

Interim Ministry Resources

Chapter 15 Mission

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Resources

1) Exile

Alan Hirsch - Wikiquote

The church of Jesus needs to wake up from the **exile** of passivity and embrace liminality and adventure or continue to remain a religious ghetto for culturally co-opted, fearful, middle-class folk. p. 92.

https://en.wikiquote.org/wiki/Alan_Hirsch

[Images for The church of Jesus needs to wake up from the exile of passivity and embrace liminality and adventure](https://www.amazon.com/Faith-Leap-Embracing-Adventure-Shapevine/dp/0801014158)

<https://www.amazon.com/Faith-Leap-Embracing-Adventure-Shapevine/dp/0801014158>

[Images for Faith-Leap-Embracing-Adventure](https://www.amazon.com/Faith-Leap-Embracing-Adventure-Shapevine/dp/0801014158)

By the Rivers of Babylon: Blueprint for a Church in Exile (Prisms) [Robert P. Hoch]

The language of exile, focused with theological and biblical narratives and coupled with depictions of real-life exilic communities, can equip church leaders as agents in the creation of new communities. Robert Hoch reads the larger North American tradition of Christian worship and mission through the prism of visibly marginalized communities. Through this lens, leaders may come to see diversity as an indication of mission vitality and focus less on assimilating people and more on the future promises of God and the manifold textures of incarnation.

<http://www.amazon.com/By-Rivers-Babylon-Blueprint-Church/dp/0800698533>

<https://www.goodreads.com/book/show/17466643-by-the-rivers-of-babylon>

<https://www.christianbook.com/rivers-babylon-blueprint-for-church-exile/robert-hoch/9780800698539/pd/698531>

<https://www.bookdepository.com/By-Rivers-Babylon-Robert-P-Hoch/9780800698539>

<https://www.barnesandnoble.com/w/by-the-rivers-of-babylon-robert-p-hoch/1114683610>

<http://store.augsburgfortress.org/store/productgroup/633/By-the-Rivers-of-Babylon-Blueprint-for-a-Church-in-Exile>

<https://www.augsburgfortress.org/store/product/9781451438505/eBook-By-the-Rivers-of-Babylon-Blueprint-for-a-Church-in-Exile>

<https://books.google.com/books?isbn=0800698533>

<https://books.google.com/books?isbn=1451438508>

<https://muse.jhu.edu/book/27652>

<http://www.elca.org/JLE/Articles/1079> Hoch, Robert P. By the Rivers of Babylon: Blueprint for a Church in Exile.

<https://repository.divinity.edu.au/3081/1/final%20hard%20copy%20version.pdf>

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<http://www.huffingtonpost.com/author/rhoch87-141>

<http://www.firstfranklin.org/index.php/about/church-staff/staff--2/>

<https://www.amazon.com/Robert-P.-Hoch/e/B00E5OS8VA>

https://www.goodreads.com/author/show/4220962.Robert_P_Hoch

[Images for Robert P. Hoch, author](https://www.amazon.com/Robert-P.-Hoch/e/B00E5OS8VA)

[Images for By the Rivers of Babylon: Blueprint for a Church in Exile \(Prisms\) \[Robert P. Hoch\]](https://www.amazon.com/Robert-P.-Hoch/e/B00E5OS8VA)

Exiles: Living Missionally in a Post-Christian Culture by Michael Frost (Author)

Exiles: Living Missionally in a Post-Christian Culture presents a biblical, Christian worldview for the emergent church people who are not at home in the traditional church or in the secular world. As exiles of both, they must create their own worldview that integrates their Christian beliefs with the contemporary world. Exiles seek to integrate all aspects of life and decision making and to develop the characteristics of a Christian life lived intentionally within emerging (postmodern) culture. It presents a plea for a dynamic, life affirming, robust Christian faith that can be lived successfully in the post-Christian world of twenty-first century Western society. This book will present a Christian lifestyle that can be lived in nonreligious categories and be attractive to not yet Christians. Such a worldview takes ecology and politics seriously. It offers a positive response to the workplace, the arts, feminism, mystery and worship. Exiles seeks to develop a framework that will allow Christians to live boldly and courageously in a world that no longer values the culture of the church, but does greatly value many of the things the Bible speaks positively about. This book suggests that there is more to being a Christian than meets the eye. It explores the secret, unseen nooks and crannies in the life of a Christian and suggests that faith is about more than church attendance and belief in God. Written in a conversational, easy to read style, Exiles is aimed at church leaders, pastors and laypersons and seeks to address complex issues in a simple manner. It includes helpful photographs and diagrams.

http://www.amazon.com/Exiles-Living-Missionally-Post-Christian-Culture/dp/B005K6FM6Q/ref=pd_sxp_f_r

<http://astore.amazon.com/interimini06-20/detail/0801046270>

<https://www.goodreads.com/book/show/12205.Exiles>

<https://www.goodreads.com/work/quotes/14528-exiles-living-missionally-in-a-post-christian-culture>

https://www.goodreads.com/author/quotes/4627722.Michael_Frost

<http://bakerpublishinggroup.com/books/exiles/333030>

<https://www.barnesandnoble.com/w/exiles-michael-frost/1111409646>

<https://www.christianbook.com/exiles-living-missionally-post-christian-culture/michael-frost/9780801046278/pd/046278>

<https://books.google.com/books/about/Exiles.html?id=vr5XIAOzqsoC>

<http://ojs.globalmissiology.org/index.php/english/article/view/23/64>

<https://www.alisonmorgan.co.uk/Books/Frost%202006.pdf>

<http://jrwoodward.net/2008/11/exiles-living-missionally-in-a-post-christian-culture-by-michael-frost-a-review/>

<https://www.missionalliance.org/the-church-is-in-post-christian-exile-but-should-we-really-respond-like-its-a-war/>

<https://elevatechristiannetwork.com/exiles-living-missionally-in-a-post-christian-culture/>

<https://sojo.net/articles/no-american-church-isn-t-exile>

<http://www.facingthechallenge.org/exiles.php>

<http://lisanotes.blogspot.com/2009/05/whats-on-your-nightstand.html>

<https://digitalcommons.georgefox.edu/cgi/viewcontent.cgi?article=1053&context=dmin>

