

<https://books.google.com/books?isbn=1935789821>

http://www.goodreads.com/author/show/249433.William_A_Beckham

[Images for William A. Beckham \(Author\)](#)

[Images for The Second Reformation: Stage 2 \[William A. Beckham\]](#)

Shouting in the Temple: A Radical Look at Children's Ministry by Lorna Jenkins (Author)

Where do children belong in the Church? Many times, they have been excluded from church life and ministry. This book integrates the children's ministry through the church, the **cell group** and the family. It clarifies the heart issues for the church's ministry to children and issues a call to parents and church leaders to disciple and equip all children for ministry.

<http://www.amazon.com/Shouting-Temple-Lorna-Jenkins/dp/9810099932>

http://www.gettextbooks.com/author/Lorna_Jenkins

http://www.goodreads.com/author/show/170332.Lorna_Jenkins

[Images for Lorna Jenkins \(Author\) shouting in the temple](#)

[Images for Shouting in the Temple: A Radical Look at Children's Ministry by Lorna Jenkins \(Author\)](#)

Successful Home Cell Groups by Dr. David Yonggi Cho (Author), Harold Hostetler (Author)

Korean pastor Paul Yonggi Cho describes his church as both the smallest and the largest in the world. The introduction of home cell groups has brought about not only phenomenal growth, but also intimate fellowship and involvement.

<http://www.amazon.com/Successful-Home-Groups-David-Yonggi-Cho/dp/B002IT61A4>

http://www.goodreads.com/book/show/630639.Successful_Home_Cell_Groups

<https://www.logos.com/product/7214/successful-home-cell-groups>

http://www.disciplewalk.com/files/Lecture_Unit_2_Yongii_Cho_Successful_Home_Cell_Groups.pdf

https://books.google.com/books/about/Successful_Home_Cell_Groups.html?id=w5Hsag6PRkC

<https://www.smallgroups.com/articles/1996/successful-home-cell-groups.html>

https://www.remnantbooks.org/products/category/79/~/product_author_asc?page=2

<https://core.ac.uk/download/pdf/58825158.pdf>

<https://digitalcommons.liberty.edu/cgi/viewcontent.cgi?article=1611&context=doctoral>

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

https://www.goodreads.com/author/list/127235.David_Yonggi_Cho

Page 211

Page 176

http://www.breakingchristiannews.com/articles/display_art.html?ID=13416
http://www.breakingchristiannews.com/articles/display_art.html?ID=13416
<https://www.amazon.com/s?ie=UTF8&page=1&rh...27%3AHarold%20Hostetler>
[Images for Harold Hostetler \(Author\)](#)
[Images for Dr. David Yonggi Cho \(Author\)](#)
[Images for Successful Home Cell Groups by Dr. David Yonggi Cho \(Author\), Harold Hostetler \(Author\)](#)

The Apostolic Cell Church [Lawrence Khong]

UNLOCK THE BARRIERS TO GROWTH IN YOUR CHURCH! "The Apostolic Cell Church" conveys the strategies required for growth and outreach through the Cell Church, providing a dynamic example of effective leadership. The Cell Church is a framework that can stretch and grow, making room quickly and easily for many more people to join the community of believers. Discover the keys that will transform your ministry, unlock the barriers to growth and change lives forever!

<http://www.amazon.com/Apostolic-Cell-Church-Lawrence-Khong/dp/9810412592>
<http://joelcomiskeygroup.com/articles/churchLeaders/NorthAmericanCulturalAdjustments.htm>
<https://www.fcbc.org.sg/about/senior-pastors/apostle-lawrence-khong-senior-pastor-fcbc>
http://everything.explained.today/Lawrence_Khong/
https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Lawrence_Khong
<https://www.facebook.com/pg/lawrence.khong.fcbc/photos/>
<https://www.fcbc.org.sg/about/senior-pastors/apostle-lawrence-khong-senior-pastor-fcbc>
http://www.goodreads.com/author/show/1910959.Lawrence_Khong
[Images for \[Lawrence Khong\]](#)
[Images for Apostolic Cell Church \[Lawrence Khong\]](#)

The Cell-Driven Church: Bringing in the Harvest by Marilyn Hickey (Foreword), Billy Hornsby (Author)

Step-by-step, how-to information enables readers to put these vital principles into practice as they peek into the heart of a successful American church.

<http://www.amazon.co.uk/The-Cell-Driven-Church-Bringing-Harvest/dp/1883906474>
<https://www.barnesandnoble.com/w/cell-driven-church-billy-hornsby/1119932497>
<http://churchleaders.com/author/billy>
<https://www.amazon.com/Billy-Hornsby/e/B003PSZK1S>
https://www.goodreads.com/author/show/26503.Billy_Hornsby
[Images for Billy Hornsby \(Author\)](#)
<https://www.amazon.com/Marilyn-Hickey/e/B00LZSK3ZI>
https://www.goodreads.com/author/list/168386.Marilyn_Hickey
[Images for Marilyn Hickey, author](#)
[Images for The Cell-Driven Church: Bringing in the Harvest by Marilyn Hickey \(Foreword\), Billy Hornsby \(Author\)](#)

The Challenge of Cell Church: Getting to Grips with Cell Church Values by Phil Potter (Author), James Jones (Foreword)

This text is aimed at all those who are puzzled but intrigued by the mention of cell church. The author explains how tapping into the hidden potential of small groups can help your church grow. Sharing his own experience, he covers issues including shared ministry, discipling, communication, community, evangelism, prayer and worship. The book contains practical insight for leaders who want to get involved in cell church. Each chapter includes a cell study outline for home groups and leadership teams, helping them to reflect on the life and health of their own small groups. An appendix offers a range of practical ideas for growing cells.

<http://www.amazon.com/The-Challenge-Cell-Church-Getting/dp/1841012181>
<https://www.amazon.com/Phil-Potter/e/B0034PPW6K>
<http://institute.wycliffecollege.ca/author/phil-potter/>
[Images for Phil Potter \(Author\)](#)

[Images for james jones author the challenge of cell church](#)

[Images for The Challenge of Cell Church: Getting to Grips with Cell Church Values by Phil Potter \(Author\), James Jones \(Foreword\)](#)

[PDF] The Third Wave of Cell Innovation – Unit 5

Over the past four weeks we've looked at a variety of cell churches; this week our attention turns to three well known churches in the United States: Willow Creek Community Church of suburban Chicago, Saddleback Community Church in Orange County south of Los Angeles, California and Ginghamburg United Methodist Church of rural Dayton, Ohio. These three churches are well known for their small group ministries; if they are not cell churches, they are certainly "cellish" enough to be a stop on our tour. Standing in the center of our reminisces, we can make some generalizations about cell churches, particularly with regard to the perspectives I've brought to our guided tour. And we can discuss a valuable question: in your opinion, do Willow Creek, Saddleback and Ginghamburg qualify as cell churches?

http://www.disciplewalk.com/files/Question_Are_Willow_Creek_Saddleback_and_Ginghamburg_cell_churches.pdf
[Images for Third Wave of Cell Innovation](#)

Turning Members into Leaders: Dave Earley

Every small group faces the same challenge: find new leaders or die. After all, if a group cannot raise up new leaders, the group cannot produce new groups, right?

Where is the best place to find new leaders? Among the members, of course!

In this practical resource, your leaders will find Dave's background and expertise to be invaluable as they work with group members, helping them discover and embrace the call to leadership. By employing Dave's simple principles, you will see leaders emerge from your groups. These principles are both biblical and practical. But don't take our word for it. Here's what Joel Comiskey, author of numerous books on **cell group** leadership has to say, taken from the foreword of this book:

"Many small group books on the market focus on how to have the perfect group experience. Few, however, explain why small groups are the perfect breeding ground for future leaders. This is one of those rare books. In this book, you'll learn how to dream for a multitude of leaders, model effective leadership, explain your vision with clarity, and how to release a new generation of leaders. The book will help you and your church fulfill the Great Commission by identifying, developing, and releasing your current members into small group leaders who reap the harvest."

God has gifted your small group leaders with what they need to encourage members and help them discover their leadership gifting and abilities. This book will give your leaders what they need to turn members into leaders.



<http://www.amazon.com/Turning-Members-Into-Leaders-Earley-ebook/dp/B004EEPQ4>

<https://www.goodreads.com/book/show/2791641-turning-members-into-leaders>

<http://www.touchusa.org/resources/turning-members-into-leaders.asp>

<http://www.touchusa.org/store/TurningMembersSample.pdf>

<https://dearleys.wordpress.com/about-dave/>

<http://www.christianbookpreviews.com/christian-book-author.php?isbn=0764200704>

<https://www.facebook.com/dave.earley.90>

<https://www.amazon.com/Dave-Earley/e/B001IZPJCU>

http://www.goodreads.com/author/show/147555.Dave_Earley

[Images for Dave Earley, author](#)

[Images for Turning Members into Leaders: Dave Earley](#)

4) Children

Grow Churches | The Importance of Reaching Children

Children are pliable clay that can be molded into God's given purpose or manipulated into what the world would convince the youth that they should be. Which will we as the church body allow or influence? Jesus said, "Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of heaven belongs to such as these." Will we deny the little ones Jesus calls because we think the needs of adults are more important, though it's really because they are more obvious, or will we humble ourselves and reach out to the kids God has entrusted to us and help guide and direct them into the truths of God and the joy of being His?

<https://growchurches.com/the-importance-of-reaching-children/>

[Images for Grow Churches | The Importance of Reaching Children](#)

www.ricardomiller.com/blog/ReachingChildren

<https://thenassauguardian.com/2013/11/21/the-increasing-importance-of-reaching-children/>

[Images for importance of church reaching children](#)

<https://multiplyvineyard.org/reaching-children-community/>

<http://miketurnerblog.com/a-great-childrens-ministry-is-key-to-reaching-the-millennial-generation/>

[Images for childrens-ministry-is-key-to-reaching-the-millennial-generation](#)

<http://www.prcli.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/05/Reaching-Out-to-Children-of-Unchurched-Parents-booklet.pdf>

[Images for Reaching-Out-to-Children-of-Unchurched-Parents](#)

Your Children in Your Missional Community -YouTube

Check out this clip of Jo Saxton at Exponential 2011: On the Verge, as she fields the question: "What do you do with children in your missional community?"

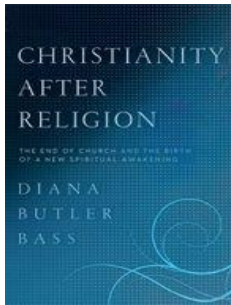
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tCvWR5d6RGg&feature=youtu.be>

[Images for Your Children in Your Missional Community](#)

5) Church

Christianity after Religion: The End of Church and the Birth of a New Spiritual Awakening [Diana Butler Bass]

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>
<https://www.goodreads.com/book/show/13426043-christianity-after-religion>
<http://www.harpercollins.com/books/Christianity-After-Religion-Diana-Butler-Bass/?isbn=9780062003737>
<http://www.harpercollins.com/browseinside/index.aspx?isbn13=9780062003737>
<https://www.barnesandnoble.com/w/christianity-after-religion-diana-butler-bass/1104239991>
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[Images for Diana Butler Bass, author](#)
[Images for The End of Church and the Birth of a New Spiritual Awakening \[Diana Butler Bass\]](#)

[DOC]Model Constitution for Congregations 2019 - ELCA Resource Repository

Chapter 3.

NATURE OF THE CHURCH

- *C3.01. All power in the Church belongs to our Lord Jesus Christ, its head. All actions of this congregation are to be carried out under his rule and authority.
- *C3.02. This church confesses the one, holy, catholic, and apostolic Church and is resolved to serve Christian unity throughout the world.
- *C3.03. The Church exists both as an inclusive fellowship and as local congregations gathered for worship and Christian service. Congregations find their fulfillment in the universal community of the Church, and the universal Church exists in and through congregations. The Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, therefore, derives its character and powers both from the sanction and representation of its congregations and from its inherent nature as an expression of the broader fellowship of the faithful. In length, it acknowledges itself to be in the historic continuity of the communion of saints; in breadth, it expresses the fellowship of believers and congregations in our day.
- *C3.04. This church, inspired and led by the Holy Spirit, participates in The Lutheran World Federation as a global communion of churches, engaging in faithful witness to the gospel of Jesus Christ and in service for the sake of God's mission in the world.
- *C3.05. The name Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA or "this church") as used herein refers in general references to this whole church, including its three expressions: congregations, synods, and the churchwide organization. The name Evangelical Lutheran Church in America is also the name of the corporation of the churchwide organization to which specific references may be made herein.

<https://www.elca.org/constitution> 2019 Model Constitution for Congregations

<https://download.elca.org> > [ELCA Resource Repository](#) > [Model Constitution](#)

<http://www.elca.org/Resources/Office-of-the-Secretary>

[Images for Model Constitution for Congregations 2019 - ELCA Resource Repository Chapter 3. NATURE OF THE CHURCH](#)

Reclaiming the "C" Word: Daring to be Church Again by Kelly A. Fryer (Author)

God is up to something! God is on a mission to save and bless the world, and God calls the church to be part of this mission. That means getting focused, setting people free, taking action, expecting surprises, and being hopeful. A church on God's mission isn't a building or a building plus a pastor. It's people—people who carry out God's mission in the world.

Building on her bestselling book, *Reclaiming the "L" Word*, Kelly A. Fryer gives practical advice on how to transform our idea of church and what that means for our lives as Christians.

<http://store.augsburgfortress.org/store/product/7410/Reclaiming-the-C-Word>

<http://www.amazon.com/Reclaiming-22C-22-Word-Daring-Lutheran-ebook/dp/B000SW15U4>

<https://www.goodreads.com/book/show/26179338-reclaiming-the-c-word>

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[Images for Kelly A. Fryer \(Author\)](#)

[Images for Reclaiming the "C" Word: Daring to be Church Again by Kelly A. Fryer \(Author\)](#)

Rethink Church campaign video - United Methodist Church

Rethink Church and 10thousanddoors.org media campaign from the United Methodist Church.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HzlylOk8idw>

[Images for Rethink Church campaign video - United Methodist Church](#)

<http://www.umcom.org/rethink-church>

<http://rethinkchurch.org/>

<http://www.umcom.org/rethink-church>

The Church and Mission | Christianity Today

ANY LONG-RANGE vision for missions must include not only the planting of new churches but also the renewal of old ones. The former without the latter eventually leads only to lands full of dead and dying churches.

<http://www.christianitytoday.com/ct/2005/february/26.80.html>

[Images for Church and Mission | Christianity Today](#)

<https://www.christianitytoday.com/ct/1964/july-17/mission-of-church.html>

<https://www.christianitytoday.com/ct/2019/october-web-only/early-church-thrived-amid-secularism-we-can-too.html>

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

The Church Has Left the Building by Michael Plekon (Editor), Maria Gwyn McDowell (Editor), Elizabeth Schroeder (Editor)

The origin of the phrase "the church has left the building" lies with Elvis. In order to clear halls of his riotous fans after concerts, it was announced that "Elvis has left the building." Here, the expression highlights intense change within the church. Not only does the church change for its own existence, it also does so for the life of the world. The church cannot avoid the many past and future changes of our constantly transforming society, demographic changes long in process. What you have before you is a gathering of first-hand reflections--stories really--from a diverse group of Christians, lay as well as ordained. While each has a distinctive experience of the church in our time, all of them have something to say about the many changes in our society and how these are affecting our faith, the parish, and pastoral work. Contributors: Mary Breton Nicholas Denysenko Adam A. J. DeVille John C. Frazier David Frost Carol Fryer Kenneth J. Guest Brett Hoover Abbie Huff Wongee Joh Justin Mathews Maria Gwyn McDowell

William C. Mills Robert Corin Morris Sarah Hinlicky Wilson Michael Plekon

<https://www.amazon.com/Church-Has-Left-Building/dp/1498239587>

<https://www.sermoncentral.com/sermons/the-church-has-left-the-building-brian-atwood-sermon-on-evangelism-how-to-103006>

<https://www.crosswalk.com/church/pastors-or-leadership/the-church-has-left-the-building-11559061.html>

<https://www.brilliantbookhouse.com/products/the-church-has-left-the-building>

https://world.wng.org/2014/06/the_church_has_left_the_building

[Images for The Church Has Left the Building by Michael Plekon \(Editor\)](#)

The Essence of the Church: A Community Created by the Spirit by Craig Van Gelder (Author), Richard Mouw (Foreword)

This fresh perspective on the church explores its essential nature as a community of people governed by the Word and led and taught by the Spirit.

Rather than beginning with successful contemporary models of what churches are doing, *The Essence of the Church* encourages readers to rethink the nature of the church. The author draws on three decades of experience to address the challenges facing today's church and urges readers to think deeply yet practically about the church.

Thoughtful and readable, this book integrates insight from a variety of disciplines and enables readers to root their methods and programs in sound biblical, theological, and theoretical principles. Diagrams help to illustrate the concepts.