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<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5NtJCgho9mc> Michael Frost | On missional church, discipleship & faith | The GlobalChurch Project

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=W5w61pwuCE> Michael Frost on Missional.wmv – YouTube

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=W5w61pwuCE> Michael Frost on Missional.wmv – YouTube

<https://books.google.com/books/about/Exiles.html?id=iPlbDckEbk8C>

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Michael_Frost_\(minister\)](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Michael_Frost_(minister))

<http://mikefrost.net/>

<https://www.facebook.com/michaelfrost6>

<https://twitter.com/michaelfrost6?lang=en>

<http://www.theworkofthepeople.com/person/michael-frost>

<https://www.amazon.com/Michael-Frost/e/B001JOYQ2E>

http://www.goodreads.com/author/show/4627722.Michael_Frost

[Images for Michael Frost \(Author\)](#)

[Images for Exiles: Living Missionally in a Post-Christian Culture by Michael Frost \(Author\)](#)

The Church in Exile: Being a Missionary to the Dominant Culture by Ryn Nasser - Alban

While exile presents immense challenges to a people, just as Israel found its way through exile so, too, will the church today. Not because we are so astute but because God is always faithful to his promises and is constantly working in new and inventive ways.

The work of ministry in an exilic context is to discern what God is doing and how he may want us to collaborate. These are challenging times. The move into exile was a devastating event in Israelite life and faith, and it is disconcerting for many in the contemporary church. But, as Episcopal priest and theologian Ephraim Radner eloquently states, "Exile is also a movement by which our Lord delineated deliverance. As such, it can hardly be a cause for fear."³

[Alban at Duke Divinity School » The Church in Exile: Being a Missionary to the Dominant Culture](#)

<https://alban.org/archive/the-church-in-exile-being-a-missionary-to-the-dominant-culture/>

[Images for The Church in Exile: Being a Missionary to the Dominant Culture » Alban](#)

<https://alban.org/archive/congregations-magazine-fall-2008/>

<https://alban.org/category/missions-evangelism/>

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

<https://alban.org/2014/09/26/ministry-beyond-aspiration/>

<https://alban.org/2014/10/13/alban-weekly-jazz-belongs-in-church/>

<https://alban.org/2015/03/06/norman-bendroth-transitional-ministry-today/>

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

2) Expectations

[Congregations Whose Aspirations Are Low Aim for Mediocrity](#)

It is used to help congregation feel good about themselves when they are actually in a state of mediocrity. They lack high **expectations**.

<http://bullardjournal.blogs.com/bullardjournal/2015/11/congregations-whose-aspirations-are-low-aim-for-mediocrity.html>

[Images for Congregations Whose Aspirations Are Low Aim for Mediocrity](#)

[Images for high church membership expectations](#)

[Four kinds of congregations – John Meunier](#)

Decaying churches: Negative growth and low sustainability. The largest group of United Methodist churches. Have no real sense of identity or purpose. Often have small core of heavy lifters with disengaged majority. Worship on Sunday morning is focal point of congregational life, often to point that little else happens. Low membership **expectations**.

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

[Images for Four kinds of congregations – John Meunier Decaying churches: Negative growth and low sustainability. Low membership expectations.](#)

[High Expectations | CT Pastors | Christianity Today](#)

What does a high-expectation church look like? While some attributes are intangible and difficult to quantify, here are some common traits:

<http://www.christianitytoday.com/pastors/2009/september-online-only/hghexpectations.html>

[Images for High Expectations | CT Pastors | Christianity Today](#)

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

[Images for High Expectations: How to Raise the Bar So People Will Stay](https://www.umcdiscipleship.org/blog/article/high-expectations-reap-great-fruitfulness)
<https://www.umcdiscipleship.org/blog/article/high-expectations-reap-great-fruitfulness>

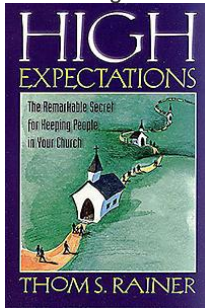
[Images for umcdiscipleship/high-expectations-reap-great-fruitfulness](https://www.umcdiscipleship.org/blog/article/high-expectations-reap-great-fruitfulness)

<http://www.uua.org/interconnections/56240.shtml> High Expectations Help Create Committed Members | UUA.org

[Images for High Expectations Help Create Committed Members](https://www.umcdiscipleship.org/blog/article/high-expectations-reap-great-fruitfulness)

High Expectations: The Remarkable Secret for Keeping People in Your Church by Thom S. Rainer (Author)

For over a quarter of a century the problem of losing church members has progressively increased. Today the situation is so bad that less than one-third of the members in some churches attend worship services. Church leaders are crying for help. In an effort to help church leaders, the Billy Graham School of the Southern Baptist Theological Seminary conducted a massive research project involving nearly 287 churches. The most revealing aspect of the study was that the higher expectations placed on members, the greater the likelihood that the members would stay and be involved with the church. Using the data gathered from this project, Thom Rainer presents the first-ever comprehensive study about 'closing the back door.' Rainer looks at why people are leaving the church and how church leaders can keep the members.



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

http://www.goodreads.com/book/show/539476.High_Expectations

<http://www.barnesandnoble.com/w/high-expectations-thom-s-rainer/1111010922>

<http://www.lifeway.com/Product/high-expectations-the-remarkable-secret-for-keeping-people-in-your-church-P001125371>

<http://www.bhpublishinggroup.com/products/high-expectations>

<http://thomrainer.com/books-by-rainer/high-expectation-churches/>

<http://thomrainer.com/2012/07/how-many-churches-have-new-member-classes/>

<http://thomrainer.com/2014/02/seven-paradigm-shifts-in-the-church-rainer-on-leadership-043/>

<http://thomrainer.com/2011/03/a-case-for-church-membership/>

<http://thomrainer.com/2013/08/the-number-one-reason-for-the-decline-in-church-attendance-and-five-ways-to-address-it/>

<https://thomrainer.com/2013/01/the-main-reason-people-leave-a-church/>

<https://books.google.com/books?isbn=1433671891>

https://books.google.com/books/about/High_Expectations.html?id=LG4AwAAQBAJ

https://books.google.com/books/about/High_Expectations.html?id=754JAAAACAAJ

http://www.baptistbanner.org/Subarchive_1/103%20High%20Expectations.htm

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

<https://books.google.com/books?isbn=1433674947> Chapter 5 Footnote 1

<http://www.christianitytoday.com/pastors/2009/september-online-only/hghexpectations.html>

<https://churchleaders.com/pastors/pastor-articles/309681-10-unfair-expectations-pastors-wives-thom-rainer.html>

<http://www.lifeandleadership.com/book-summaries/rainer-high-expectations.html>

<https://digitalcommons.liberty.edu/cgi/viewcontent.cgi?article=1679&context=doctoral>

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<http://www.obcbaptist.org/clientimages/44291/sundayschool/transformational%20class.pdf>

Page 30

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Thom_S._Rainer

<https://www.facebook.com/Thom.S.Rainer/>

<https://www.christianpost.com/author/thom-s-rainer/>

https://www.remnantbooks.org/products/author/Thom%20S%20Rainer/~/product_title_desc

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

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

[Images for Thom S. Rainer \(Author\)](https://www.umcdiscipleship.org/blog/article/high-expectations-reap-great-fruitfulness)

[Images for High Expectations: The Remarkable Secret for Keeping People in Your Church by Thom S. Rainer \(Author\)](https://www.umcdiscipleship.org/blog/article/high-expectations-reap-great-fruitfulness)

How to Attract and Keep Active Church Members by Donald P. Smith

Jesus had high **expectations** of his disciples. Why do we expect less? The temptation for most mainline churches is to make it too easy to join the church.

<https://books.google.com/books?isbn=0664251404>

Page 78

[Images for Jesus had high expectations of his disciples.](https://www.umcdiscipleship.org/blog/article/high-expectations-reap-great-fruitfulness)

In this study of church growth and membership retention, Donald Smith argues that if a church is to survive, it must concentrate on keeping its present members as well as attracting new ones. He interviews people from six hundred churches of various sizes and reviews the causes of membership decline and retention in those churches. He provides evidence that a major problem is membership dropout. He brings together and addresses the assimilation of new members, congregational vitality and church

growth, and conflict management and its impact on membership retention. He asserts that churches must meet members' needs in order to attract and keep them.

<https://www.amazon.com/Attract-Keep-Active-Church-Members/dp/0664251404>

<https://www.christianbook.com/attract-and-keep-active-church-members/donald-smith/9780664251406/pd/25140>

<http://www.pcusastore.com/Products/0664251404/how-to-attract-and-keep-active-church-members.aspx>

<https://core.ac.uk/download/pdf/58825152.pdf>

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<https://books.google.com/books?isbn=1558962891>

Page 242

<https://www.amazon.com/Donald-P.-Smith/e/B001HCZX1G>

[Images for donald p. smith, author active church members](#)

[Images for How to Attract and Keep Active Church Members by Donald P. Smith](#)

Which Ratios Are Most Useful? - Religious Product News

In broad general terms, those congregations that project very high **expectations** of anyone seeking to become a member usually report their average worship attendance exceeds 100 percent of their membership. "Everyone is welcome to come worship with us, but the threshold into membership is relatively high." A common expectation is a person is eligible to participate in a weekly orientation class for potential future members that extends more than 30 to 50 weeks after that individual has been a regular participant in the weekly worship of God for at least a year.

<http://www.religiousproductnews.com/articles/2005-February/In-Every-Issue/Which-Ratios-Are-Most-Useful-htm>

[Images for congregations that project very high expectations of anyone seeking to become a member usually report their average worship attendance exceeds 100 percent of their membership](#)

3) Experimentation

A Decade of Experimentation? Redesigning Church for Post-Christendom

The 1990s were a Decade of Evangelism. Perhaps the present decade (or realistically until 2025) should become a Decade of Experimentation.

<http://www.urbanexpression.org.uk/resources/121-a-decade-of-experimentation-redesigning-church-for-post-christendom>

[Images for A Decade of Experimentation? Redesigning Church for Post-Christendom](#)

Called to Unity: For the Sake of Mission by John Gibaut, Knud Jorgensen

Experimenting with Mission and Unity in Secular Europe: Networking for Mission, Client-Based Mission, and Ecumenical Mission by Stefan Paas

Page 186

<https://digitalshowcase.oru.edu/cgi/viewcontent.cgi?article=1003&context=re2010series>

http://www.academia.edu/30947514/Experimenting_with_Mission_and_Unity_in_Secular_Europe_Networking_for_Mission_Client-Based_Mission_and_Ecumenical_Mission

<https://books.google.com/books?isbn=1498223028>

[Images for Experimenting with Church Mission and Unity](#)

The purpose of this volume on mission and unity is to bring to public attention a broad overview on the history, development and perspectives on the role of mission in the pursuit of unity and the central biblical focus on unity as a prerequisite for an authentic witness in mission. The volume raises concrete questions: If the churches can agree on unity for mission, then does this visible unity go any further than the 'mutuality, partnership, collaboration and networking' of the Edinburgh 2010 Common Call? Does the call to unity or communion imply common touch stones, structures or ministries to serve the communion of churches in mission? Might the Holy Spirit be prompting a fresh mission to the churches to promote unity?

<https://www.amazon.com/Called-Unity-Mission-Edinburgh-Centenary/dp/1498223028>

<https://scholar.csl.edu/cgi/viewcontent.cgi?referer=https://www.google.com/&httpsredir=1&article=1003&context=edinburghcentenary>

http://www.ocms.ac.uk/regnum/detail.php?book_id=142

<https://missionexus.org/called-to-unity-for-the-sake-of-mission/>

[Images for John Gibaut](#)

[Images for Knud Jorgensen, author](#)

[Images for Called to Unity: For the Sake of Mission by John Gibaut, Knud Jorgensen](#)

Mapping Missional Conversations - The Global Church Project

3. *Missional Experimentation*: Innovation is a core value among missional practitioners. The Gospel and Our Culture Network in North America examine nine congregations that are experimenting with mission. These groups show that innovative mission is present in both new and established churches.^[17]

<https://theglobalchurchproject.com/mapping-missional-conversations-part-1/>

[Images for Mapping Missional Conversations - The Global Church Project 3. Missional Experimentation](#)

Policy experimentation - Wikipedia

Policy experimentation points to political-administrative procedures and initiatives that allow to discover or test novel instruments of problem-solving and thereby propel broader-based policy innovation or institutional adaptation in a given polity, economy or society.