<https://www.amazon.com/Essence-Church-Community-Created-Spirit/dp/0801090962>

https://www.goodreads.com/book/show/1527351.The_Essence_of_the_Church

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<https://www.amazon.com/Craig-Van-Gelder/e/B001JRYSKQ>
https://www.goodreads.com/author/show/164854.Craig_Van_Gelder
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[Images for The Essence of the Church: A Community Created by the Spirit by Craig Van Gelder \(Author\), Richard Mouw \(Foreword\)](#)

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

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<https://www.whatchristianswanttoknow.com/what-does-the-bible-say-about-church-membership-and-attendance/>
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6) Church Growth

A Solid Long-Term Strategy for Church Growth — Ministry Today

Spiritual formation (discipleship) is an essential foundation to growth, but I'm referring more to training your volunteers and especially your leaders.

<https://ministrytodaymag.com/leadership/vision/23526-a-solid-long-term-strategy-for-church-growth>
Images for A Solid Long-Term Strategy for Church Growth — Ministry Today
<https://www.charismamedia.com/magazines/ministry-today>
<https://pushpay.com/blog/20-church-growth-strategies/>
<https://digitalcommons.liberty.edu/cgi/viewcontent.cgi?referer=https://www.google.com/&httpsredir=1&article=1220&context=doctoral>
[PDF]Strategies for 21st Century Healthy Church Growth through the Spiritual Diagnosis of Osan Baptist Church in South Korea
<https://www.gty.org/library/sermons-library/81-14/gods-strategy-for-church-growth>
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=r6wdWiGA2Hg> God's Strategy for Church Growth – YouTube
Images for God's Strategy for Church Growth - YouTube
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VeygCLUpSnk> Church Growth Strategies or The Gospel? - YouTube
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TzFk7VvWg5M> Pastoral Strategies for Church Growth in a Changing/Contemporary World”
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=orNU1o8gh_g As a Pastor, Did You Use Church Growth Strategies? // Ask Pastor John - YouTube
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=B1lp5ojXIKc> Church Growth Strategies for getting NEW Visitors - YouTube

Beyond Church Growth: Action Plans for Developing a Dynamic Church by Robert E. Logan

Practical strategies for instilling a vision for church planting within a congregation.

What goals has your leadership team set for your church's future? A twenty percent increase in your attendance? To double your present membership? What about planting new churches in neighboring communities and beyond? Based on God's vision for churches in Matthew 28:18-20, Robert Logan presents sound methods for making disciples, winning the lost for Christ, and planting new churches. He introduces ten principles for church growth, taking you through the action steps necessary for implementing each one and providing the means for evaluation and correction. Logan extends to you this exhortation: "If we take seriously the message of Ephesians 3, here's the exciting news: Our cup can never be too large to contain the blessing that God is *able* to pour upon us. The promise is that God is able to do *immeasurably more* than all we ask or imagine."
Take God at his word. Ask him for a new vision for the ministry he's given you. Then watch God work as never before as he leads you *Beyond Church Growth*.



<http://www.amazon.com/Beyond-Church-Growth-Robert-Logan/dp/0800753321>

<https://www.goodreads.com/book/show/2983159-beyond-church-growth>

<http://www.barnesandnoble.com/w/beyond-church-growth-robert-e-logan/1000497935>

<http://northamericanmissions.org/files/Bob-Logan-Article.pdf>

<http://ministryactionplans.com/church-growth-resources/>

<https://www.andrews.edu/~ricardo/Church%20Leadership%20and%20Administration.htm> CHURCH GROWTH RESOURCES:

<https://www.smashwords.com/profile/view/RobertELogan>

<https://www.amazon.com/Robert-E.-Logan/e/B001KHGUPQ>

https://www.goodreads.com/author/list/15546013.Robert_E_Logan

[Images for Robert E. Logan, author](#)

[Images for Beyond Church Growth: Action Plans for Developing a Dynamic Church by Robert E. Logan](#)

Biblical Church Growth: How You Can Work with God to Build a Faithful Church [Gary L. McIntosh]

Every pastor wants to have a vibrant, dynamic church. There are many popular models for church growth based on outstanding churches led by outstanding pastors. But unfortunately, specific models are temporary and go out of style quickly. Author Gary McIntosh explores the biblical principles for church growth and applies them to today's culture. Instead of concentrating on the ephemeral how of church growth, he focuses on the unchanging why.

McIntosh defines church growth as "all that is involved in bringing men and women who do not have a personal relationship with Jesus Christ into fellowship with him and into responsible church membership." In other words, church growth is effective evangelism, not a methodology for increasing membership. According to *Biblical Church Growth*, growing churches always evidence a desire to fulfill the Great Commission by cooperating with God in building a faithful church.

Using personal stories and current statistics as well as numerous biblical examples, the author sets forth ten basic principles that provide an eternal foundation for helping any church—large or small—achieve lasting vitality and growth.

<http://www.amazon.com/Biblical-Church-Growth-Build-Faithful/dp/080109156X>

https://www.goodreads.com/book/show/993630.Biblical_Church_Growth

<http://bakerpublishinggroup.com/books/biblical-church-growth/226250>

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[Biblical Church Growth: How You Can Work with God to Build a Faithful Church](#)

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

http://www.talbot.edu/faculty/profile/gary_mcintosh/

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

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

<https://www.amazon.com/Gary-L.-McIntosh/e/B000AQ1114>

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

[Images for Biblical Church Growth: How You Can Work with God to Build a Faithful Church \[Gary L. McIntosh\]](#)

Evaluating the Church Growth Movement: 5 Views (Counterpoints: Church Life) [Gary McIntosh, Paul Engle]

Gaining form and momentum over the second half of the 20th century, the Church Growth movement has become an enormous shaping force on the Western church today. You may love it, you may hate it, but you can't deny its impact. But what exactly is Church Growth? In what ways has the movement actually brought growth to the church, and how effective has it been in doing so? What are its strengths and weaknesses? This timely book addresses such questions. After providing a richly informative history and overview, it explores—in a first-ever roundtable of their leading voices—five main perspectives, both pro and con, on the classic Church Growth movement: • Effective Evangelism View (Elmer Towns) • Gospel in Our Culture View (Craig Van Gelder) • Centrist View (Charles Van Engen) • Reformist View (Gailyn Van Rheenan) • Renewal View (Howard Snyder) As in other Counterpoints books, each view is first presented by its proponent, then critiqued by his co-contributors. The book concludes with reflections by three seasoned pastors who have grappled with the practical implications of Church Growth. The interactive and fair-minded nature of the Counterpoints format allows the reader to consider the strengths and weaknesses of each view and draw informed, personal conclusions. The Counterpoints series provides a forum for comparison and critique of different views on issues important to Christians. Counterpoints books address two categories: Church Life and Exploring Theology. Complete your library with other books in the Counterpoints series.

<http://www.amazon.com/Evaluating-Church-Growth-Movement-Counterpoints/dp/0310241103>

https://www.goodreads.com/book/show/999630.Evaluating_the_Church_Growth_Movement

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[Images for Counterpoints: Church Life](#)

Church Change and Church Growth

Class Notes:

1. Suggestions about how to bring harmonious change in a church (2 Cor. 3:18)
 - A. Bless the past
 - B. Affirm previous ministries
 - C. Stress principles, not methods
 - D. Present change as an extension of past ministries
 - E. Assure people that any changes are carrying on Biblical principles
- B.
 - F. Take time to listen and love as people talk
 - G. Be sure to make clear communications
 - H. Be patient
 - I. Trust God to make it happen
 - J. Attempt no more than one major change at a time
 - K. Allow people to feel and be part of the change
2. Church Growth
 - A. The stages of church growth (see diagram of Pastor's Responsibilities below)

Day 8 - Bringing About Change and Church Growth - Wikis

<https://wikis.engrade.com/churchadministraionfall2/0809282010>

[Images for Change and Church Growth](#)

Church Growth

Welcome to Church Growth Ministry. We are dedicated to helping your church grow to its fullest potential. As Jesus Christ clearly instructed his disciples, go and make disciples of all nations. We should spread the good news of the Lord to the people and let them know of God's love.

<http://churchgrowth.net/>

[Images for Welcome to Church Growth Ministry](#)

Church Growth Network Church Consulting

Founded in 1987, the Church Growth Network provides a wide range of professional consulting services for churches. Our firm is particularly well-versed in church analysis, strategic planning, staffing, breaking size barriers, coaching of church pastors, and generational change issues.

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

[Images for Church Growth Network Church Consulting](#)

Church Growth.org | Timeless Tools for Christian Growth

Providing Christian growth resources for 40 years. Our goal is to provide the best tools and resources to serve Christians everywhere. [Discover over 700 Biblical Christian growth, discipleship and leadership resources.](#)

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

[Images for Church Growth .org | Timeless Tools for Christian Growth](#)

[Images for Christian growth resources](#)

Church Growth | Pivot | A Blog by Karl Vaters - Christianity Today

Innovative Leadership from a Small Church Perspective

<https://www.christianitytoday.com/karl-vaters/church-growth/>

[Images for Church Growth | Pivot | A Blog by Karl Vaters - Christianity Today](#)

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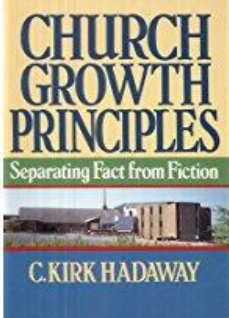
<https://www.christianitytoday.com/pastors/browse/>

[Images for Karl Vaters](#)

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

Church Growth Principles: Separating Fact from Fiction by C. Kirk Hadaway (Author)

This book has tested the church growth philosophies, opinions, and strategies floating around and shows which ones really work. *CHURCH GROWTH PRINCIPLES: SEPARATING FACT FROM FICTION* tests a wide range of church growth hypotheses. Based on the best research available, the book answers the questions: What factors are associated with growth? What factors are associated with decline? What growth-producing factors are of greatest importance? C. Kirk Hadaway writes in the introduction: "There are almost as many church growth principles as there are growing churches in America. Each book published by a 'card-carrying' member of the church growth movement or by one of its 'fellow travelers' contains dozens of such principles. Unfortunately, most of these principles, keys, vital signs, and steps to church growth are simply hunches. They are often based on careful observation and are usually plausible, but they have not been tested or verified. Hadaway was Urban/Church Growth Research Specialist for the Sunday School Board of the Southern Baptist Convention.



<http://www.amazon.com/Church-Growth-Principles-Separating-Fiction/dp/0805460144>

<https://africantheology.wordpress.com/2016/02/13/a-chapter-review-of-church-growth-principles-separating-fact-from-fiction/>

https://www.researchgate.net/profile/Christopher_Hadaway

<http://www.episcopalchurch.org/library/author/c-kirk-hadaway>

<https://www.andrews.edu/~ricardo/Church%20Growth.htm>

<https://www.thriftbooks.com/a/c-kirk-hadaway/285566/>

<https://www.amazon.com/C.-Kirk-Hadaway/e/B001HCS13I>

http://www.goodreads.com/author/show/113593.C_Kirk_Hadaway

[Images for C. Kirk Hadaway \(Author\)](#)

[Images for Church Growth Principles: Separating Fact from Fiction by C. Kirk Hadaway \(Author\)](#)

Church Growth: When Communers Become Consumers

For example, some church growth experts are telling pastors their "customers" no longer attend to commune with God but to "consume" a personal or family service.

In a recent survey of 1,000 church attenders, respondents were asked, "Why does the church exist?" According to 89 percent, the church's purpose was "to take care of my family's and my spiritual needs." Only 11 percent said the purpose of the church is "to win the world for Jesus Christ."

These attitudes concern me and many other observers deeply. A business-driven response may only make things worse. In the long run, if we train consumers instead of comuners, we'll end up with customers instead of disciples.

<http://www.christianpost.com/news/church-growth-when-communers-become-consumers-135321/>

[Images for Church Growth: When Communers Become Consumers](#)

Church Movements of the Last Fifty Years

Over the last half-century, four major movements have arisen in an effort to stem the tide of decline in church attendance within North America. The Church Renewal Movement, **Church Growth Movement**, Emerging Church Movement, and Missional Movement have offered different approaches to engaging lost people with the Gospel of Jesus Christ. This article presents an overview of these major movements and the numerous sub-movements within each, and suggests five insights and seven questions that emerge from their interplay.

<http://churchgrowthnetwork.com/free-resources/2010/08/20/church-movements-of-the-last-fifty-years-in-the-usa/>

[Images for Church Movements of the Last Fifty Years](#)

[Images for Church Growth Movement](#)

Common-Sense Church Growth [Howard K. Batson]

Church growth is not something that occurs only in churches that compromise the integrity of faithful theology and meaningful worship. Rather, churches that are seeking to reach more people for God's kingdom ought also to grow. Common-Sense Church Growth provides a practical approach to principles that can be employed by congregations to foster church growth.

<http://www.amazon.com/Common-Sense-Church-Growth-Howard-Batson/dp/1573121797>

<https://www.goodreads.com/book/show/7115345-common-sense-church-growth>

https://books.google.com/books/about/Common_Sense_Church_Growth.html?id=O7Ld04sQdqsC

<https://www.ministrymagazine.org/archive/2012/12/the-most-important>

<https://cdn.ministerialassociation.org/docs/2017-NewResources/284%20-%20The%20Most%20Important%20Ingredient%20to%20Church%20Growth.pdf>

<https://www.amazon.com/Howard-K.-Batson/e/B001K7UFWK>

https://www.goodreads.com/author/show/3160869.Howard_K_Batson
[Images for Howard K. Batson, author](#)
[Images for Common-Sense Church Growth \[Howard K. Batson\]](#)

Courageous Churches: Refusing Decline, Inviting Growth by Paul T. Heinecke (Author), Kent R. Hunter (Author), David S. Luecke (Author)

The authors have searched for congregations with the courage to boldly proclaim the Gospel. This courage is expressed no matter what conditions they face. Their successes can be inspiring examples to other churches seeking to grow in their service to Christ. This hard-hitting book, based on an extensive study of a variety of decisions, courageous goals, and courageous hard work. Six basic themes serve as the outline of the book.

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Page 121

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[Images for Courageous Churches: Refusing Decline, Inviting Growth by Paul T. Heinecke \(Author\), Kent R. Hunter \(Author\), David S. Luecke \(Author\)](#)

Eating the Elephant: Leading the Established Church to Growth by Thom S. Rainer (Author), Charles E. Lawless (Author)

How Does an Established Church Grow?

Many church leaders have attempted the "latest" approach to growing a church, only to find the methodology is ineffective and the church members are divided. Sometimes the methodology is wrong. Sometimes the methodology is right, but the pace and the timing are wrong. Internationally-recognized authorities Thom Rainer and Chuck Lawless have written Eating the Elephant to show that a church can change and grow if you move at a pace that fits the church's situation, if you eat the elephant one bite at a time. "Unfortunately," the authors write, "many 'traditional' churches have been divided and demoralized by attempts to move the church too quickly toward relevancy. Is there a way to implement change without destroying the church in the process? We believe there is." For most of America's church leaders, that's an invitation to tie on your napkin and pull up a chair.

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[Images for Eating the Elephant: Leading the Established Church to Growth by Thom S. Rainer \(Author\), Charles E. Lawless \(Author\)](#)

The Book of Church Growth: History, Theology, and Principles by Thom S. Rainer (Author)

The Church Growth Movement has divided devout Christians. Even though Rainer is an advocate, his aim here is to present an objective view of the movement - its history, the theology associated with it, and the principles which seem to separate churches that grow from those that don't.

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Talbot Doctor of Ministry Program - Church Growth Network Page 9
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The Every Church Guide to Growth: How Any Plateaued Church Can Grow by Thom S. Rainer (Author), C. Peter Wagner (Author), Elmer L. Towns (Author)

A growing church is a living church, but much of the attention in church growth today is focused on making big churches bigger. This encouraging new book shows members of small and medium-sized congregations how to revive and expand their ministries as well. Churches of every size tend to plateau in attendance and never break free of their self-imposed limitations or 'growth barriers'. This book gives detailed, practical instructions for breaking through those barriers to new levels of impact and service in the community. *The Every Church Guide to Growth* rallies church leaders and members to develop plans for strength and solid growth in the future.

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44 Church Growth Principles that are Real and Work! - Church Leadership

To use these Growth Principles suggestions, ask yourself, your leadership team, and your people this one question, "What Does a Healthy Church Look Like?" Then listen for the feedback. God through each of these suggestions, find out where you and your church are, and what will it take to implement the suggestions. For further help, read *Preparing the Pastor and Church Leadership to Grow!* and, *A Primer on How to Lead and Manage the Church* on our website on the Church Leadership Channels.