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

[Images for policy experimentation](#)

Servantship: Sixteen Servants on the Four Movements of Radical Servantship edited by Graham Hill

Tom Sine advises to start small, **experimenting** and discerning where God is at work.⁶⁷

<https://books.google.com/books?isbn=1630870110>

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[Images for experimenting and discerning where God is at work](#)

Servantship is essentially about following our Lord Jesus Christ, the servant Lord, and his mission--it is a life of discipleship to him, patterned after his self-emptying, humility, sacrifice, love, values, and mission. Servantship is humbly valuing others more than yourself and looking out for the interests and wellbeing of others. Servantship is the cultivation of the same attitude of mind Christ Jesus had: making yourself nothing, being a servant, humbling yourself, and submitting yourself to the will and purposes of the triune God. Since servantship is the imitation of Christ, it involves an unreserved participation in the missio Dei--the Trinitarian mission of God. In this pioneering work, sixteen servants describe the four movements of radical servantship. Servantship is the movement 1. from leadership to radical servantship; 2. from shallowness to dynamic theological reflection; 3. from theories to courageous practices; and 4. from forgetfulness to transforming memory. Servantship recognizes, in word, thought, and deed, that "whoever wants to become great among you must be your servant, and whoever wants to be first must be your slave--just as the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many".

<https://www.amazon.com/Servantship-Sixteen-Servants-Movements-Radical/dp/1620328240>

<https://www.goodreads.com/book/show/18707900-servantship>

<https://wipfandstock.com/servantship.html>

<https://www.barnesandnoble.com/w/servantship-graham-hill/1117275179>

<https://books.google.com/books?isbn=1630870110>

<https://books.google.com/books/about/Servantship.html?id=nqpnAAQBAJ>

Servantship: Sixteen Servants on the Four Movements of Radical Stewardship

<https://books.google.com/books?isbn=0830899030>

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<https://theglobalchurchproject.com/mapping-missional-conversations-part-1/>

<https://www.amazon.com/Graham-Hill/e/B008NI4ORQ>

https://www.goodreads.com/author/show/83569.Graham_Hill

https://www.goodreads.com/author/show/1061867.Lance_Ford

[Images for Servantship: Sixteen Servants on the Four Movements of Radical Servantship edited by Graham Hill](#)

The Missional Church in Perspective: Mapping Trends and Shaping the Conversation by Craig Van Gelder, Dwight J Zscheile

The importance of trial and **experimentation** must not be underestimated. Missional church is not a model, a standardized program, or a strategy that can be applied to churches with a predetermined result.

<https://books.google.com/books?isbn=0801039134>

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[Images for trial and experimentation in the missional church](#)

<https://www.amazon.com/Missional-Church-Perspective-Mapping-Conversation/dp/0801039134>

<https://www.goodreads.com/book/show/10587567-the-missional-church-in-perspective>

[Images for The Missional Church in Perspective: Mapping Trends and Shaping the Conversation by Craig Van Gelder, Dwight J Zscheile](#)

WE ARE A SYNOD OF EXPERIMENTATION - YouTube

New England Synod resolution on experimenting and innovation

www.youtube.com/watch?v=B0USCAUi5D8

[Images for WE ARE A SYNOD OF EXPERIMENTATION - YouTube](#)

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=16-OnP_NytE We are a Synod of Experimentation - YouTube

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LnhMs4Zq39A> Experimentation in the New England Synod – YouTube

[Images for Experimentation in the New England Synod - YouTube](#)

https://www.facebook.com/nesynod/info?tab=page_info

<http://www.bishoponabike.com/blog>

<http://www.bishoponabike.com/blog/2014/10/22/whats-in-your-experimentation-wallet-ah-church.html>

[Images for bishoponabike/whats-in-your-experimentation-church](#)

4) Follow

15 Bible Quotes about Following Jesus | ChristianQuotes.info

Being a Christian means being a Christ-follower. But what does it mean to really follow Jesus Christ? Well, the Bible certainly has everything we need to know about that. Here are fifteen verses about how and why to follow Jesus and the example He set for us.

<https://www.christianquotes.info/top-quotes/15-bible-quotes-following-jesus/#axzz4mFmmKaxE>

[Images for Bible Quotes about Following Jesus | ChristianQuotes.info](#)

www.azquotes.com/quotes/topics/following-jesus.html

<https://jonathanalexander.org/2010/10/23/top-10-favorite-quotes-on-following-jesus/>

<https://countingmyblessings.com/quotes-on-faith-trust-and-following-jesus/>

[Images for quotes-on-faith-trust-and-following-jesus](#)

<https://www.projectinspired.com/8-of-the-truest-quotes-about-following-jesus-when-the-rest-of-the-world-isnt/>

<https://www.goodreads.com/quotes/tag/following-christ>

[Images for following-christ](#)

How to Follow Jesus (with Pictures) - wikiHow

How to Follow Jesus. Learning about Jesus, building a personal relationship/love -- following Him -- is open to you.

<https://www.wikihow.com/Follow-Jesus>

[Images for How to Follow Jesus](#)

<http://www.jesus.org/following-jesus/evangelism-and-missions/>

[Images for following-jesus/evangelism-and-missions](#)

[http://www.cslewisinstitute.org/Following Jesus Christ Tarrants Single-Page Full Article](http://www.cslewisinstitute.org/Following_Jesus_Christ_Tarrants_Single-Page_Full_Article)

<https://billygraham.org/decision-magazine/march-2014/learn-how-to-follow-jesus/>

<https://www.intouch.org/watch/following-jesus> Following Jesus - In Touch Ministries

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gV_iDdtuSIY Following Jesus – Dr. Charles Stanley - YouTube

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=AX_mA93jtgo BASIC Follow Jesus by Francis Chan - YouTube

<https://livingontheedge.org/read-blog/blog/2015/10/19/what-does-it-mean-to-follow-jesus/>

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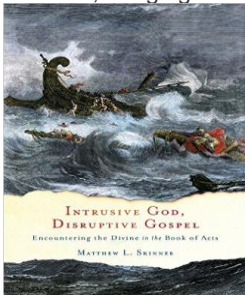
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Intrusive God, Disruptive Gospel: Encountering the Divine in the Book of Acts by Matthew L. Skinner (Author)

This engaging book guides readers through one of the most colorful books of the Bible, illuminating passages from Acts that show the Christian gospel expressing itself through the lives, speech, struggles, and adventures of Jesus's **followers**. The book emphasizes the disruptive character of the Christian gospel and shows how Acts repeatedly describes God as upsetting the status quo by changing people's lives, society's conventions, and our basic expectations of what's possible. Suited for individual and group study, this book by a New Testament scholar with a gift for popular communication asks serious questions and eschews pat answers, bringing Acts alive for contemporary reflection on the character of God, the challenges of faith, and the church.



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[We have made a difference - The Lutheran Magazine](#)

Christianity has produced great human good and countless positive contributions to culture

From the handful of **followers** who first heard the teachings of Jesus to the 2.2 billion members of various denominations alive today, Christians were to be a force to heal and transform the world. And after 2,000 years of believing, Christians comprise 33.1 percent of the world's population.

Beyond the numbers, exactly how successful has this faith been? What are its prospects for the future? If Jesus were to return to Earth today, would he recognize his teachings as preached and practiced by his followers through the ages?

Anyone who has been lifted from despair to hope, moved from hate to love, or vaulted from doubt to faith is likely to judge the 20 centuries of Christianity as worthwhile. So, would believers who have been sustained in slavery or liberated from oppression.

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5) Generations

[Adjust your marketing plan for each generation - United Methodist Communications](#)

SUMMARY: Marketing gurus say as many as six generations of consumers exist today, and each has unique characteristics. Make sure your church marketing efforts reach each generation effectively.

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[Images for Adjust your marketing plan for each generation - United Methodist Communications](#)

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

Demographics - the study of human populations - are a powerful, but often underused, method for understanding the past and predicting the future. In *Boom, Bust & Echo 2000: Profiting from the Demographic Shift in the New Millennium*, economist David Foot and journalist Daniel Stoffman take a look at the importance of demographics. They try to predict what baby boomers, "baby busters", the "echo generation", and other groups in the coming years can expect. This fully-revised edition of the highly successful *Boom, Bust & Echo* contains the most recent information on demographic trends in Canada and how they can affect your future. Demographics play a critical role in the nation's economy and social life, and they affect every one of us as individuals. The more we understand demographic realities, the better prepared we will be to cope with them - and to turn them to our advantage. In Canada, the aging of those born between 1947 and 1966 - the baby boom **generation** - has changed the economy, driven housing and other markets, and transformed social mores and lifestyles. As the boomers enter mid-life, as the "baby-busters" behind them come of age, and as the "echo generation," the children of the boomers, reaches maturity, how will the country change? Where will Canadians choose to live? What are the prospects for employment? Which investments will be favored? What lies ahead for Canada's health care and education systems?

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

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

Inside the Soul of a New Generation [Tim Celek, Dieter Zander, Patrick Kampert, Bill Hybels]

Generation X. Busters. The Lost Generation. The Fatherless Generation. These are the catchphrases used to describe that elusive and mysterious generation of 46 million Americans born between 1965 and 1980. More than that, these are our children, our neighbors, our friends, and fellow employees. Tim Celek and Dieter Zander have learned through years of experience that to win this generation of young people, you have to fight harder for credibility, and you have to love harder to overcome their pasts. But they have also found that reaching them is well worth the effort. *Inside the Soul of a New Generation* offers a fascinating, inside look at the unique forces that shape this misunderstood generation and shows how pastors, parents, and Baby Boomers of every stripe can minister to their spiritual needs. From practical ways to reach out to Busters and build powerful, Buster-friendly churches, to creating a vital community and empowering Busters for leadership, Celek and Zander show that this generation is not only reachable but has the potential to effect positive changes both in the church and in the world.

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<http://www.marinij.com/article/ZZ/20140414/NEWS/140418753> Stroke leads ex-pastor Dieter Zander on a different path to grace
Images for Dieter Zander, author new generation

Images for Inside the Soul of a New Generation [Tim Celek, Dieter Zander, Patrick Kampert, Bill Hybels]

Mission Possible: Reaching the Next Generation through the Small Church by Dr. Terry W. Dorsett.

Dr. Terry Dorsett has worked with one of America's largest congregations and has also been the pastor of small churches in Vermont, the least-churched state in America. In *Mission Possible: Reaching the Next Generation through the Small Church*, he shares his thoughts on how to reach the next generation of worshippers. It's no secret that many churches are struggling to reach the next generation. The thirty-and-under age group has become one of the hardest to reach in America. Some larger churches have developed innovative ways of reaching this age group, but many smaller churches are simply unable to use those types of innovative methods. Even so, they still want and need to reach the next generation. Dr. Dorsett has discovered, through both personal experience and extensive research, easy-to-use methods and ideas that any church can put into practice, regardless of size or budget. He believes that there is nothing a larger church can do that a smaller church is unable to accomplish. What is important is that every church, regardless of size, fulfills the call God has for them in the community where God has placed them.