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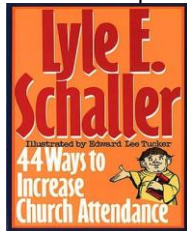
44 Steps Up Off the Plateau [Lyle E. Schaller]

Schaller defines a "plateau" as a stagnant holding point in the size and energy of a congregation - a level at which energy is focused entirely on maintenance of past structures. He shows how to move a long-established congregation up off a plateau in size and explains the three most important steps. The three most important steps up off the plateau are quality, responsiveness, and productivity. This important guide by America's most influential religious leader also contains 44 handles to organize information. Brings together in one volume Schaller's comprehensive analysis of a difficult subject.

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[Images for Lyle E. Schaller](#)
[Images for 44 Steps Up Off the Plateau \[Lyle E. Schaller\]](#)

44 Ways to Increase Church Attendance [Lyle E. Schaller]

Are you still suffering over the sight of empty pews? Have your efforts been more than exhaustive in expanding your congregation? Have you maximized your brainstorming potential for bringing in new members? If you have reached what appears to be your limit, then no longer fret, *44 Ways To Increase Church Attendance* can open the doors of both your church and mind. With proven techniques for building a body for Christ, church leaders can increase their membership and then free themselves to focus on other important missions for God. Schaller's suggestions will energize leaders and put their churches on the road of abundance.



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[Images for 44 Ways to Increase Church Attendance \[Lyle E. Schaller\]](#)

Growing Plans: Strategies to Increase Your Church's Membership by Lyle E. Schaller (Author)

Five different strategies for increasing the size of the congregation are developed by Lyle E. Schaller - with applications to small, middle-sized, and larger churches. Schaller also includes comments on the formulation of a workable denominational strategy for church growth. No church exists in complete isolations from all other churches, notes Schaller, although thousands of congregations appear not to believe it.

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[Images for Growing Plans: Strategies to Increase Your Church's Membership by Lyle E. Schaller \(Author\)](#)

Go Grow Your Church!: Spiritual Leadership for African American Congregations [James F. Miller]

A guide to help new pastors, seasoned pastors, and lay leaders of African American congregations in administration and spiritual leadership of their churches. It offers administrative advice, suggests methods, and maps out an implementation process. Miller, drawing from his many years of experience as a pastor of a congregation he grew from 150 to 2,300 members, actually takes into consideration how these congregations will respond to the methods and skillfully connects the elements of spiritual growth with the practical aspects of church ministry.

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Images for Go Grow Your Church!: Spiritual Leadership for African American Congregations [James F. Miller]

<https://www.pinterest.nz/pin/454652524855623605/> Go Grow Your Church! by : James F. Miller Spiritual Leadership for African American Congregations

God-Size Your Church: Beyond Growth for Growth's Sake [John Jackson]

This new how-to for church growth outlines principles of growth for all sizes of congregations, while emphasizing that church growth is not about numbers, but about fulfilling God's vision for your church's impact on the world.

Church growth isn't about numbers. It's about impact! Using his own experience as founding pastor of Carson Valley Christian Center in Minden, Nevada, Pastor John Jackson helps pastors and lay leaders increase the impact of their congregations for their communities and the Kingdom of God. Jackson urges readers to dream God-Sized dreams, offering practical advice for building community and transforming leadership. With varying suggestions for different sizes of churches, Jackson shows you don't have to be a megachurch to have God-sized impact on your community. John Jackson is the founding and Senior Pastor of Carson Valley Christian Center in Minden, Nevada, and the President of VisionQuest Ministries.

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Images for john jackson author god-size your church

Images for God-Size Your Church: Beyond Growth for Growth's Sake [John Jackson]

Page 124

Growing Spiritual Redwoods by William M. Easum (Author), Thomas G. Bandy (Author)

Growing Spiritual Redwoods is an effort to help church leaders answer the kinds of questions that confront congregations and Christians in this era of rapid and uncertain change. William M. Easum and Thomas Bandy argue that the congregations to whom the term "spiritual redwoods" can be applied are grown slowly, becoming vigorous centers of witness and mission.

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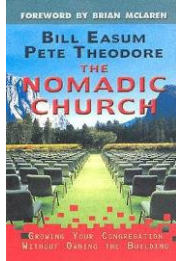
Images for Thomas G. Bandy (Author)

Images for Growing Spiritual Redwoods by William M. Easum (Author), Thomas G. Bandy (Author)

The Nomadic Church: Growing Your Congregation without Owning the Building [Bill Easum, Pete Theodore]

A guide to the opportunities and challenges facing churches that do not own their property, and what established churches can learn from them. Across the country, churches are forgoing purchase of land and construction of buildings, choosing, instead

to rent space and allocate their resources to mission and leadership development. These churches face a number of challenges (for example, putting up and tearing down equipment every time they meet; getting the word out, especially to visitors, on where the church will gather any given week; and negotiating for additional space). The churches, however, face even more important opportunities (for example, it allows time to build the church as a community before building it with brick and mortar; it builds serious disciples by calling on members to sacrifice; and it frees funds to be used on mission rather than mortgages). Writing for the leaders of portable congregations, as well as those of more established churches who to learn from such churches, Easum and Theodore have provided the definitive guide to ministry in the nomadic church.



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[Images for The Nomadic Church: Growing Your Congregation without Owning the Building \[Bill Easum, Pete Theodore\]](#)

Page 231

Growth by accident, death by planning: How not to kill a growing congregation by Bob Whitesel (Author)

It is a familiar experience. A congregation that had been growing in numbers and spiritual vitality reaches a plateau and then begins to decline. Most of the time, the plateau occurs long before the church arrives at the optimum number of members it hoped to attract. What has happened here? Why does growth slow down, stop, and then decline? The real question to ask, says Bob Whitesel, is why the church grew in the first place.

Most of the time young, growing churches make a series of decisions based not upon careful planning and analysis, but rather upon necessity and intuition. Thus, these decisions are not planned strategies, but strategies that often occur by accident, owing their genesis to circumstance. These unplanned strategic decisions are driven not by knowledge, but often simply by the church's environment. When that growth slows, these same churches begin to engage in more careful planning. The problem is that this planning so often ignores the considerations and decisions that led to the church's growth to begin with. The result is stagnation and eventual decline.

In the plain, direct style that is his hallmark, Whitesel lays out where churches go wrong in their planning for growth and how they can correct themselves. He does so by looking at three related phenomena: first, the factors that cause initial growth; second, the erroneous decisions that lead to getting stuck on the plateau; and finally, corrective steps that churches can take to regain growth and vitality.

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

[Images for Growth by accident, death by planning: How not to kill a growing congregation by Bob Whitesel \(Author\)](#)

How to Break Growth Barriers, Updated Edition: Revise Your Role, Release Your People, and Capture Overlooked Opportunities for Church Growth [Carl F. George, Warren Bird, Ted Engstrom]

Some churches grow rapidly, only to hit a ceiling. Other churches have experienced declining or static attendance--many of them for decades. Frustrated pastors and church leaders want growth methods that work, but without adding to pastoral fatigue.

How to Break Growth Barriers argues that growth comes when effective leadership and lay-empowerment skills work hand in hand. This requires a shift of focus from the shepherd as the primary caregiver to shepherd as developer and coach of many caregivers. The authors show pastors how to communicate a vision for the future and then how to lead the congregation into the paradigms necessary for potentially limitless growth.

The strategies found in this book are not only tried and true, and taken from a biblical perspective of a "harvest" vision. They're also newly updated to reflect our changing culture, including helpful charts and checklists for self-evaluation.

Pastors will find proven strategies for effectively breaking through barriers to church growth, including the important but often difficult task of delegation of authority and work.

Experience growth in your congregation through delegation of authority and work. Perfect for pastors.

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Ignite: How to Spark Immediate Growth in Your Church [Nelson Searcy, Jennifer Dykes Henson]

Ignite is the ultimate how-to book for church leaders who want to reach more people for Jesus Christ. Pastor and founder of Church Leader Insights, Nelson Searcy, will provide practical, inventive guidelines for bringing first-time guests through the doors. This book sets forth a step-by-step, biblically grounded, proven plan for creating immediate church growth by utilizing a "Big Day" to mobilize the church for evangelism. This user-friendly guide will show church leaders what they need to do to reach the unchurched in their communities and break through the debilitating growth barriers that are holding them back.

Through the inspiration of testimonies and stories, combined with the down-to-earth, applicable teaching that Searcy readers have come to expect and appreciate, *Ignite* will give church leaders the tools they desperately need to reach and keep modern-minded, unchurched people to create and sustain growth momentum.

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Images for Jennifer Dykes Henson

Images for [Ignite: How to Spark Immediate Growth in Your Church \[Nelson Searcy, Jennifer Dykes Henson\]](#)

Lasting Impact: 7 Powerful Conversations That Will Help Your Church Grow [Carey Nieuwhof]

You've probably noticed...

Churches aren't growing.

Young adults are walking away.

Volunteers are hard to recruit.

Leaders are burning out.

And the culture is changing faster than ever before.

There's no doubt the church is in a moment in history for which few church leaders are prepared.

You can look for answers, but the right response depends on having the right conversation.

In *Lasting Impact*, Carey Nieuwhof leads you and your team through seven conversations that will help your church grow and have

a lasting impact.

What if...

- Having the right conversations could change your trajectory?
- There was more hope than you realized?
- The potential to grow was greater than the potential to decline?
- Your community was waiting for a church to offer the hope they're looking for?
- Your best days as a church were ahead of you?

Maybe the future belongs to the churches that are willing to have the most honest conversations at a critical time. That's what this book is designed to facilitate.

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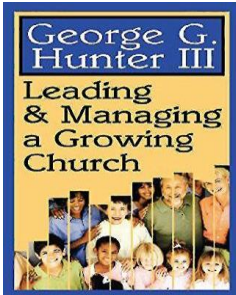
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[Images for Lasting Impact: 7 Powerful Conversations That Will Help Your Church Grow \[Carey Nieuwhof\]](#)

Leading and Managing a Growing Church [George G. III Hunter]

Most pastors are comfortable with the role of leader. Inspiring people and helping them discover and make use of their own gifts are tasks to which ministers generally feel called. Too many pastors and church leaders, however, forget that along with skills at leadership must come at least some acquaintance with the work of managing staff (whether it be paid or voluntary) and resources. What are the chief qualities and functions of a leader? Why are management skills necessary for an effective leader? Most important, how can pastors and other church leaders adapt these insights to their particular work as servants of the church? In *Leading & Managing a Growing Church*, George Hunter brings together insights from the best writers and thinkers on leadership and management, and presents them in a brief, accessible introduction. With the clarity and style that is his trademark, he explores the most important ideas to emerge from leadership and management studies and demonstrates how they can be put in the service of congregational vitality and growth.

Key Features: • Brings together insights from the best thinkers on leadership and management, and shows how these insights can be put in the service of congregational vitality and growth • Written by a well-known and highly respected author

Key Benefits: • Provides readers quick access to the best and most relevant insights of recent studies in leadership and management • Helps readers understand the need of church leaders to possess certain crucial management and leadership skills • Shows readers how to put these skills and insights into practice in the service of the church.



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[Images for George G. Hunter III, author](#)
[Images for Leading and Managing a Growing Church \[George G. III Hunter\]](#)

Page 348

To Spread the Power: Church Growth in the Wesleyan Spirit [George G. Hunter III]

Provides six proven successful “mega-strategies” for bringing more people into the church. Explains why John Wesley’s writings still hold valuable insights for church growth.

“In reading the manuscript, I was inspired by the constant swing between theory and practice. Here is a valid principle, writes Hunter; here is how it works in Tampa, Florida, or Wilmington, Delaware. I was also enthused, as you will be, to observe how McGavran and Wesley targeted ‘responsive’ people, how they both used indigenous music and language and culture, how they identified needs and met them, and how determined both were to have supportive fellowship groups, lest converts die ‘aborning.’” - Richard Wilke, from the foreword.

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[Making Disciples in a World Parish: Global Perspectives on Mission & Evangelism](#) Further Reading on Wesleyan Disciple-Making, Mission, and Evangelism

[Images for To Spread the Power: Church Growth in the Wesleyan Spirit \[George G. Hunter III\]](#)

Making Friends, Making Disciples: Growing Your Church through Authentic Relationships (Living Church) [Lee B. Spitzer]

This first volume in Judson Press's Living Church series addresses the topic of church growth and discipleship. For centuries, the Christian church has led the way in creating communities of people. Pastor Lee Spitzer proposes that today's church can sustain that leadership role by developing a transformative paradigm for church growth not only in terms of the number of people who join but in regard to the maturity of disciples who participate in the life of the Body of Christ. The key, Spitzer asserts, is learning to expand and enrich our circles of friendship in our home, our congregation, and our community. Includes chapter studies on friendship in the Bible and in the life of Jesus!

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[Images for Making Friends, Making Disciples: Growing Your Church through Authentic Relationships \(Living Church\) \[Lee B. Spitzer\]](#)

[Images for Living Church books](#)

Membership, Growth, and Outreach | UUA.org

Congregational growth is about many things—not just numbers. Five ways that congregations grow are:

- numerical—the number of people attending worship and programs, or number of members
- maturational—the spiritual maturity of each member
- organic—a congregation's ability to maintain its health and engage the world
- incarnational—making real and living our values in the world
- associational - joint efforts with other UUA congregations, other communities of faith, and the wider community *

Each of these areas relates to the others: as our congregations grow in health, maturity, and outward-focused values, we support our growth in numbers. As our [membership resources](#) make clear, people are motivated to join congregations that lead meaningful worship and programs and offer many ways to engage.

<https://www.uua.org/growth>

[Images for Membership, Growth, and Outreach | UUA.org](#)

[Images for numerical growth—the number of people attending worship and programs, or number of members](#)

[Images for maturational growth—the spiritual maturity of each member](#)

[Images for organic growth—a congregation's ability to maintain its health and engage the world](#)

[Images for incarnational growth—making real and living our values in the world](#)

[Images for associational growth - joint efforts with other UUA congregations](#)

More than Numbers: The Ways Churches Grow [Loren B. Mead]

Mead explores what church growth and evangelism really mean in a time when it is mathematically impossible for every congregation to achieve significant numerical growth. He argues provocatively that spiritual, organizational, and missional growth are just as important as numerical growth, and that all four are needed for a truly healthy and growing church. Case studies and discussion questions are included.

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[Images for Loren B. Mead, author](#)

[Images for More than Numbers: The Ways Churches Grow \[Loren B. Mead\]](#)

Move Your Church to Action [Kent R. Hunter]

In this helpful book, Kent R. Hunter provides clear, practical guidance not only on how to diagnose the difficulties a church is experiencing, but also on how to implement simple, direct strategies for change. He outlines the basic questions a church must ask itself if it is to identify its problems and opportunities for growth, and--most importantly--offers direct suggestions on how a congregation's leaders can move and motivate its members to hear and follow the call to a deeper experience of mission and discipleship.

Move Your Church to Action will help readers understand what kinds of problems hold churches back from becoming alive with purpose and sense of mission, and they will learn how to implement simple, direct strategies for change.

Hunter, radio host of *The Church Doctor*, offers clear, practical guidance for diagnosing common congregational difficulties and putting your flock back on the road to recovery.

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[Images for Kent R. Hunter](#)

[Images for Move Your Church to Action \[Kent R. Hunter\]](#)

Net Results — North America's most experienced enduring and trusted evangelism and church growth magazine

About Net Results

With Each *Net Results* You Get:

Tested How-To Articles written by church leaders from shore to shore...with guests from beyond!

Practical, proven methods from local pastors

Reviews of helpful new books, websites, and resources

Permission to print the articles for use in your congregation

In each issue, *Net Results* provides more than 32 pages of practical ideas and methods to energize your congregation!

<http://netresults.org/>

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New Perspectives on Breaking the 200 Barrier by Bill M. Sullivan (Author)

New Perspectives on Breaking the 200 Barrier offers pastors and church leaders insight and strategies that will help their church move beyond the average and into the extraordinary. Based on current church trends and new research, seasoned speaker and strategist, Dr. Bill Sullivan, author of *Ten Steps to Breaking the 200 Barrier* - 1988, revisits the need for churches to strive to **grow** beyond a membership of 200, focusing this time on the congregation and their decisions that affect the church as a whole. Sullivan stresses the need for church leaders to understand the value of training the people, not just the pastors, to understand and accept the changes that come with growth and the Church's desire to expand Christ's kingdom. See www.200barrier.org for Free 'Choice Points' Leader's Guide and Free Teaching Power Point Presentation.

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Overcoming Barriers to Church Growth: Proven Strategies for Taking Your Church to the Next Level by Michael Fletcher (Author), C. Peter Wagner (Foreword).

Know What Lies Ahead for Your Church

Each local church is unique and has its own personality. But almost every congregation will face the same numerical barriers, according to decades of church growth research. These barriers can sidetrack good churches and leave their pastors and leadership teams wondering why attendance has slowed, plateaued, or even declined.