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Images for Dr. Terry W. Dorsett, author

Images for Mission Possible: Reaching the Next Generation through the Small Church by Dr. Terry W. Dorsett

One Church, Four Generations: Understanding and Reaching All Ages in Your Church [Gary L. McIntosh]

The challenge facing today's church is simultaneous and effective ministry to people of four widely divergent generations. More than at any time in history, pastors must plan programs that will appeal to a mosaic of groups and subgroups. This updated edition of *Three Generations: Riding the Waves of Change in Your Church* adds an entirely new section on Bridgers, the youngest generation and perhaps the most difficult one to reach for Christ. Characteristics, interests, and values of each group Builders, Boomers, Busters, and Bridgers are explored in relation to the historical events and social trends that have shaped them. McIntosh thoughtfully analyzes the factors that influence each generation's relationship to the church, and he gives helpful suggestions for types of ministry and worship styles to draw members of that group. Helpful tables offer summaries of information relating to each generation, including formative experiences, religious characteristics, and methods of ministry. Pastors, church leaders, seminary professors, and students will find *One Church, Four Generations* a valuable resource in mapping out strategies for relevant church programming in the twenty first century.

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Images for One Church, Four Generations: Understanding and Reaching All Ages in Your Church [Gary L. McIntosh]

Reach the Next Generation for Christ! - Barna Group
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Reaching a New Generation: Strategies for Tomorrow's Church [Alan J. Roxburgh]

Our world has changed dramatically in the past quarter century. People are losing faith in technology. Our society has lost consensus and is dividing into competing tribes. Rather than simply condemning these new values, Roxburgh calls the church to respond with Christian community, Christian ecology and Christian spirituality. This fresh and powerful book shows what our new world is like and how the gospel is yet again relevant and redemptive.

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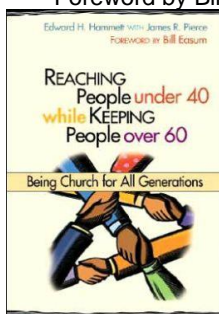
Images for Reaching a New Generation: Strategies for Tomorrow's Church [Alan J. Roxburgh]

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Reaching People Under 40 While Keeping People Over 60: Being Church for All Generations (TCP Leadership Series) [Edward Hammett]

Many established churches are facing a number of challenges in today's increasingly secular culture. Such a shift in many communities creates a challenge of church growth and church health when it seems that satisfying the needs of one group creates barriers to reaching another group. So many are asking, "How do you keep people over sixty years of age, who often hold church culture values, while at the same time reach people under forty, who often hold postmodern values?" If a church is interested in growing, this situation becomes a major challenge. *Reaching People under 40 while Keeping People over 60* looks at the church as it seeks to function in a new world. It looks at the differences in the generations and at postmodernism - not just a generational difference but a global change. Most importantly, *Reaching People under 40 while Keeping People over 60* looks at what a church can do in this new age to help the church survive - and thrive!

Foreword by Bill Easum



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Reaching the Next Generation | The Exchange | A Blog by Ed Stetzer

This is a generation starving for community.

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Reckless Hope: Understanding and Reaching Baby Busters [Todd Hahn, David Verhaagen]

Is there hope to reach the first post-Christian **generation** in the history of our culture? This is a sociological analysis of the so-called Buster generation or Generation X as some call them. Should be read by those of any age and all generations who want to introduce the God of hope to those who will inherit this millennium.

<http://www.amazon.com/Reckless-Hope-Understanding-Reaching-Busters/dp/0801090180>
<http://www.muebooks.com/reckless-hope-understanding-and-reaching-baby-busters-PDF-1423296/>
<https://www.christianitytoday.com/ct/1994/september12/4ta018.html>
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http://www.goodreads.com/author/show/484375.Todd_Hahn
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[Images for David Verhaagen, author](#)
[Images for Reckless Hope: Understanding and Reaching Baby Busters \[Todd Hahn, David Verhaagen\]](#)
[Images for reach the first post-Christian generation in the history of our culture](#)
<https://www.barna.com/research/gen-z-questions-answered/>
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<https://www.thegospelcoalition.org/reviews/meet-generation-z/>
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Resources for Multigenerational Ministry | UUA.org

<https://www.uua.org/re/multigenerational/resources>
[Images for Resources for Multigenerational Ministry | UUA.org](#)
<https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PL067C0DB5AEC64A76> A Family Under One Sky: Ministry across the Generations - YouTube
[Images for A Family Under One Sky: Ministry across the Generations - YouTube](#)

6 Keys to Engaging Seniors in Church - Drew Downs

- Engaging everyone in church
- 4 Keys to engaging children in church
- 8 Keys to engaging pre-teens in church
- 9 Keys to engaging youth in church
- 7 Keys to engaging young adults in church
- 5 Keys to engaging mid-lifers in church

<http://drewdowns.net/tag/silent-generation/>
[Images for Keys to Engaging Seniors in Church](#)
[Images for Keys to engaging children in church](#)
[Images for Keys to engaging pre-teens in church](#)
[Images for Keys to engaging youth in church](#)
[Images for Keys to engaging young adults in church](#)
[Images for Keys to engaging young mid-lifers in church](#)

The Bridger Generation: Thom S. Rainer.

The Bridger Generation is the first comprehensive study of the new generation, 72 million strong, born between 1977 and 1994. These are 'the Bridgers'—the first generation to come of age in the twenty-first century, bridging the gap between two centuries and two millennia. Rainer's in-depth analysis explores and explains revealing data, facts, and trends about tomorrow's leaders and how best to present them with the gospel of Jesus. Moving beyond the Baby Boomers, Busters, and Generation X, *The Bridger Generation* takes a unique first look at the next American demographic phenomenon.

<http://www.amazon.com/The-Bridger-Generation-Thom-Rainer/dp/0805443819>
https://www.goodreads.com/book/show/2000595.The_Bridger_Generation
<https://www.christianbook.com/the-bridger-generation-thom-rainer/9780805443813/pd/443819>
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<https://www.sermoncentral.com/illustrations/sermon-illustration-sermoncentral-statistics-what-is-evangelism-25741>
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<https://books.google.com/books?isbn=0664502059>
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<https://thefourpercentgeneration.wordpress.com/tag/bridger-generation/>
<http://www.lifeway.com/Article/Church-library-ministry-becoming-family-understanding-generations-in-the-church>
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https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Thom_S._Rainer
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Images for thom rainer

Images for Bridger Generation: Thom S. Rainer

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

Many churches are seeking ways to reach out to the younger generations. Unfortunately, this often manifests as either a "come be just like us!" attitude - suggesting an unwillingness to change in order to be inclusive of young people - or as a slick marketing campaign that targets young adults in much the same way secular advertising does. Both of these approaches often leave young adults feeling that their particular spiritual gifts and needs are unwanted by the church. "We only want you for your demographics" is the message given.

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

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

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

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<http://www.faithandleadership.com/people-news/writers/carol-howard-merritt>
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<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Ri5A81WSJnY&feature=youtu.be> Carol Howard Merritt Friday March 18th Part 2 - YouTube
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<http://www.carolhowardmerritt.org/>
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 Images for Carol Howard Merritt, author
 Images for Tribal Church: Ministering to the Missing Generation [Carol Howard Merritt]

Virtual Faith: The Irreverent Spiritual Quest of Generation X [Tom Beaudoin]

Tattoos. Body piercing. Retro. Grunge. These are some of the stereotypical images of Generation X. Look a bit harder, and the images are troubling, even heretical: crucifixes as fashion accessories, music videos with religious and sexual imagery in unashamed juxtaposition, rave masses in which prayer and ecstatic experiences aren't quite what they used to be. In this profoundly original book, Tom Beaudoin issues a provocative challenge: what if, instead of dismissing these expressions as heretical or blasphemous, we took them as serious expressions of a generation's search for a religion they can believe in? Beaudoin, himself an unapologetic member of Generation X, explores fashion, music videos, and cyberspace and concludes that his generation has fashioned a theology radically different from but no less potent or valid than that of their elders. Virtual Faith is an invitation to explore this theology with him as our guide.

Beaudoin's investigation of popular culture uncovers four themes that underpin his generation's theology. First, all institutions are suspect - especially organized religion. Second, personal experience is everything, and every form of intense personal experience is potentially spiritual. Third, suffering is also spiritual. Finally, this generation sees ambiguity as a central element of faith. This book opens a long overdue conversation about where and how we find meaning, and how we all can encourage each other in this central human searching.

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http://www.presbyteryov.org/resource_center/virtual-faith/
https://www.fordham.edu/download/downloads/id/3274/dr_beaudoin_cv.pdf
<https://www.amazon.com/Tom-Beaudoin/e/B000APBC2K>
http://www.goodreads.com/author/show/53112.Tom_Beaudoin
 Images for Tom Beaudoin, author virtual faith
 Images for Virtual Faith: The Irreverent Spiritual Quest of Generation X [Tom Beaudoin]

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What are You Doing to Reach the Next Generation for Christ?

Here are three quick, yet powerful reasons to reach the next generation with the message and mission of Jesus:

<https://gregstier.dare2share.org/blog/rants/what-are-you-doing-to-reach-the-next-generation-for-christ>

[Images for What are You Doing to Reach the Next Generation for Christ?](https://churchleaders.com/youth/youth-leaders-blogs/147400-what-are-you-doing-to-reach-the-next-generation-for-christ.html)

<https://churchleaders.com/youth/youth-leaders-blogs/147400-what-are-you-doing-to-reach-the-next-generation-for-christ.html>

[Images for Greg Stier, CEO and Founder of Dare 2 Share Ministries](#)

What Next?: Connecting Your Ministry With the Generation Formerly Known As X [Augsburg Fortress Publishing]

Generation X is high-tech and visually-oriented--seeking community, authenticity, and ways to make a difference in the world. What NeXt? offers practical and realistic approaches to meeting the generation's unique congregational needs--drawing from the experiences of congregational leaders who effectively minister to, and with, Generation X. Contains a variety of music, worship, and preaching styles.

<http://www.amazon.com/What-Next-Connecting-Ministry-Generation/dp/0806639687>

[Images for What-Next-Connecting-Ministry-Generation](#)

<https://books.google.com/books?isbn=1451403348>

https://books.google.com/books/about/What_Next.html?id=_d-mJsHW7IsC

<https://books.google.com/books?isbn=1585583901> Bibliography

6) Global Mission

Global Episcopal Mission Network | Proclaim, Inspire, Ignite

An organization of Episcopal dioceses who plan for global mission outreach. Provides diocesan contacts, missionary handbook and mission resources.

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

[Images for Global Episcopal Mission Network | Proclaim, Inspire, Ignite](#)

Global Mission - Evangelical Lutheran Church in America - ELCA

Explore accompaniment as the "why" and "how" of mission and learn methods of application in various ministry areas, including cross-cultural relationships, migration and immigration, cross-generational ministry, interfaith dialogue, worship that includes global music and stories, peace and non-violence and short-term mission trips. Become familiar with how you are in relationship with Lutheran companions in more than 120 countries through companion synod relationships. Deepen your knowledge about how the ELCA's global engagement has changed in the 21st century.

These resources provide an overview of the work of the ELCA in relationship with our global companions, The Lutheran World Federation and the planning documents that act as foundational documents of accompaniment.

Ecumenical Relations

<http://www.elca.org/en/Resources/Global-Mission>

http://download.elca.org/ELCA%20Resource%20Repository/2017_Global_Church_Road_Map.pdf

[Images for Global Mission - ELCA](#)

Going Global: Moving Beyond Local Missions

So, the first priority, before choosing any direction, is to get the questions right: How do we link global missions locally and local missions globally, in ways that are godly and just both at home and far away? What is the destination of our mission? Is the entire globe not our new backyard?

<https://alban.org/archive/going-global-moving-beyond-local-missions/>

[Images for Going Global: Moving Beyond Local Missions](#)

Guidelines for Leading Your Congregation 2013-2016 - Mission: Reaching the World by General Board Global Ministries

Depending on how a congregation is organized, the ministry area may be called global ministries, mission or outreach ministries.

The role of this ministry area is to develop a continuous, year-round program of mission education. Leadership of this ministry area identifies the needs of the community, country, and world and engages the congregation in mission opportunities that seek to address these needs. It also seeks to expand your congregation's mission and benevolence budget and ensure that your congregation is provided every opportunity to participate financially in God's mission through the church. This guideline is designed to help implement the work of the ministry area.