Drawing from tried and true success with his own church and from years of working with other churches worldwide, Michael Fletcher explains that internal changes—not external—are the key to clearing these hurdles.

Inside, you will learn:

The points where active membership ordinarily stalls out

The changing roles of pastors and leadership teams at each growth stage

How to facilitate strong relationships within the congregation

Ways for churches to jumpstart their ministries...and more

Throughout, Fletcher emphasizes that growing attendance numbers is not the goal. Instead, it is all about growing people and extending God's kingdom on earth.

Passionate about church growth, Michael Fletcher understands the obstacles pastors and church leaders face as they reach 100/200 and 700/800-member barriers. In clear language, he lays out practical steps churches can follow to achieve the growth they desire. His strategies have proved effective not only in his church, which has grown dramatically, but also in the churches of Grace Churches International, a worldwide network of 315-plus churches that he leads.

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http://www.goodreads.com/author/show/172160.Michael_Fletcher

[Images for Michael Fletcher \(Author\) church growth](#)

<https://www.amazon.com/C.-Peter-Wagner/e/B000AP9EY8>

https://www.goodreads.com/author/list/53097.C_Peter_Wagner

[Images for C. Peter Wagner, author](#)

[Images for Overcoming Barriers to Church Growth: Proven Strategies for Taking Your Church to the Next Level by Michael Fletcher \(Author\), C. Peter Wagner \(Foreword\)](#)

Page 157

Page 211

Plain Talk about Church Growth [Steve Clapp]

Author Steve Clapp has just finished a major revision and expansion of this popular book adding material on bus ministries, revivals, and crusades. This new edition also has two completely new chapters: Ministerial Style and church Growth and How Important is Church Growth? Clapp focuses on the important role each person can play in reaching out to others in the name of Christ.

<http://www.amazon.com/Plain-Talk-About-Church-Growth/dp/0871787083>

<http://mis.sagepub.com/content/20/1/93.1.full.pdf+html>

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[Images for Steve Clapp, author](#)

[Images for Plain Talk about Church Growth \[Steve Clapp\]](#)

Page 2

10 best Church Growth images on Pinterest

<https://www.pinterest.com/jerriemiller/church-growth/>

[Images for church growth pinterest](#)

<https://www.pinterest.com/jonasalday/church-growth/>

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<https://www.pinterest.com/holyexperiments/church-growth/>
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<https://www.pinterest.com/churchleaders/church-growth-tips/>
Images for church-growth-tips
<https://www.pinterest.com/bell27560/church-growth-ideasactivities/>
Images for church-growth-ideas activities

The Challenge of Growing the Church

So, the next time I hear someone say: "We need to get more people in the church." I will say: No, we just need to empower the people in the church to get out into the world for Jesus sake!

Rob Voyle's Appreciative Way Blog - Clergy Leadership Institute

<http://clergyleadership.com/blog/blog.cfm?page=2011>

Images for Challenge of Growing the Church

<http://clergyleadership.com/blog/blog.cfm?page=2012>

Images for Church Growth and Making Disciples

The church growth ratio book: How to have a revitalized, healthy, growing, loving church [Win Arn]

Organized in a practical, easy-to-read manner, Win Arn identifies 23 ratios that are the measures of an effective church. Compiling a wide range of sources and experience in church growth, the author helps you "get a handle" on your church's present health and effectiveness.

<http://www.churchgrowth.net/products/books/items/churchratio.htm>

<http://www.amazon.com/The-church-growth-ratio-book/dp/B001A2T8HS>

<http://www.churchgrowth.net/about/history.htm>

<http://ministryactionplans.com/church-growth-ratios/>

<https://www.ministrymagazine.org/authors/arn-win>

<https://www.nobts.edu/resources/pdf/Academics/Syllabi/F2017/EVAN6221RiceF2017.pdf>

<https://www.amazon.com/Win-Arn/e/B001KCMMWQ>

http://www.goodreads.com/author/show/246928.Win_Arn

Images for Win Arn, author

Images for The church growth ratio book: How to have a revitalized, healthy, growing, loving church [Win Arn]

Page 6

The Complete Book of Church Growth [Elmer L. Towns, John N. Vaughan, David J. Seifert]

Dr. Elmer Towns is a college and seminary professor, an author of popular and scholarly works (the editor of two encyclopedias), a popular seminar lecturer, and dedicated worker in Sunday school, and has developed over 20 resource packets for leadership education. He began teaching at Midwest Bible College, St. Louis, Missouri, for three years and was not satisfied with his textbooks so he began writing his own (he has published over 100 books listed in the Library of Congress, 7 listed in the Christian Booksellers Best Selling List; several becoming accepted as college textbooks. He is also the 1995 recipient of the coveted Gold Medallion Award awarded by the Christian Booksellers Association for writing the Book of the Year, i.e., The Names of the Holy Spirit. He was President of Winnipeg Bible College for five years, leading it to receive American Accreditation and Provincial authority to offer degrees (1960-1965). He taught at Trinity Evangelical Divinity School, in greater Chicago, Illinois, in the field of Religious Education and Evangelism (1965-1971). He is co-founder of Liberty University, with Jerry Falwell, in 1971, and was the only full-time teacher in the first year of Liberty's existence. Today, the University has over 11,400 students on campus with 39,000 in the Distance Learning Program (now Liberty University Online), and he is the Dean of the School of Religion. Dr. Towns has given theological lectures and taught intensive seminars at over 50 theological seminaries in America and abroad. He holds visiting professorship rank in five seminaries. He has written over 2,000 reference and/or popular articles and received six honorary doctoral degrees. Four doctoral dissertations have analyzed his contribution to religious education and evangelism.

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https://books.google.com/books/about/The_complete_book_of_church_growth.html?id=wntTFBcycm0C

<https://www.nobts.edu/resources/pdf/Academics/Syllabi/S2017/EVAN6320DayS2017Inet.pdf>

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<https://www.mabts.edu/sites/all/themes/midamerica/uploads/MS%206310%20Church%20Growth%20Terry.pdf>

<http://storage.cloversites.com/midcitiescommunitychurch/documents/BREAKING%20NUMERICAL%20BARRIERS%20AND%20REVITALIZING%20PLATEAUED%20CHURCHES.final.pdf>

<https://digitalcommons.liberty.edu/cgi/viewcontent.cgi?article=1264&context=doctoral>

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Page 6

Page 11

Page 17

Page 27

Page 199

Page 44

Page 151

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 Images for elmer I. towns (author)
<https://www.tbn.org/people/elmer-l-towns>
<http://www.churchgrowthtoday.com/>
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https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLDk1rGuEHJ-N77G_hDUjNkjstl2oRC441 Church Growth - Church Growth Today - Dr. John N. Vaughan – YouTube
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<https://twitter.com/megachurches>
 Images for David J. Seifert, author
[Images for The Complete Book of Church Growth \[Elmer L. Towns\]](#)

The Purpose Driven Church: Growth without Compromising Your Message and Mission by Rick Warren (Author)

Every church is driven by something. Tradition, finances, programs, personalities, events, seekers, and even buildings can each be the controlling force in a church. But Rick Warren believes that in order for a church to be healthy it must become a purpose driven church by Jesus. Now the founding pastor of Saddleback Church shares a proven five-part strategy that will enable your church to grow. . . - Warmer through fellowship - Deeper through discipleship - Stronger through worship - Broader through ministry - Larger through evangelism. Discover the same practical insights and principles for growing a healthy church that Rick has taught in seminars to over 22,000 pastors and church leaders from sixty denominations and forty-two countries. The Purpose Driven Church shifts the focus away from church building programs to emphasizing a people-building process. Warren says, 'If you will concentrate on building people, God will build the church.'



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[Organix: Signs of Leadership in a Changing Church Chapter 3. Rx. Footnote 6.](#)
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<http://www.huffingtonpost.com/news/pastor-rick-warren/>
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https://www.goodreads.com/author/list/711.Rick_Warren
 Images for Rick Warren (Author)
[Images for The Purpose Driven Church: Growth without Compromising Your Message and Mission by Rick Warren \(Author\)](#)

Twelve Keys to an Effective Church: Strong, Healthy Congregations Living in the Grace of God [Kennon L. Callahan]

A thoroughly revised and updated edition of one of the most trusted and authoritative strategic resources for church leaders. In this second edition of his groundbreaking book, Kennon Callahan identifies the twelve essential qualities of successful, **growing churches** and offers all congregations a way to unlock their potential for effective ministry. The Twelve Keys program balances practical planning with theological understanding to help churches function more effectively as they seek to grow and better serve their members.

Shows church leaders how to claim and expand upon their church's strengths and become a mission growth congregation
 Explores each of the twelve keys in depth, from mission to visitation to worship to relationships to programs to details of facilities maintenance

Based on a time-tested approach that has been used by hundreds of thousands of churches

Now incorporates the planning guide (previously a separate publication)

The book includes solid, practical guidelines and tools to help any church become a strong, healthy congregation.

<http://www.amazon.com/Twelve-Keys-Effective-Church-Congregations/dp/0470559292>

<https://www.goodreads.com/book/show/8091963-twelve-keys-to-an-effective-church>

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[us/Twelve+Keys+to+an+Effective+Church%3A+Strong%2C+Healthy+Congregations+Living+in+the+Grace+of+God+%2C+2nd+Edition-p-9780470569917](https://www.wiley.com/en-us/Twelve+Keys+to+an+Effective+Church%3A+Strong%2C+Healthy+Congregations+Living+in+the+Grace+of+God+%2C+2nd+Edition-p-9780470569917)

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Twelve Keys to an Effective Church: Strong, Healthy Congregations Living in the Grace of God

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<http://www.lifeandleadership.com/book-summaries/callahan-twelve-keys-to-an-effective-church.html>

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<http://www.centerforcongregations.org/resource/twelve-keys-effective-church>

<http://www.svchapel.org/resources/book-reviews/5-church/255-twelve-keys-to-an-effective-church-by-kennon-l-callahan>

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

http://www.goodreads.com/author/show/156195.Kennon_L_Callahan

Images for Kennon L. Callahan, author

Images for Twelve Keys to an Effective Church [Kennon L. Callahan]

We Want to Grow - Synod Resource Center

What is the single most important thing that your congregation must do in order to **increase its membership and worship attendance?**

<http://synodresourcecenter.org/evang/resources/specialists/0009/grow.html>

Images for to Grow the Congregation - Synod Resource Center

Images for increase church membership and worship attendance

What Does the Bible Say About Church Growth? - OpenBible.info

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

Images for Bible and Church Growth

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

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<http://chrissonksen.wordpress.com/2010/04/27/what-does-the-bible-say-about-outreach/>

Images for Bible and Outreach

<https://www.compellingtruth.org/church-growth.html>

Images for Bible insight into church growth

<https://www.9marks.org/article/biblical-church-growth-i-thessalonians-312-412/>

<https://churchfuel.com/bible-say-church-growth/>

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<https://bible.knowing-jesus.com/topics/Church,-increasing>

<https://www.amazon.com/Biblical-Church-Growth-Build-Faithful/dp/080109156X>

Images for Biblical-Church-Growth-Build-Faithful

Yes, some ELCA congregations are growing | The Lutheran

The increased attendance at Christ Lutheran is unusual, especially for a small, country congregation. Nationally, only three in 10 **ELCA** congregations gained worshipers between 2000 and 2005, said Kenneth Inskeep, director of **ELCA Research and Evaluation**. What's more, among churches with 150 people or fewer in worship—a segment that represents about 70 percent of the denomination's 10,500 congregations—three out of four dipped or held steady.

All told, an estimated 3,000 **ELCA** churches are growing. They're in towns where the population is increasing, but they're also in out-of-the-way places that you'd least expect. Big congregations, for the most part, are getting bigger. Churches that stretch beyond Sunday morning, especially ones with active youth programs, are most likely to thrive.

The Lutheran | January 2007 Issue

<http://www.thelutheran.org/article/issue.cfm?issue=135>

Images for Yes, some ELCA congregations are growing | The Lutheran

<https://www.elca.org/Our-Work/Congregations-and-Synods/New-Congregations>

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

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

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7) Church Shopper

Church Shoppers: What Are They Looking For? | HuffPost

Church shoppers come with a lot of different expectations.

http://www.huffingtonpost.com/richard-brand/criteria-for-church-shoppers_b_1674786.html

Images for Church Shoppers: What Are They Looking For? | HuffPost

Images for Church shoppers come with a lot of different expectations.

Eight Takeaways from My Church Shopping - LifeWay

I am writing this post to provide a fresh set of eyes through which to help you experience a typical visitor's experience.

<http://www.lifeway.com/pastors/2016/05/18/eight-takeaways-from-my-church-shopping/>

Images for Eight Takeaways from My Church Shopping - LifeWay

Images for typical visitor's experience at a church

5 Key Differences between Church Shoppers and the Unchurched – Carey Nieuwhof

Here are 5 key differences between church shoppers and the unchurched every church leader should know to ensure your church stays on mission.

<http://careynieuwhof.com/2016/04/5-key-differences-church-shoppers-unchurched/>

Images for 5 Key Differences between Church Shoppers and the Unchurched – Carey Nieuwhof

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<https://careynieuwhof.com/episode132/> CNLP 132: GREG ATKINSON ON THE SECRETS OF A SECRET CHURCH SHOPPER: WHAT PEOPLE ARE LOOKING FOR WHEN THEY COME TO YOUR CHURCH

<https://careynieuwhof.com/meets-my-needs/>

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

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

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

Images for carey nieuwhof (author)

Secrets of a Secret Shopper: Reaching and Keeping Church Guests by Greg Atkinson (Author), Ray Johnston (Foreword)

Secrets of a Secret Shopper is a book on the ministry of hospitality, first impressions, and guest services for the local church written by Greg Atkinson for pastors and church leaders. The book covers ten areas of focus including online presence, parking, signage, children's ministry, security, and others.

<https://www.amazon.com/Secrets-Secret-Shopper-Reaching-Keeping/dp/0997886137>

<http://careynieuwhof.com/episode132/> Greg Atkinson On the Secrets of a Secret Church Shopper: What People Are Looking For When They Come To Your Church

<http://gregatkinson.com/tag/carey-nieuwhof/>

<https://www.amazon.com/Greg-Atkinson/e/B00JGAPVQI>

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https://www.goodreads.com/author/show/580777.Ray_Johnston

Images for Ray Johnston, author

Images for Secrets of a Secret Shopper: Reaching and Keeping Church Guests by Greg Atkinson (Author), Ray Johnston (Foreword)

Why American churchgoers like to shop around. - Slate

Church shopping isn't a matter of merely changing congregations: A [survey](#) by the Pew Forum on Religious and Public Life last year indicated that 44 percent of American adults have left their first religious affiliation for another. "Constant movement characterizes the American religious marketplace," a survey summary said.

http://www.slate.com/articles/life/faithbased/2009/02/the_church_search.html

Images for Why American churchgoers like to shop around. - Slate

Images for Pew Forum on Religious and Public Life

8) Community

Changing How the Church Reaches Its Community - LifeWay

Changes in the religious landscape in America means that the church needs to re-evaluate how we reach our communities.

<https://www.lifeway.com/en/articles/reaching-community>

[Images for Changing How the Church Reaches Its Community - LifeWay](#)

50 Ways to Take Church to the Community - Lewis Center for Church Leadership

Churches can no longer open their doors and expect that people will come in. Effective congregations go into the world to encounter those in need of the gospel. These 50 Ways provide tips on reaching beyond the walls of your church with worship, community events, ministries, and service.

<https://www.churchleadership.com/50-ways-to-take-church-to-the-community/>

[Images for 50 Ways to Take Church to the Community - Lewis Center for Church Leadership](#)

<https://www.churchleadership.com/category/50-ways/>

Lending Your Leadership: How Pastors Are Redefining Their Role in Community Life [Nelson Granade]

As America faces great change, we must find new ways of cooperating with one another to solve problems beyond our individual control. As leaders of one of the largest pools of community capital—our congregations—pastors have both the opportunity and the skills to help guide local communities through transitions and to help cast a vision of renewed communities. At the heart of Granade's book is a firm belief that clergy can play a unique leadership role in community life. He encourages clergy to reclaim that role and to share with their communities a message of hope: God still cares and is involved in the life of individuals, families, communities, and the world.

<http://www.amazon.com/Lending-Your-Leadership-Redefining-Community/dp/1566993105>

<https://rowman.com/ISBN/9781566993104/Lending-Your-Leadership-How-Pastors-Are-Redefining-Their-Role-in-Community-Life>

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<http://trove.nla.gov.au/work/34688333?versionId=42962419>

<http://www.faithandleadership.com/content/only-preacher>

[Images for Nelson Granade, author lending your leadership](#)

[Images for Lending Your Leadership: How Pastors Are Redefining Their Role in Community Life \[Nelson Granade\]](#)

Mark Dever: The Pastor and the Community - The Gospel Coalition

This kind of thinking is necessary as evangelicals continue to wrestle with everything from social justice to the mission of the church.

<https://www.thegospelcoalition.org/blogs/kevin-deyoung/the-pastor-and-the-community-mark-dever/>

[Images for Pastor and the Community - The Gospel Coalition](#)

<https://www.thegospelcoalition.org/article/>

Re-rooting in our Communities

Regardless of the congregation's setting, connecting to communities is critical for growing congregations deeper and wider.

<http://worshiptimesmedia.s3.amazonaws.com/gulfcoast/files/2013/01/ReRooting.pdf>

✓ [RE-Rooting in our Communities - Greater Milwaukee Synod](#)

milwaukee-synod.org/.../RE-Rooting_in_our_Communities.pdf

Research Strategies for Congregations: Tools for understanding the people in your church and community

The purpose of this guide is to provide you with “do-it-yourself” research tools for positive church improvement. Congregations can use these tools to learn more about themselves and about their local community, as well. This do-it-yourself approach to church home improvement is based on the concept of a “toolbox.” The toolbox concept begins with the premise that there is no single research tool for every research job. You wouldn't build a fence using only a hammer—why work on church improvement without a full toolbox? Given this maxim, we recommend using several research strategies or tools for each project. This handbook provides a variety of tools for your toolbox.

[PDF] [Research Strategies For Congregations - Presbytery of Northumberland](#)

<http://www.northumberlandpresbytery.org/wp-content/uploads/2013/06/researchstrategies2007.pdf>

[Images for Research Strategies for Congregations](#)

[Images for tools for understanding the people in your church and community](#)

[PDF] Six Practical Applications and Adaptations of the One-to-one Relational Meeting

5. Visiting **community** leaders and public officials

Churches can and ought to play a vital role in the life of a community. Getting to know other community “players” on a relational level will contribute to the effectiveness of your church in playing its vital role. The One-to-one can be adapted when getting to know business and institutional leaders as well as public servants and elected officials.

http://www.scs-welca.org/For_Congregations/Six_Practical_Applications_and_Adaptations_of_the_One_to_One.pdf

[Images for pastor visiting community leaders and public officials](#)

10 Ways to Read Your Community – ThomRainer.com

I also hang out with local church leaders, though, who often know far too little about the communities they serve. Here are ten ways to “read” your community:

<http://thomrainer.com/2015/02/10-ways-read-community/>

[Images for 10 Ways to Read Your Community – ThomRainer.com](#)

<http://thomrainer.com/2016/08/community-focused-church-look-like/>

<http://thomrainer.com/2016/08/four-types-churches-will-soon-die/> #4
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<https://thomrainer.com/newnormal/> The New Normal for Reaching Your Community - ThomRainer.com
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https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Thom_S._Rainer
<http://www.lifeway.com/Article/Thom-S-Rainer>
<https://www.amazon.com/Thom-S.-Rainer/e/B001IGLMVG>
https://www.goodreads.com/author/show/27470.Thom_S_Rainer
[Images for thom rainer \(author\)](#)

The Connecting Church 2.0: Beyond Small Groups to Authentic Community by Randy Frazee

I once heard a pastor say that while “community is the one thing contemporary people want, it is also the thing they are least prepared to receive.” He went on to discuss how: individualism has divided our communities, ambition has taught us to value competition over cooperation and our schedules leave little time to invest in the lives of our loved ones and the common life of our communities. Randy Frazee’s *The Connecting Church* identifies and develops many of the same themes, which were explored in that intriguing sermon. In *The Connecting Church* Frazee paints a beautiful portrait of biblical community and talks about the sacrifices we will have to make in order to experience life together. If you are ready to move beyond small groups and develop authentic community this book is required reading.

A must-read for all church leaders, *The Connecting Church 2.0* is a revised and updated version of Randy Frazee’s bestselling book, *The Connecting Church*. This book explores the three essential elements of real community and helps you put into practice the fifteen principles that are the foundation of true, biblical community.



<http://www.christianbook.com/connecting-church-beyond-groups-authentic-community/randy-frazee/9780310233084/pd/33089>
https://www.goodreads.com/book/show/549058.The_Connecting_Church
<http://www.zondervan.com/the-connecting-church-2-0>
<https://www.lifeway.com/en/product/the-connecting-church-20-P005489146>
<https://books.google.com/books?isbn=0310494362>
<https://books.google.com/books?isbn=0310246199>
[The Connecting Church 2.0: Beyond Small Groups to Authentic Community](#)
<http://joelcomiskeygroup.com/articles/bookReviews/ConnectingChurch.htm>
<http://www.barnabasministry.com/review-connecting-frazee.html>
<http://www.navigators.ca/SGN/pdf/MakingRoom.pdf>
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nB74xRJP-uw> Randy Frazee on 'Making Room for Neighbors: A Small Group Study – YouTube
<http://www.outreachmagazine.com/features/5800-into-the-neighborhood-randy-frazee-and-oak-hills-church.html>
<http://www.christianitytoday.com/edstetzer/2016/march/sunday-journey-oak-hills-church.html>
<https://beverlylynn.wordpress.com/2013/03/20/review-the-connecting-church-2-0-by-randy-frazee/>
<http://booksaint.blogspot.com/2013/03/the-connecting-church-20-randy-frazee.html>
https://twitter.com/RandyFrazee?ref_src=twsrc%5Egoogle%7Ctwcamp%5Eserp%7Ctwgr%5Eauthor
<http://churchexecutive.com/archives/randy-frazee-senior-minister-oak-hills-church-san-antonio-tx>
<https://www.amazon.com/Randy-Frazee/e/B001IGOXL2>
https://www.goodreads.com/author/show/7374656.Randy_Frazee
[Images for Randy Frazee, author](#)
[Images for The Connecting Church 2.0: Beyond Small Groups to Authentic Community by Randy Frazee](#)

THE MATTHEW PROJECT: LOVE GOD, LOVE PEOPLE, CHANGE THE WORLD

Laura Ramlow, AIM, Gethsemane Lutheran, Baldwin

The needs of our communities are often unseen, yet for our neighbors who are affected by homelessness, hunger, illness, loneliness, instability and grief, these needs are very real and often overwhelming. Through creation of The Matthew Project, which ‘seeks to encourage youth and adults to be missional, sharing the love of Christ through hands-on, local service projects,’ we invite/encourage many serving hearts to come together for a one-day mission trips a way to help ease the burdens that many of

our neighbors carry. This session will provide detailed information and resources for congregations who are interested in serving their neighbors by creating a Matthew Project experience in their own communities.

[View the web page for Walking Together details. - Northwest Synod of Wisconsin](#)

http://www.nswi.org/news_and_events/Walking_Together.phtml

<https://journeyhousecampusministry.org/staff/>

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

9) Community Ministry

Community Ministry: New Challenges, Proven Steps to Faith-Based Initiatives by Carl S. Dudley

In this era of "faith-based initiatives," congregations increasingly find themselves in the business of establishing and supporting community ministries-daycare for infants and toddlers, respite care for elders, and programs for housing rehab and home repair, tutoring, and social justice advocacy. In this volume, Carl S. Dudley revises and updates his earlier book, Basic Steps toward Community Ministry, which Loren Mead called "the most valuable book on parish ministry I've seen in a decade."

<https://rowman.com/ISBN/9781566994903/Community-Ministry>

<https://www.goodreads.com/book/show/2859978-community-ministry>

<https://books.google.com/books?isbn=156699490X>

<https://archive.org/details/communityministr0000dudl>

<http://www.resourcingchristianity.org/grant-product/basic-steps-toward-community-ministry-guidelines-and-models-in-action>

<http://www.resourcingchristianity.org/grant-product/mobilizing-congregations-for-community-ministry>

<https://alban.org/archive/planning-for-social-ministry/>

<https://www.pbs.org/thecongregation/indepth/communityministries.html>

[Saving Souls, Serving Society: Understanding the Faith Factor in Church-Based Social Ministry](#) References

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

http://www.abingdonpress.com/carl_s_dudley

<https://www.thriftbooks.com/a/carl-s-dudley/353934/>

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

https://www.goodreads.com/author/list/399006.Carl_S_Dudley

[Images for Carl S. Dudley, author](#)

[Images for Community Ministry: New Challenges, Proven Steps to Faith-Based Initiatives by Carl S. Dudley](#)

Next Steps in Community Ministry: Hands-on Leadership by Carl S. Dudley

Dudley and a research team go back to 24 ministries still in existence five years after the Church and Community Project's completion. They discovered how the myths and expectations of funding, lay/clergy leadership, and church/society partnerships were shattered by what is doable; how the often Herculean efforts frustrated and tired participants, who were then uplifted and sustained by making a difference; and how faith was the foundation for action, and how, through action, the poor, the homeless, and others in need became real people and not statistics.

<https://rowman.com/ISBN/9781566995924/Next-Steps-in-Community-Ministry-Hands-on-Leadership>

<https://www.goodreads.com/book/show/2859979-next-steps-in-community-ministry>

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<https://www.christianbook.com/next-steps-community-ministry-hands-leadership/carl-dudley/9781566991681/pd/991681>

<https://rowman.com/isbn/9781566995924/next-steps-in-community-ministry-hands-on-leadership>

<https://books.google.com/books?isbn=1566995922>

<http://www.thearda.com/Archive/Files/Descriptions/CCPI.asp>

<http://www.pbs.org/thecongregation/indepth/communityministries.html>

<http://www.thearda.com/Archive/Files/Descriptions/CCPI.asp>

<http://people.bu.edu/bpstone/biblio/urban.html>

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

Page 5

<https://assembly.uca.org.au/images/stories/papers/communityministry.pdf>

Page 4

http://www.ctucc.org/news/20090424_dudleymemorial.html

[Images for Next Steps in Community Ministry: Hands-on Leadership by Carl S. Dudley](#)

Community Ministry | UUA.org

Some community ministers work independently or in an organization outside a congregation; others attempt to bridge congregations and secular organizations; still others serve part-time in a congregation, and work part-time in a community organization.

<http://www.uua.org/careers/ministers/community>

[Images for Community Ministry | UUA.org](#)

7 Creative Models for Community Ministry by Joy Skjogstad (Author)

A practical guide for church leaders seeking to engage their congregations with the community, offering step-by-step instructions on 7 ways to structure transformational community ministry.

Joy Skjogstad first outlines processes for learning about the neighborhood, assessing gifts and passions within the church, and

finding a good fit between congregation and community.

7 Creative Models - Donating Goods or Money, Mobilizing Volunteers, Partnering with Another Organization, Advocating around Public Policy, Engaging in Community Organizing, Developing a Ministry Program, Creating a Church-based Nonprofit.

Each of the Model chapters features examples of churches that have implemented the model, with advice on strategies that worked and pitfalls to avoid. Subsequent chapters tackle how to: Choose the right model for your church, Recognize success in your ministry, Fund the new ministry, Do community ministry in the small church.

Building on extensive writing already done on missional church strategies and community ministry, this book is a good next read for pastors and church member alike who are ready to take specific steps to implement a community ministry strategy



<https://www.amazon.com/7-Creative-Models-Community-Ministry/dp/0817017305>

<http://www.goodreads.com/book/show/21235877-7-creative-models-for-community-ministry>

http://www.judsonpress.com/product.cfm?product_id=17383

<http://covenantcompanion.com/2014/02/27/community-ministry-not-about-the-church/>

https://www.bookdepository.com/7-Creative-Models-for-Community-Ministry-Joy-F-Skjegstad/9780817017309?ref=bd_recs_1_1

<http://www.evangelicalsforaction.org/holistic-ministry/7-creative-models-for-community-ministry-by-joy-skjegstad/>

<http://www.uccresources.com/products/7-creative-models-for-community-ministry>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DqvJzfTTA9I> JP Behind The Book: 7 Creative Models for Community Ministry by Joy Skjegstad

<https://www.amazon.com/Starting-Nonprofit-Church-Institute-Publication/dp/1566992656>

<http://preachingandpondering.blogspot.com/2013/08/book-review-7-creative-models-for.html>

<https://www.churchleadership.com/author/joy-f-skjegstad/>

<https://www.churchleadership.com/leading-ideas/doing-community-ministry-in-the-small-church/>

<https://www.churchleadership.com/leading-ideas/identify-community-ministry-needs-by-listening/>

<http://www.abc-usa.org/2013/08/15/judson-press-announces-a-new-strategic-resource-for-community-ministry/>

<https://www.faithandleadership.com/joy-skjegstad-building-community-through-arts-ministry>

<https://www.faithandleadership.com/nurturing-gifts-and-talents-your-organization>

<https://www.faithandleadership.com/should-your-church-start-nonprofit>

<https://www.faithandleadership.com/are-grants-answer>

<https://www.faithandleadership.com/joy-skjegstad-developing-lay-leaders-community-ministry>

<http://slideplayer.com/slide/3065322/>

<https://www.linkedin.com/in/joy-skjegstad-02031712>

<https://www.amazon.com/Joy-Skjegstad/e/B001JRZIEQ>

http://www.goodreads.com/author/show/1145941.Joy_Skjegstad

[Images for Joy Skjegstad \(Author\)](#)

[Images for 7 Creative Models for Community Ministry by Joy Skjegstad \(Author\)](#)

10) Community Organizing

[Best 25+ Community organizing ideas on Pinterest](#)

<https://www.pinterest.com/explore/community-organizing/>

[Images for Community organizing Pinterest](#)

<https://www.pinterest.com/letzyra/community-organizing/>

<https://www.pinterest.com/jmlatin/community-organizing/>

<https://www.pinterest.com/mercyg81/community-organizing/>

<https://www.pinterest.com/markerlit/community-organizing/>

<https://www.pinterest.com/daniellenaghi/community-organizing/>

Community organizing - Wikipedia

Community organizing is a process where people who live in proximity to each other^[1] come together into an organization that acts in their shared self-interest.^[citation needed]

Unlike those who promote more-consensual [community building](#), community organizers generally assume that [social change](#) necessarily involves conflict and social struggle in order to generate collective power for the powerless. Community organizing has as a core goal the generation of *durable power* for an organization representing the [community](#), allowing it to influence key decision-makers on a range of issues over time. In the ideal, this can get community-organizing groups a place at the table *before* important decisions are made.^[2] Community organizers work with and develop new local [leaders](#), facilitating coalitions and assisting in the development of campaigns. A central goal of organizing is the development of a robust, organized, local democracy bringing community members together across differences to fight together for the interests of the community.^[3]

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

[Images for Community organizing](#)

Congregation-Based Community Organizing

is a set of tools – attitudes and disciplines – communicated through intensive training and practice, enabling congregations to carry out effective congregational development and public, justice-oriented action

[PDF] OUTLINE OF PRESENTATION ON CONGREGATION-BASED COMMUNITY ORGANIZING

https://s3.amazonaws.com/media.cloversites.com/0a/0a854394-3a19-4d9f-b1ae-f93021508921/documents/sue_engh_handouts_for_FMR_2016.pdf

Images for Congregation-Based Community Organizing

<http://www.lacrosseareasygod.org/faithbasedcommunityorganizing>
susan.engh@elca.org.

<https://www.livinglutheran.org/author/susan-engh/>

http://download.elca.org/ELCA%20Resource%20Repository/Guide_To_1_On_1_Conversation.pdf

<https://www.selectlearning.org/store/all/susan-engh-sessions-2-4>

Congregation-based Community Organizing - Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

Congregations involved in community-based organizing have discovered the power of the values and visions they hold in common and are working to transform themselves, their institutions and their communities for the sake of God's justice in the world.

<https://www.elca.org/Our-Work/Publicly-Engaged-Church/Congregation-based-Community-Organizing>

Images for Congregation-based Community Organizing - Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

<https://www.elca.org/Resources/Congregational-Based-Organizing>

<https://www.elca.org/Our-Work/Publicly-Engaged-Church/Congregation-based-Community-Organizing/Organizing-Community>

<https://www.elca.org/Our-Work/Publicly-Engaged-Church/Congregation-based-Community-Organizing/Organizing-Networks>

<https://www.livinglutheran.org/author/susan-engh/>

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

<https://www.livinglutheran.org/2014/08/work-gods-justice/>

<https://www.livinglutheran.org/2016/08/18261/> Doing what Jesus wants us to do - Living Lutheran

https://unite-production.s3.amazonaws.com/tenants/cherishallchildren/attachments/82468/Sitze_Lutheran_articel_Hope_at_work.pdf

<http://www.lutheranservices.org/sites/default/files/images/pdfs/Congregation-based%20CommunityOrganizerMNYS%203.pdf>

Congregation-Based Community Organizing - Presbyterian Church (USA)

Congregational-based community organizing (CBCO) is a means for congregations to engage their members to connect with their neighbors and communities, and to address social inequalities while simultaneously transforming communities and congregational life. Through this model, congregational members share their stories, deepen relationships with one another, discover issues of common concerns, develop leaders and act to improve the lives of members of their communities.

<https://www.pcusa.org/resource/congregation-based-community-organizing-building-v/>

Images for Congregation-Based Community Organizing - Presbyterian Church (USA)

Congregation-based Community Organizing - United Church of Christ

Congregation-based community organizing (CBCO) is community organizing rooted in faith bodies that come together in answer to God's call to love our neighbors, stand with the marginalized, and work with God for a more just society.

http://www.ucc.org/justice_cbco

Images for Congregation-based Community Organizing - United Church of Christ

Congregation-Based Community Organizing | UUA.org

Congregation-Based Community Organizing (also called Faith-Based, Broad-Based, or sometimes Institution-Based) is a movement that seeks to establish interfaith, cross-class, multiethnic and multiracial grassroots organizations for purposes of increasing social integration and power in civil society and working for social improvement.

<http://www.uua.org/action/cbco>

<http://uucsj.org/study-guide/bend-the-arc-toward-justice/systemic-change/>

Images for Congregation-Based Community Organizing | UUA.org

Congregation-based Community Organizing - Wikipedia

Congregation-based Community Organizing (CBCO) works through local [synagogues](#), [churches](#), and [mosques](#) as the primary institutional sponsors of this work. Common characteristics:

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Congregation-based_Community_Organizing

Images for Congregation-based Community Organizing

TOP 15 COMMUNITY ORGANIZING QUOTES | A-Z Quotes

www.azquotes.com/quotes/topics/community-organizing.html

Images for community organizing quotes

<http://www.quotebase.com/quotes/author-category/community-organizing>

<http://www.quotemaster.org/community+organizing>

11) Congregation

Acting on Your Faith: Congregations Making a Difference: A Guide to Success in Service and Social Action [Victor N. Claman, David E. Butler, Jessica A. Boyatt]

An extraordinarily powerful tool for transforming faith into action.

Acting on Your Faith... is a unique, photo-filled book with the easy-to-read appeal of a magazine, designed to inspire and help congregations and parishes to make a difference in their communities and beyond. Filled with stories of Christian and Jewish faith communities across the country, the book also includes interviews, worksheets, step-by-step instructions and practical hints to help faith communities identify and seize opportunities for community service.

Thousands of copies of this classic have already shown clergy, lay leaders, and seminarians a myriad of practical ways to love our neighbors — through programs that meet people's needs for food, shelter, health services, job training, education, and much more. A reader's survey, funded by the Lilly Endowment, found the book highly effective in broadening understanding of the possibilities for community ministry and in inspiring the planning and undertaking of specific projects.

Photos and accompanying text tell 70 stories of Catholic, Protestant, and Jewish congregations' ministries serving their immediate communities and the world beyond. Includes basic how-to help and a resource list of organizations and community funding sources.

<http://www.amazon.com/Acting-Your-Faith-Congregations-Difference/dp/0963970100>

<http://www.gordonconwell.edu/boston/current/documents/bosreg-SP12-SEMC602.pdf>

<https://books.google.com/books?isbn=1467084042>

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<https://www.baylor.edu/content/services/document.php/24809.pdf>

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Page 25

<https://digitalcommons.andrews.edu/cgi/viewcontent.cgi?article=1591&context=dmin>

Page 250

[Images for Victor N. Claman, author](#)

[Images for Acting on Your Faith: Congregations Making a Difference: A Guide to Success in Service and Social Action \[Victor N. Claman, David E. Butler, Jessica A. Boyatt\]](#)

Building Congregations in an Anti-Institutional Age- Alban Institute

The institutions that shape and support our lives, whether family, hospital, university, government, or congregation, he says, "represent inheritances of valued purpose with attendant rules and obligations. They constitute socially ordered grounding for human life." Continuing to think about institutions as constraints to be avoided leads to a deadly end, one in which humans cannot fulfill their larger possibilities. Instead, we are invited to a hard life, an uphill, almost Sisyphean task, of thinking within institutions so that their larger purposes—those that lead people to keep starting congregations in the first place—have a chance to be fulfilled.

The Leading Edge: Building Congregations in an Anti-Institutional Age - Alban Institute

<https://alban.org/archive/the-leading-edge-building-congregations-in-an-anti-institutional-age/>

[Images for Building Congregations in an Anti-Institutional Age - Alban Institute](#)

<https://www.amazon.com/Thinking-Institutionally-Politics-Hugh-Hecllo/dp/0199946000>

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<https://www.uua.org/sites/live-new.uua.org/files/documents/congservices/smallcongs/growthresources.pdf>

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

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

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

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

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

Church-going insider or gospel-carrying outsider: A different view of congregations [Judith McWilliams Dickhart]

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

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

<http://lifeoffaith.info/wp-content/uploads/2018/09/InsiderOutsider-book-complete-manuscript.pdf>

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

<https://www.elca.org/Our-Work/Congregations-and-Synods/Faith-Practices/Living-Our-Baptismal-Covenant/Proclaim>

<https://buildfaith.org/ministry-on-and-off-the-field/> Suggested Reading

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

Page 15

[Radical Sending: Go to Love and Serve](#)

Page 52

https://www.wls.wels.net/rmdevser_wls/wp-content/uploads/2012/01/Essay-Unleashing-Our-Calling-Paustian.pdf

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<http://www.paross.com/the-christian-marketplace/> 2000 and Beyond

http://www.goodreads.com/author/show/527285.Judith_McWilliams_Dickhart

[Images for Judith McWilliams Dickhart, church going insider](#)

[Images for A different view of congregations \[Judith McWilliams Dickhart\]](#)

Congregation - Wikipedia

A congregation is a large gathering of people, often for the purpose of worship.

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

[Images for Congregation](#)

Congregations - Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

ELCA congregations are centers for evangelical mission, where people of faith celebrate, learn and connect with one another and others around the world through service and weekly worship. We are a church that belongs to Christ. There is a place for you among our nearly 10,000 congregations across the United States, Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands. We are the church that shares a living, daring confidence in God's grace. For us as the ELCA, this faith comes through the good news of Jesus Christ and gives us the freedom and the courage to wonder, discover and boldly participate in what God is up to in the world.

<http://www.elca.org/About/Congregations>

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

<https://www.elca.org/FindACongregation>

<https://www.pinterest.com/elcalutherans/elca-congregations/>

Congregations in Transition: A Guide for Analyzing, Assessing, and Adapting in Changing Communities: Carl S. Dudley, Nancy Ammerman

This hands-on guide helps congregations meet the reality and challenges of today's constantly changing urban and suburban church communities. *Congregations in Transition*, written in an easy-to-follow workbook format, is designed to help communities of faith focus on the changing needs of their members and explore the opportunities and options open to them.

<http://www.amazon.com/Congregations-Transition-Analyzing-Assessing-Communities/dp/0787954225>

<https://www.goodreads.com/book/show/2859977-congregations-in-transition>

<http://www.religion-online.org/showarticle.asp?title=236>

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https://www.goodreads.com/author/list/399006.Carl_S_Dudley

[Images for Carl S. Dudley, author](#)

<https://www.christiancentury.org/contributor/carl-dudley>

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

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

[Images for Nancy Ammerman, author](#)

[Images for Congregations in Transition: A Guide for Analyzing, Assessing, and Adapting in Changing Communities: Carl S. Dudley, Nancy Ammerman](#)

Fulfilling the Great Commission: Congregations as Missionary Outposts – Alban at Duke Divinity School

The concept of the congregation as a missionary outpost serves several purposes. In the increasingly secular world of America, congregations really are missionary outposts—spiritual settlements on the frontier of the unchurched—with the opportunity to share the divine power of transformation with the hunting souls who surround them. Those with no church home can be found in the school across the street, the office building down the road, or the house next door. The mission field in contemporary America is rich—tragically rich because of the failure of the mainline denominations and their congregations to teach and live evangelism as a critical element of the Christian faith. The term “missionary outpost” reinforces the need for evangelism, captures the energy of discipleship, and challenges larger congregations that can easily become complacent about disciple making and growth to continue to see their mission in evangelistic terms.

Alban at Duke Divinity School » Fulfilling the Great Commission: Congregations as Missionary Outposts

<https://alban.org/archive/fulfilling-the-great-commission-congregations-as-missionary-outposts/>

[Images for Fulfilling the Great Commission: Congregations as Missionary Outposts – Alban at Duke Divinity School](#)

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

<https://alban.org/archive/congregations-magazine-jan-feb-2001/>

<https://vimeo.com/53530349> The Local Congregation as a Mission Outpost (TM710) on Vimeo

<https://alban.org/category/missions-evangelism/>

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

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

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

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

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

[DOC]Model Constitution for Congregations 2019 - ELCA Resource Repository

Chapter 4.

STATEMENT OF PURPOSE

- *C4.01. The Church is a people created by God in Christ, empowered by the Holy Spirit, called and sent to bear witness to God's creative, redeeming, and sanctifying activity in the world.
- *C4.02. To participate in God's mission, this **congregation** as a part of the Church shall:

- a. Worship God in proclamation of the Word and administration of the sacraments and through lives of prayer, praise, thanksgiving, witness, and service.
- b. Proclaim God's saving Gospel of justification by grace for Christ's sake through faith alone, according to the apostolic witness in the Holy Scripture, preserving and transmitting the Gospel faithfully to future generations.
- c. Carry out Christ's Great Commission by reaching out to all people to bring them to faith in Christ and by doing all ministry with a global awareness consistent with the understanding of God as Creator, Redeemer, and Sanctifier of all.
- d. Serve in response to God's love to meet human needs, caring for the sick and the aged, advocating dignity and justice for all people, working for peace and reconciliation among the nations, standing with the poor and powerless, and committing itself to their needs.
- e. Nurture its members in the Word of God so as to grow in faith and hope and love, to see daily life as the primary setting for the exercise of their Christian calling, and to use the gifts of the Spirit for their life together and for their calling in the world.
- f. Manifest the unity given to the people of God by living together in the love of Christ and by joining with other Christians in prayer and action to express and preserve the unity which the Spirit gives.

<https://www.elca.org/constitution> [2019 Model Constitution for Congregations](#)

<https://download.elca.org> › [ELCA Resource Repository](#) › [Model Constitution](#)

<http://www.elca.org/Resources/Office-of-the-Secretary>

[Images for Images for Model Constitution for Congregations 2019 - ELCA Resource Repository Chapter 4. STATEMENT OF PURPOSE this congregation as a part of the Church shall:](#)

THE CHURCH HAS LEFT THE BUILDING

Rev. Mary Ann Bowman, Peace Lutheran, Pigeon Falls, and Heather Kistner, diaconal minister

Ever wonder how your **congregation** "can be the church" in your community? Ever thought there must be a way to connect your Christian faith from Sunday to Monday and the rest of the week? Together, we will explore and discuss the biblical perspectives for moving the 'Church' beyond the walls of your building. We will share how congregations in our synod work at 'being the church' in their own neighborhoods. Then, we will invite you to discover areas of ministries in your community that are right outside your doors. Open your eyes and hang on for the ride!

[\[PDF\] Workshop Descriptions for Walking Together 10:15 - 11:00](#)

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

[Images for the church has left the building](#)

info@nswi.org

<http://peacelutheranofpigeonfalls.com/staff.html>

<https://www.trinityspooner.org/staff.html>

http://www.news-shield.com/news/free_news/article_1b64128e-b704-11e6-aa67-a3c987b7e5ae.html

http://myemail.constantcontact.com/News-from-NW-Synod-of-WI.html?soid=1101126434512&aid=eN0SySGw3_w

The congregation as mission center | St. Thomas ELCA Lutheran Church

To be in mission is to participate – and also, to give, build, pray, dig, share, collect, listen, dream, advocate, cook, see, do, accompany, witness – to act. At St. Thomas, we use the word **mission** to describe the many ways we act – as individuals, as groups, and as a congregation – to participate in God's redemptive and reconciling work in the world.

<https://stlconline.wordpress.com/act/the-congregation-as-mission-center/>

[Images for The congregation as mission center | St. Thomas ELCA Lutheran Church](#)

The congregation is not a family but an outpost for mission – The Lutheran Magazine

Close your eyes, think about your congregation and finish this sentence: "My congregation is like"

Countless metaphors are used to describe congregations. One of the most common I've heard — and used — is *family*. But is this the best metaphor for understanding our congregations?

[A larger vision - The Lutheran Magazine](#)

http://www.thelutheran.org/article/article.cfm?article_id=572

[Images for The congregation is not a family but an outpost for mission – The Lutheran Magazine](#)

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

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

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

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

[Images for Bible and Congregation](#)

<http://bible.knowing-jesus.com/topics/Congregation>

<http://www.biblestudytools.com/dictionary/congregation/>

<https://www.kingjamesbibleonline.org/congregation/>

12) Context

Our Context: Exploring Our Congregation and Community by Mark D. Johns (Author)

Our Context is a guide to exploring your congregation and the surrounding community, identifying potential problems, and highlighting new opportunities to carry out your congregation's mission and proclaim the gospel. If you are in a congregation or community that is changing, the process outlined in this book can help your congregation deal with the changes in a positive manner.

This book helps pastors and congregational leaders work together in strategic planning, management, and evangelism teams. See Excerpts for reproducible tools that can be downloaded and customized.

<http://store.augsburgfortress.org/store/product/6605/Our-Context-Exploring-Our-Congregation-and-Community>

<http://www.amazon.com/Context-Congregational-Leader-Mark-Johns/dp/0806644044>

<https://www.luther.edu/johnsmar/>

<https://www.luther.edu/johnsmar/assets/MJohnsCV2016.pdf>

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

<https://www.amazon.com/Mark-D.-Johns/e/B001KI5KLL>

https://www.goodreads.com/author/show/1169276.Mark_D_Johns

Images for Mark D. Johns (Author)

Images for *Our Context: Exploring Our Congregation and Community* by Mark D. Johns (Author)

<https://www.augsburgfortress.org/store/category/286319/Congregational-LEADER-Series>

<https://www.augsburgfortress.org/store/category/286442/Leadership>

<https://www.goodreads.com/series/148656-congregational-leader-series>

<https://www.thriftbooks.com/series/congregational-leader-series/82455/>

Images for congregational leader series

Rethinking Interim Ministry by Anthony B. Robinson » Alban at Duke Divinity School

The interim minister role and model remains, as Loren Mead, puts it “a really important, valuable resource to the churches. Smart judicatories and smart church systems will develop a cadre of really first-class interim pastors.” But the larger **context** has changed.

The task is not just to successfully change ministers—although that is important. It is, at least often, to help 50 congregations make shifts in the culture of the congregation itself in order to be vital in a post-Christendom time and society.

Alban at Duke Divinity School » Rethinking Interim Ministry

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

Images for larger context has changed for congregations

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

<https://www.faithandleadership.com/anthony-b-robinson>

<https://www.amazon.com/Anthony-B.-Robinson/e/B001JRTNII>

<https://www.christiancentury.org/contributor/anthony-b-robinson>

http://day1.org/3939-the_rev_anthony_robinson

https://www.goodreads.com/author/list/70337.Anthony_B_Robinson

Images for Anthony B. Robinson

Reviving the Congregation: Pastoral Leadership in a Changing Context by Michael W. Foss (Author)

Pastoral leadership has always been challenging, but clergy and parish leaders today face unprecedented challenges, many of which simply didn't exist a generation ago. The questions of ministry and leadership in the church today range broadly across the financial and the managerial, the spiritual and the interpersonal.

In such a time, a wise mentor who can articulate a way forward for others is an immeasurable help. In *Reviving the Congregation*, Michael W. Foss, bestselling author of *Power Surge*, steps forward as that mentor.

Bringing decades of experience in congregational life and leadership and a winsome style to the work, Foss offers a compelling introduction to the new context in which we lead, and the personal and congregational strategies that will offer a way forward. *Reviving the Congregation* is rooted in Foss's own experience, but it is open to all through questions for reflection, space for notes and journaling, and an extended bibliography for further reading.

<http://fortresspress.com/product/reviving-congregation-pastoral-leadership-changing-context>

<https://www.amazon.com/Reviving-Congregation-Pastoral-Leadership-Changing/dp/145148288>

<https://www.goodreads.com/book/show/22340627-reviving-the-congregation>

<https://www.logos.com/product/49005/reviving-the-congregation-pastoral-leadership-in-a-changing-context>

<https://www.christianbook.com/reviving-congregation-pastoral-leadership-changing-context/michael-foss/9781451482881/pd/482881>

<https://books.google.com/books?isbn=1451482884>

https://books.google.com/books/about/Reviving_the_Congregation.html?id=jR_qAwwAAQBAJ

<https://muse.jhu.edu/book/33834> Project MUSE - Reviving the Congregation

<https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PL7F1B3jA9gTSjX8GD9oJbQvnmMGQlqM2Om> Pastor Michael Foss - Reviving the Congregation

Images for Michael W. Foss - YouTube

<http://www.patheos.com/Books/Book-Club/Michael-Foss-Reviving-the-Congregation>

<http://www.patheos.com/blogs/faithforward/2014/09/leading-in-changing-times-a-qa-with-pastor-michael-w-foss/>

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

http://day1.org/363-the_rev_dr_michael_foss

<http://fortresspress.com/author/michael-w-foss>

<https://www.amazon.com/Michael-W.-Foss/e/B001H6QC6M>

http://www.goodreads.com/author/show/319095.Michael_W_Foss

[Images for Michael W. Foss \(Author\)](#)

[Images for Reviving the Congregation: Pastoral Leadership in a Changing Context by Michael W. Foss \(Author\)](#)

The Postmodern Parish: New Ministry for a New Era [Jim Kitchens]

"Many of us who are pastors of local mainline churches have long felt that something is amiss in the life of our congregations. It's hard for us to name exactly what is wrong, but occasionally we are aware of a nagging sense that something is just not working any more. . . . Our best efforts at ministry feel like they're about a half beat behind some new pulse beginning to course through the culture," writes author Jim Kitchens. Congregational leaders who recognize Kitchens' description of congregational life today will appreciate his pointed and realistic analysis of fundamental shifts in ministry that have taken place in our postmodern, post-Christian, and post-denominational world. Kitchens also demonstrates that we need to create a different sort of church if we are to be faithful to the gospel in this new cultural setting. He addresses in detail how these contextual shifts invite us to change our ministry in four arenas of congregational life: worship, Christian formation, mission, and leadership. Kitchens shows congregational leaders how to learn how to be the body of Christ in ways that will be both faithful to the Gospel and responsive to our newly **emerging cultural context**.

<http://www.amazon.com/The-Postmodern-Parish-New-Ministry/dp/156699280X>

<https://www.goodreads.com/book/show/8134905-the-postmodern-parish>

<https://www.waterstones.com/book/the-postmodern-parish/jim-kitchens//9781566992800>

<https://books.google.com/books?isbn=1566996694>

[Images for postmodern parish emerging cultural context](#)

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

<https://nextchurch.net/tag/paracletos-2/>

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

<http://www.huffingtonpost.com/author/rev-jim-kitchens>

<http://chchurches.org/us/consultants/jim-kitchens/>

<https://www.linkedin.com/in/jim-kitchens-20840021>

[Images for Jim Kitchens, author new ministry](#)

[Images for The Postmodern Parish: New Ministry for a New Era \[Jim Kitchens\]](#)

13) Conversation

Changing the Conversation: A Third Way for Congregations by Anthony B. Robinson (Author)

A sequel to his best-selling *Transforming Congregational Culture* (2003), *Changing the Conversation* offers Anthony Robinson's latest work and thinking on congregational renewal and leadership. Robinson here invites church leaders and members into ten crucial conversations that will change their congregation's culture and help them respond with greater vitality, effectiveness, and faithfulness to our postmodern culture and its challenges.

<https://www.amazon.com/Changing-Conversation-Third-Way-Congregations/dp/0802807593>

<https://www.goodreads.com/book/show/5004635-changing-the-conversation>

<https://www.barnesandnoble.com/w/changing-the-conversation-anthony-b-robinson/1117245492>

<https://www.christianbook.com/changing-conversation-third-way-for-congregations/anthony-robinson/9780802807595/pd/807595>

<https://cathedralbookstore.org/p-4118-changing-the-conversation-a-third-way-for-congregations.aspx>

<http://www.eerdmans.com/Products/0759/changing-the-conversation.aspx>

<https://books.google.com/books?isbn=0802807593>

https://books.google.com/books/about/Changing_the_Conversation.html?id=yv3uwdu0FfoC

[Changing the Conversation: A Third Way for Congregations](#)

<http://www.anthonyrobinson.com/books.htm>

Wherever you start, it's important to hold together two qualities that don't always go well together: urgency and patience. This work, recognizing that Christendom is over and yet the need for the church and gospel is not over but, if anything, more acute, means we can't wait. We have to get on this right now. We have to work to become new congregations with a great sense of urgency. And yet we must be patient. We must be patient with each other because this is tough, demanding work. We must be patient with our leaders as they learn new ways and as they struggle to acquire new skills. We must be patient as old structures give way and we don't quite know what the new ones are. Doing this work means that we don't have the answers in advance. We are learning as we go.

<https://alban.org/archive/changing-the-conversation-nurturing-a-third-way-for-congregations/>

<https://cruciality.files.wordpress.com/2009/12/gorony-review-of-changing-the-conversation-by-anthony-b-robinson.pdf>

<https://forthesomedaybook.wordpress.com/2013/01/31/book-review-changing-the-conversation/>

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https://www.goodreads.com/author/show/70337.Anthony_B_Robinson

Community Leader Conversation Training

The initial contact:

- Call the leader to be visited and set up an appointment.
- Explain that you are a member of _____ Lutheran Church. Our congregation is in the process of a self-study. A part of this process is to visit with community leaders as we learn more about the neighborhood and community around us and its needs.
- Look at the website of the organization/business/agency – do some research – do your homework
- Tell them you would like to meet with them for 30-45 minutes.

The visit:

- Introduce yourself and ask the person to tell you something about them and their role in the business/agency.
- Ask the questions on the handout, but don't be too rigid. Ask if it is OK if you take some notes, if you wish to do so.
- Ask open ended questions
- Listen well and let your next questions flow from what you are hearing.
- This should be a nature conversation as much as an information gathering session.
- One of the goals is to develop a positive relationship with the leader with whom you are meeting.
- If you are given the name of someone else to contact, don't forget to get their contact info.
- Thank the person for their time before you leave.

Follow-up:

- Summarize the information you gathered from the visit in written form to share with the team later.
- Send a thank you note or email to the leader with whom you visited.

Community Leader Conversations

In getting to know the needs of the community, it is often helpful to visit with community leaders such as: school administrators, leaders of social service agencies, administrators of the hospital/clinic, business leaders, government leaders, police officers, fire fighters, pastors, etc.

Following is a list of questions you might want to consider asking community leaders. May God's Spirit empower you during these visits and as you share the responses with your congregational team for on-going discussion, discernment and planning that leads to action.

- Tell me what you know about our church. Where is it located? What do we do?
- What does the community need that our church can provide?
- Are there any ways that we could partner with you to respond to the needs of the community?
- What are your perceptions about the number of people who are not connected to a faith community in neighborhood/section of town/among your clients?
- What segment of the population do you serve? What are they like? Tell me about them.
- Five years from now, what do you hope will happen in the community?
- Is there someone else you know that I should visit with and ask these same questions?

Conversations with People in the Neighborhood/Community

In getting to know the needs of the neighborhood/community it is helpful to visit with individuals in the neighborhood/community. When asked, How do we know what doors to knock on in a neighborhood? a community organizer answered, Look for the flower pots! That may sound funny, but it is a good method. When you arrive on a street or neighborhood, look at the houses. The ones with flower pots in front, or planted flowers, or seasonal decorations probably indicate the people have lived there for a while and plan to stay. It also may indicate that one of their gifts is hospitality and so they may be more willing to talk to you. So don't knock on every door... just the ones with the flower pots. Here are some good questions to ask.

- Tell me what you know about our church. Where is it located? What do we do?
- What are some things most important in your neighborhood/community?
- What is happening in your neighborhood/community? How should a church respond?
- Why did you come here? What has it been like for you? Have people reached out and been welcoming?
- Are there things going on in the neighborhood/community that make you angry?
- Are there things going on in the neighborhood/community that make you hopeful?
- If you could change one thing about this neighborhood/community, what would it be?
- Who do you see as positive leaders in the community?
- If you want to know something about your neighborhood/community, who do you ask?
- Five years from now, what do you hope will happen in your neighborhood/community?
- What one good idea can you share?
- Is there someone else you know that I should visit with and ask these same questions?

Provided by Pastor Nancy Nyland, Director for Evangelical Mission in the Indiana-Kentucky Synod at a *Discovering Hope: Building Vitality in Your Congregation* event as one of the resources that she has implemented effectively in small membership congregation settings over the years. 317-253-3522 ext. 318 nnyland@iksynod.org

Conversation - Wikipedia

Conversation is interactive communication between two or more people. The development of conversational skills and etiquette is an important part of socialization. The development of conversational skills in a new language is a frequent focus of language teaching and learning. Conversation analysis is a branch of sociology which studies the structure and organization of human interaction, with a more specific focus on conversational interaction.

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

[Images for conversation](#)

Holy Conversations: Strategic Planning as a Spiritual Practice for Congregations by Gil Rendle Senior Consultant (Author), Alice Mann (Author)

Planning can be challenging in the contemporary congregation, where people share a common faith and values but may have very different preferences and needs. Much of the literature on congregational planning presents it as a technical process: the leader serves as the chief problem solver, and the goal is finding the solution to the problem.

Popular Alban consultants and authors Gil Rendle and Alice Mann cast planning as a "holy conversation," a congregational discernment process about three critical questions:

Who are we?

What has God called us to do or be?

Who is our neighbor?

Rendle and Mann equip congregational leaders with a broad and creative range of ideas, pathways, processes, and tools for planning. By choosing the resources that best suit their needs and context, congregations will shape their own strengthening, transforming, holy conversation. They will find a path that is faithful to their identity and their relationship with God.



<http://www.amazon.com/Holy-Conversations-Strategic-Spiritual-Congregations/dp/1566992869>

http://www.goodreads.com/book/show/331301.Holy_Conversations

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["vision" and "mission" - Metropolitan Community Church](#)

Page 2

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[Congregational Mission Planning - UCA SA - Uniting Church. Uniting People](#)

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Page 22

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Page 10

[file:///C:/Users/Owner/Downloads/Congregational-Mission-Planning%20\(6\).pdf](file:///C:/Users/Owner/Downloads/Congregational-Mission-Planning%20(6).pdf)

Page 9

[file:///C:/Users/Owner/Downloads/31%20-%201%20\(1\).pdf](file:///C:/Users/Owner/Downloads/31%20-%201%20(1).pdf)

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<https://www.uua.org/sites/live-new.uua.org/files/documents/congservices/smallcongs/growthresources.pdf>

<http://www.stpauls-nbpt.org/wp-content/uploads/2012/01/2011-Holy-Conversations-Report.pdf>

http://s3.amazonaws.com/storage.nm-storage.com/columbiamc/downloads/resourcee_understanding_your_church_s_life_cycle.pdf

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http://www.pdcmcb.org/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=20&Itemid=39
 [DOC]Strategic Planning - Center For Excellence In Ministry
 [PDF]Congregational Mission Planning - UCA SA
http://www.catonsvillepresb.org/CPC_Vision_Statement.pdf
<https://www.linkedin.com/pub/gil-rendle/44/503/202>
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<https://www.tmf-fdn.org/assets/uploads/docs/NextStepsintheWilderness.pdf>
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http://www.abingdonpress.com/gil_rendle
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<http://www.stpauls-nbpt.org/wp-content/uploads/2012/01/2011-Holy-Conversations-Report.pdf>
https://www.amazon.com/s?ie=UTF8&page=1&rh=n%3A283155%2Cp_27%3AGil%20Rendle
http://www.goodreads.com/author/show/190111.Gil_Rendle
 Images for Gil Rendle Senior Consultant (Author)
<https://www.centerforcongregations.org/conference-speakers> Alice Mann Conference Speakers | Center for Congregations
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<https://www.faihandleadership.com/gil-rendle-leadership-means-pushing-people-purpose>
<https://www.faihandleadership.com/multimedia/gil-rendle-what-if-we-have-too-much>
<http://www.congregationalconsulting.org/alice-mann/>
<https://alban.org/author/alicemann/>]
<https://www.amazon.com/Alice-Mann/e/B001K8KGK0>
http://www.goodreads.com/author/show/149624.Alice_Mann
 Images for Alice Mann (Author)
 Images for Holy Conversations: Strategic Planning as a Spiritual Practice for Congregations by Gil Rendle Senior Consultant (Author), Alice Mann (Author)

Spiritual Conversations: Creating and Sustaining Them Without Being a Jerk by Gary Rohrmayer (Goodreads Author)

Everyone is on a spiritual journey. Many are waiting for someone to walk alongside them and help them discover how God wants them to proceed on their journey. They are looking for a coach!

The body of Christ has yet to realize the potential for multiplying leaders and disciples through coaching. The author is a practitioner. He is a veteran evangelist, church planter and pastor but most of all, he is a coach. He is optimistic about God's power to change people and shares tips from his practical experience on how to engage people in *Spiritual Conversations*.

<http://www.amazon.com/Spiritual-Conversations-Gary-Rohrmayer/dp/1889638919>
<https://www.goodreads.com/book/show/15845132-spiritual-conversations>
http://www.yourjourneyresources.com/About%20Us_a/1.htm
<http://www.evangelismcoach.org/2011/book-review-spiritual-conversations-by-gary-rohrmayer/>
<https://www.convergemidamerica.org/http%3A/midam.convergeworldwide.org/about/staff/gary-rohrmayer>
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http://www.yourjourneyresources.com/About%20Us_a/1.htm
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CDs62b_ItO4 What is Converge? A Conversation with Gary Rohrmayer – YouTube
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yM2f4fhs4A> Gary Rohrmayer Converge MidAmerica SD – YouTube
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ll1VooW8Mzs> Spiritual Conversations Sermon - Gary Rohrmayer - YouTube
 Images for Gary Rohrmayer - YouTube
<https://www.facebook.com/gary.rohrmayer>
<https://www.thriftbooks.com/a/gary-rohrmayer/343918/>
<https://www.amazon.com/Gary-Rohrmayer/e/B00J6I3IJC>
http://www.goodreads.com/author/show/2800375.Gary_Rohrmayer
 Images for Gary Rohrmayer, author
 Images for Spiritual Conversations: Creating and Sustaining Them Without Being a Jerk by Gary Rohrmayer

14) Conversion

Conversion in the New Testament (Zaccheus Studies New Testament) by Ronald D. Witherup PSS (Author)

The upsurge of born again" Christianity has made conversion, a perennially important topic, especially popular today. With its special emphasis on the Bible and its teachings, evangelical Christianity has championed the need for conversion in modern life. But what does the Bible really say about conversion? Is the New Testament view of conversion uniform? Is it a one-time occurrence or an ongoing process? According to the gospels, how central to the message of Jesus is conversion?

Many studies focus on psychological or anthropological aspects of conversion, but they give only a nod to the biblical data. This book contends that an overly narrow view of the biblical teaching on conversion has effectively distorted the average Christian's understanding of this topic. The New Testament contains a much broader and more diverse perspective on conversion than is usually recognized, which Father Witherup organizes and presents.

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http://www.sulpc.org/ed/20110219_witherup_publications_1987-2011.pdf

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Images for Ronald D. Witherup PSS (Author)

[Images for Conversion in the New Testament \(Zaccheus Studies New Testament\) by Ronald D. Witherup PSS \(Author\)](#)

<https://iitpress.org/Category/S-ZSNT/Zacchaeus-Studies-New-Testament>

Images for (Zaccheus Studies New Testament)

Conversion in the New Testament: Paul and the Twelve [Richard V. Peace, David M. Scholer]

This inspiring look at conversion in the Bible offers promising new changes in the way we view-and do-evangelism today. In order to be effective in evangelism, one must clearly understand the dynamics of conversion. Richard Peace here examines two very different conversion experiences-Paul's and the twelve disciples'-and explains their implications for contemporary evangelism. By showing how conversion can take place either suddenly or gradually over time, Peace gives good reasons, and suggests practical ways, to replace one-sided evangelism techniques with more wholistic methods.

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<https://www.amazon.com/Richard-Peace/e/B001JSBXSA>

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Images for Richard V. Peace, author

<http://www.wheaton.edu/~media/Files/Centers-and-Institutes/BGC/Roundtable/2001/2001-Peace.pdf>

<https://www.facebook.com/David-M-Scholer-44809531368/>

<https://www.amazon.com/David-M.-Scholer/e/B001JOID96>

http://www.goodreads.com/author/show/349900.David_M_Scholer

Images for David M. Scholer, author

[Images for Conversion in the New Testament: Paul and the Twelve \[Richard V. Peace, David M. Scholer\]](#)

Conversion Quotes - BrainyQuote

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

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

<https://www.ncronline.org/blogs/francis-chronicles/popes-quotes-conversion>

Conversion to Christianity - Wikipedia

Conversion to Christianity is the [religious conversion](#) of a previously non-Christian person to [Christianity](#). Different sects of Christianity may perform various different kinds of rituals or ceremonies on a convert in order to initiate them into a community of believers. The most commonly accepted ritual of conversion in Christianity is through [baptism](#), but this is not universally accepted among Christian denominations. A period of instruction and study almost always ensues before a person is formally converted into Christianity, but the length of this period varies, sometimes as short as a few weeks and possibly less, and other times, up to as long as a year or possibly more.

Most mainline Christian denominations will accept conversion into other denominations as valid, so long as a baptism with water in the name of the [Trinity](#) took place, but some may accept a simple profession of faith in [Jesus as Lord](#) as being all that was needed for true conversion.^[1] Other Christians may not accept conversions performed in other denominations and certain communities may be discriminated against as heretical. This is most true for many [nontrinitarian](#) sects, which many [mainstream Christian](#) denominations (Catholic, Orthodox, and Protestant) reject as having valid forms of conversion. Consequently, many nontrinitarian sects spiritually isolate themselves in that they may only consider their conversions valid and not those of mainstream Christianity.



The Conversion of Saul on the road to Damascus as painted by Michelangelo

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Conversion_to_Christianity
Images for Conversion to Christianity

How Ready Are We for Church Growth by Conversion?

If we saw the same kind of church growth through conversions described in Acts 2:47, would we be ready?

<http://mintools.com/blog/conversion-growth.htm>

Images for Church Growth by Conversion

<http://seniorpastorcentral.com/703/4-changes-senior-pastors-must-make-break-200-barrier/> #2

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Images for Convert Others to Faith in Christ

The Continuing Conversion of the Church (Gospel & Our Culture) [Darrell L. Guder]

Western society is now a very different, very difficult mission field. This insightful book shows how the church can effectively carry out its missionary calling by building a new theology of **evangelism** that has its focus on the church itself. After charting the church's historical shift away from a biblical theology of evangelism and highlighting the contemporary challenges to evangelical ministry, Darrell Guder discusses what a truly missional theology will mean for the institutional structures and practices of today's church.

<http://www.amazon.com/Continuing-Conversion-Church-Gospel-Culture/dp/080284703X>

https://www.goodreads.com/book/show/324261.The_Continuing_Conversion_of_the_Church

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Images for Darrell L. Guder, author

Images for The Continuing Conversion of the Church (Gospel & Our Culture) [Darrell L. Guder]

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QselVluDwyc> Darrell Guder: How to Get Missional – YouTube

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<https://www.overdrive.com/series/the-gospel-and-our-culture-series-gocs>

<https://www.librarything.com/series/The+Gospel+and+Our+Culture>

<https://www.albanbooks.com/c/156/the-gospel-and-our-culture-series>

Images for gospel and our culture series

15) Denomination

Church and Denominational Growth: What Does (and Does Not) Cause Growth or Decline. Edited by David A. Roozen and C. Kirk Hadaway

Roozen and Hadaway have assembled a nice collection of studies describing what does (and does not) cause growth or decline in American churches. It matters what region of the country and what denomination one is interested. Lessons from these studies are informative to organizational leaders of churches and other non-profit organizations who struggle to understand the dynamics of attracting, motivating, and retaining a volunteer organization.

<http://www.goodreads.com/review/show/400961277>

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

<http://www.amazon.co.uk/Church-Denominational-Growth-Cause-Decline/dp/toc/0687159040>

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

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https://s3.amazonaws.com/path1/Files/recent_denominationa.pdf

[http://www.episcopalchurch.org/files/2004GrowthReport\(1\).pdf](http://www.episcopalchurch.org/files/2004GrowthReport(1).pdf)

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

Page 34
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Images for David A. Roozen, author

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<https://www.hachettebookgroup.com/authors/david-a-roozen/>

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<http://www.hartsem.edu/2015/05/book-reveals-how-congregations-are-successfully-engaging-new-generations/>

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https://www.goodreads.com/author/show/113593.C_Kirk_Hadaway

Images for C. Kirk Hadaway, author

Images for Church and Denominational Growth: What Does (and Does Not) Cause Growth or Decline. Edited by David A. Roozen and C. Kirk Hadaway

Rerouting The Protestant Mainstream: Sources of Growth & Opportunities For Change by C. Kirk Hadaway, David A. Roozen

Rerouting The Protestant Mainstream is a tightly focused analysis of trends, markets, **denominational** influences, and directions for the future. It explains why some churches are growing and why others are not, and helps pastors know how to go about improving their churches and helping them to grow.

<http://www.amazon.com/Rerouting-Protestant-Mainstream-Sources-Opportunities/dp/0687453666>

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Page 4

Images for Rerouting The Protestant Mainstream: Sources of Growth & Opportunities For Change by C. Kirk Hadaway, David A. Roozen

Christian denomination - Wikipedia

A Christian denomination is a distinct **religious** body within **Christianity** that comprises all **church congregations** of the same kind, identifiable by traits such as a name, peculiar history, organization, leadership, **theological doctrine**, worship style and sometimes a founder. It is a secular and neutral term, generally used to denote any established Christian Church. Unlike a **cult** or sect, a denomination is usually seen as part of the **Christian religious mainstream**. Most Christian denominations self-describe as *Churches*, whereas some newer ones tend to use the terms churches, assemblies, **fellowships** etc, interchangeably. Divisions between one group and another are defined by authority and doctrine; issues such as the **nature of Jesus**, the authority of **apostolic succession**, **biblical hermeneutics**, **theology**, **ecclesiology**, **eschatology**, and **papal primacy** may separate one denomination from another. Groups of denominations—often sharing broadly similar beliefs, practices, and historical ties—are sometimes known as "**branches of Christianity**". These branches differ in many ways, especially through differences in practices and belief.^{[1][2][3][4][5][6][7]} Individual **denominations** vary widely in the degree to which they recognize one another. Several groups say they are the direct and **sole authentic successor** of the church founded by **Jesus Christ** in the **1st century AD**. Others, however, believe in denominationalism, where some or all Christian groups are legitimate churches of the same religion regardless of their distinguishing labels, beliefs, and practices. Because of this concept, some Christian bodies reject the term "denomination" to describe themselves, to avoid implying equivalency with other churches or denominations.

The Catholic Church, which has over 1.3 billion members or 50.1% of all Christians worldwide,^{[8][9]} does not view itself as a denomination, but as the original pre-denominational Church,^[10] a view rejected by other Christians. **Protestant denominations** altogether have an estimated 800 million to 1 billion adherents, which account for approximately 37 to 40 percent of all Christians worldwide.^{[8][11]} Together, Roman Catholicism and Protestantism (with major traditions including **Adventism**, **Anabaptism**, **Anglicanism**, **Baptists**, **Lutheranism**, **Methodism**, **Moravianism**, **Pentecostalism** and **Calvinism**) compose **Western Christianity**.^{[12][13]} Western Christian denominations prevail in **Western**, **Northern**, **Central** and **Southern Europe**, **Sub-Saharan Africa**, the **Americas**, and **Oceania**.^[14]

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

Images for Christian denomination

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

God's Missionary People: Rethinking the Purpose of the Local Church by Charles E. Van Engen, Arthur Glasser

The author advocates a closer identification between the local congregation and the universal church. He works through the realities of church life and **denominational** organizations before challenging church leaders to redefine ecclesiology.

<https://www.amazon.com/Gods-Missionary-People-Rethinking-Purpose/dp/0801093112>

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Page 246

xviii Contributors

http://www.goodreads.com/author/show/451623.Charles_E_Van_Engen

Images for Charles E. Van Engen, author

<https://www.linkedin.com/in/charles-van-engen-a7557515>

<http://journals.sagepub.com/doi/abs/10.1177/009182960102900102> Toward a Theology of Mission Partnerships

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<https://www.amazon.com/Arthur-F.-Glasser/e/B001KIUNMG>

https://www.goodreads.com/author/show/461576.Arthur_F_Glasser

Images for Arthur Glasser, author

Images for God's Missionary People: Rethinking the Purpose of the Local Church by Charles E. Van Engen, Arthur Glasser

For the Sake of Mission by Bishop Duane Pederson - Northwest Synod of Wisconsin

In our rapidly changing culture, the Christian church is at a crossroads—either we can “circle the wagons,” pine for the good ol’ days, and struggle to survive, or we can re-imagine ministry where our identity is deeply grounded in Jesus and mission is the purpose for which we live and breathe. Bishop Pederson will emphasize the formation of disciples who are sent into the world “for the sake of mission.” This crossroads is a time of opportunity as we witness and serve in the name of Jesus.

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

Images for For the Sake of Mission

info@nswi.org

<http://www.elca.org/News-and-Events/5938> Duane Pederson Elected Bishop of ELCA Northwest Synod of Wisconsin

<http://myemail.constantcontact.com/News-from-NW-Synod-of-WI.html?soid=1101126434512&aid=6IO0map7eS4>

<http://www.stjohnelca.org/index.php/about/staff/pederson>

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Duane_C._Pederson

Hope, Renewal, and Re-rooting by Bishop Duane Pederson - Northwest Synod of Wisconsin

There is a distinction between trying to get members who will stay put in the church to support the institution and receiving new members so that they are fed, equipped, and sent. There is a difference between engaging in programs that serve primarily those who hold membership, and deepening faith such that vocation is understood as living faithfully in all of life, not just church life. There is a difference between coming together as a social club or closed family and gathering around the gifts of Word and Sacrament to be steeped in God's grace.

http://www.nswi.org/webfiles/fnitools/documents/dcp_keynote_2011web.pdf

Images for Hope, Renewal, and Re-rooting by Bishop Duane Pederson

Talking Turkey by Bishop Duane Pederson - Northwest Synod of Wisconsin

At this year's Synod Assembly, Bishop Duane Pederson received a standing ovation for his report, “It's Time to Talk Turkey.” He began, “I want to share some thoughts that reveal what stirs deeply within me these days as your bishop. It is my intent to confront, challenge, inspire, and perhaps irritate. I want what I say to be part of an ongoing conversation about who we are as the people of God and how we witness to and serve Jesus in this time and in this place. It's time to talk turkey!”

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

Images for Talking Turkey by Bishop Duane Pederson - Northwest Synod of Wisconsin

God's Missionary People: Rethinking the Purpose of the Local Church by Charles E. Van Engen, Arthur Glasser

The author advocates a closer identification between the local congregation and the universal church. He works through the realities of church life and **denominational** organizations before challenging church leaders to redefine ecclesiology.

<https://www.amazon.com/Gods-Missionary-People-Rethinking-Purpose/dp/0801093112>

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Page 246
xviii Contributors
Page 5
V

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[Images for Arthur Glasser, author](#)

[Images for God's Missionary People: Rethinking the Purpose of the Local Church by Charles E. Van Engen, Arthur Glasser](#)

Hit the Bullseye: How Denominations Can Aim Congregations at the Mission Field [Paul D. Borden]

This book is not an attempt to offer hope, help, or even advice on what denominations need to do. However, it is a book about a significant turn-around of a middle-level administration of justice in one Protestant denomination and it does offer hope that other like administrations might be able to experience a better and more effective existence. Everyone's experience is unique and therefore cannot be replicated. However, the implementation of foundational all-encompassing principles, the development of new strategies, and the performance of specific tactics that are successful in one situation does offer hope to others that their modeling of the principles, adapting the strategies, and creating specific tactics to fit their context can bring change.

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[Hit the Bullseye: How Denominations Can Aim the Congregation at the Mission Field](#)

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<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BSrG313wiz4> Message from Dr. Paul D. Borden - 06/17/2012 – YouTube

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ObXNnKjSf7Y> Paul Borden - Leader Session 1 - July 25, 2015 – YouTube

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mGAL4Ks6lXw> Paul Borden - Leader Session 2 - July 25, 2015 - YouTube

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9Naluy3fmsQ> Paul Borden - Healthy Church Recommendations for Trinity - July 26, 2015-YouTube

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[Images for Paul D. Borden, author](#)

[Images for Hit the Bullseye: How Denominations Can Aim Congregations at the Mission Field \[Paul D. Borden\]](#)

Leadership and the Missional Church - Northwest Synod of Wisconsin

Some of you may have seen Tom Ehrich's article in The Lutheran entitled "Tough Medicine for Tough Problems in Tough Times: Six Suggestions for Church Leadership." His six leadership suggestions are:

1. Elected leaders need to stop running churches (leave the management of ministry to staff and lay volunteers, so that elected leaders focus on the future and strategic thinking).
2. Leaders need to embrace risk and change.
3. Leaders need to get smart about organizational development.
4. Leaders need to enhance their skills.
5. Leaders need to ramp up their preparation and performance.
6. Leaders need better data.

Erich concludes his article with these ominous words: "I know full well that most church leadership groups will recoil at these suggestions. But I also believe these recommendations will be the only way forward. Now is the time to take the first steps in setting aside inherited ways of being church leaders. They haven't worked for nearly 50 years, and they aren't likely to start working now" (April 2011 issue).

http://www.nwswi.org/webfiles/fnitools/documents/keynote_d_pederson.pdf

[Images for Leadership and the Missional Church - Northwest Synod of Wisconsin](#)

Plan for Mission - Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

Welcome to the Plan for Mission resource page. This resource page provides you a visual way to explore and download the many types of resources we have available. You may also use our powerful search engine to find other resources not listed here. - See more at: <http://www.elca.org/en/Resources/Plan-for-Mission#sthash.gceUVuMy.dpuf>

<http://www.elca.org/en/Resources/Plan-for-Mission>

[Images for Plan for Mission - Evangelical Lutheran Church in America](#)

Reclaiming the Great Commission: A Practical Model for Transforming Denominations and Congregations by Bishop Claude Payne (Author), Hamilton Beazley (Author)

Reclaiming the Great Commission describes a biblically based model that can restore the missionary power of first-century Christianity to twenty-first century denominations and their congregations. Based on shared vision and mission, the model can guide the members of any congregation or denomination into deeper and broader evangelism, an enhanced experience of community, and a renewed hope of personal and spiritual transformation.

<http://www.amazon.com/Reclaiming-Great-Commission-Denominations-Congregations/dp/0787952680>

https://www.goodreads.com/book/show/810073.Reclaiming_the_Great_Commission

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https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Episcopal_Diocese_of_Texas
http://www.authorinsider.com/about_no_regrets/beazleybio.html
<https://www.amazon.com/Hamilton-Beazley/e/B001ILKHNO>
http://www.goodreads.com/author/show/114284.Hamilton_Beazley
Images for Hamilton Beazley (Author)
[Images for Reclaiming the Great Commission: A Practical Model for Transforming Denominations and Congregations by Bishop Claude Payne \(Author\), Hamilton Beazley \(Author\)](#)

Thom Rainer Points Way Forward Despite Denominational Challenges

Rainer noted the importance of personal evangelism in seeing a denominational renewal. "The way to turn things around is if every member of every church will answer the call of the Great Commission and say, 'Here am I. Send me,'" he said. That includes pastors and leaders.

<https://factsand Trends.net/2018/06/13/thom-rainer-points-way-forward-despite-denominational-challenges/>
Images for Thom Rainer Points Way Forward Despite Denominational Challenges
<https://thomrainer.com/2018/06/denomination-dying-revitalize-replant-045/>
<https://thomrainer.com/2018/01/eight-reasons-denominations-struggling-rainer-leadership-402/>
<https://thomrainer.com/2018/06/contemporary-trends-church-names/>
<https://thomrainer.com/2015/06/the-future-of-denominations-rainer-on-leadership-130/>
Images for thom rainer (author)

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

<https://www.openbible.info/topics/denominations>
Images for Bible and Denominations
<https://www.kingjamesbibleonline.org/Bible-Verses-About-Denominations/>
<https://bible.knowing-jesus.com/topics/Denominations>
<https://www.gotquestions.org/denominations-Christian.html>
<https://www.jw.org/en/bible-teachings/questions/christian-denominations/>
Images for bible-teachings/questions/christian-denominations

Why Denomination Matters to Church Growth | Christianity Today

A recent study suggest orthodoxy doesn't draw church crowds on its own.

<http://www.christianitytoday.com/ct/2012/june/spotlight-jun12.html>
Images for Why Denomination Matters to Church Growth | Christianity Today
<https://www.christianitytoday.com/edstetzer/2011/september/do-denominations-matter.html>
<https://www.christianitytoday.com/edstetzer/2018/october/partnering-across-denominations-ed-stetzer.html>
<https://www.christianitytoday.com/biblestudies/bible-answers/theology/why-are-there-different-denominations.html>
<https://www.christianitytoday.com/pastors/browse/>

Why Denominational Identity Still Matters - The Gospel Coalition

Denominational distinctives won't disappear, and we will no doubt continue to have "family discussions" about the doctrines and practices that divide us. However, we will also be more united than we've ever been in preaching the gospel, serving those in need, and speaking out against evil and injustice, thereby bearing witness to the culture around us. We won't have the luxury of reverting to sectarianism—the stakes are simply too high. Denominational identity will matter, but only in a secondary way as we seek first and foremost to be "blameless and innocent, children of God without blemish in the midst of a crooked and twisted generation, among whom you shine as lights in the world" (Phil. 2:15).

<https://www.thegospelcoalition.org/article/why-denominational-identity-still-matters/>
Images for Why Denominational Identity Still Matters - The Gospel Coalition