<http://www.barnesandnoble.com/w/guidelines-for-leading-your-congregation-2013-2016-mission-general-board-global-ministries/1113864253?ean=9781426754623#productInfoTabs>

<https://books.google.com/books?isbn=142673641X>

<http://saginawbaydistrict.org/forms/1302122012%20Guidelines%20Mission.pdf>

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

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

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

[Images for Mission: Reaching the World by General Board Global Ministries](#)

MissionShift: Global Mission Issues in the Third Millennium by David Hesselgrave (Editor), Ed Stetzer (Editor)

Veteran missionary David Hesselgrave and rising missional expert Ed Stetzer edit this engaging set of conversational essays addressing global mission issues in the third millennium. Key contributors are Charles E. Van Engen (Mission Described and Defined), the late Paul Hiebert (The Gospel in Human Contexts: Changing Perspectives on Contextualization), and the late Ralph

Winter (The Future of Evangelicals in Mission). Those offering written responses to these essays include: (Van Engen) Keith Eitel, Enoch Wan, Darrell Guder, Andreas J. Köstenberger; (Hiebert) Michael Pocock, Darrell Whiteman, Norman L. Geisler, Avery Willis; (Winter) Scott Moreau, Christopher Little, Michael Barnett, and Mark Terry.

<http://www.amazon.com/MissionShift-Global-Mission-Issues-Millennium/dp/0805445374>

www.lifeway.com/Product/missionshift-P005018346

<https://www.christianbook.com/missionshift-ebook-david-hesselgrave/9781433672187/pd/15382EB>

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

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Images for ed stetzer, author

Images for MissionShift: Global Mission Issues in the Third Millennium by David Hesselgrave (Editor), Ed Stetzer (Editor)

Reaching the Resistant: Barriers and Bridges for Mission (Evangelical Missiological Society Series) by J. Dudley Woodberry (Author)

The lands where Muslims, Jews, and Christians have encountered each other are littered with the ruins of fortresses. Each faith community built barriers to keep out the enemies of their faith. The present studies look at the barriers erected by peoples considered resistant to the gospel, and the bridges God is using to carry the gospel to them.

<http://missionbooks.org/products/detail/reaching-the-resistant-ems-6>

<https://www.amazon.com/Reaching-Resistant-Evangelical-Missiological-Society/dp/0878083804>

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<http://67.225.183.146/authors/364-j-dudley-woodberry>

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Images for J. Dudley Woodberry (Author)

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<https://www.emsweb.org/publications/ems-books>

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Images for Evangelical Missiological Society Series

37 best Global Missions images on Pinterest

<https://www.pinterest.com/bella55555/global-missions/>

Images for Global Missions Pinterest

https://www.pinterest.com/life_church/lifechurch-global-mission-partners/

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

<https://www.pinterest.com/dawnsager/teaching-kids-about-missions/>

7) Great Commission

Commissioned [Marvin Newell]

It's not that believers don't know about the **Great Commission**; it's that many don't know how to go about the Great Commission, states Newell. This book intends to help believers rediscover what Jesus, the author of the Great Commission, said they are to know as they go on mission with him. This fresh look at the five Great Commission passages makes remarkably clear the substance, scope, and strategy of God's redemptive mission to the world. Anyone who reads this book will know with certainty what the Great Commission is really all about. Discover for yourself what YOU can and should be doing when going on mission with Christ.



<http://www.amazon.com/Commissioned-Marvin-Newell/dp/1889638897>

https://www.ivpress.com/cgi-ivpress/author.pl/author_id=7320

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<https://www.amazon.com/Marvin-J.-Newell/e/B001JS5VLA>
https://www.goodreads.com/author/show/172798.Marvin_Newell
Images for Marvin Newell, author
Images for Commissioned [Marvin Newell]

GloboChrist: The Great Commission Takes a Postmodern Turn (The Church and Postmodern Culture) [Carl Raschke, James Smith]

The information age has not only interconnected the world but has also shrunk it. This global dynamic impacts Christianity, especially the Great Commission. How do believers make disciples of all nations in this digital world of religious diversity? Carl Raschke, author of the acclaimed *The Next Reformation*, answers such questions in *Globo Christ*. He explores the impact of globalization, postmodernism, and information technology on missions and evangelism, as well as the role that Christianity plays in an increasingly pluralistic world. In short, he helps Christians respond to the tectonic shifts of the twenty-first century. This third volume in the well-received Church and Post Modern Culture series is relevant to students, pastors, and all who care about the future of the church.

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<https://syndicate.network/author/carl-raschke/>
https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/James_K._A._Smith
<https://www.amazon.com/James-K.-A.-Smith/e/B001IQWGX>

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Images for GloboChrist: The Great Commission Takes a Postmodern Turn (The Church and Postmodern Culture) [Carl Raschke, James Smith]

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Images for (The Church and Postmodern Culture) series

Great Commission - Wikipedia

The Great Commission of Christianity is the instruction of the resurrected Jesus Christ to his disciples that they spread his teachings to all the nations of the world. It has become a tenet in Christian theology emphasizing ministry, missionary work, evangelism, and baptism. The Apostles are said to have dispersed from Jerusalem and founded the Apostolic Sees. Among Christian eschatological views, Preterists believe that the *Great Commission* and other Bible prophecy were fulfilled in the first century while Futurists believe Bible prophecy will be fulfilled at the Second Coming of Christ. The most famous version of the *Great Commission* is in Matthew 28:16–20, where on a mountain in Galilee Jesus calls on his followers to baptize all nations in the name of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. Only Matthew records an earlier *lesser commission*, only for the Twelve Apostles, in 10:1–42, and directed only to the children of Israel, undertaken during Jesus' mortal life, which is similar but different from the episode of the Commissioning the Twelve Apostles found in the other Synoptic Gospels. In Luke, Jesus says that all people will be called to repentance and tells his disciples to wait in Jerusalem until they become invested with power, which presumably happened at Pentecost in the Book of Acts. Luke also has Jesus dispatching disciples during his ministry, sending them to all the nations and giving them power over demons, including the Seventy disciples. In John, Jesus promises to bestow the Paraclete on the disciples, which perhaps is what happens in John 20:21–23. The *Great Commission* in the traditional ending of Mark is thought to be a second-century summary based on Matthew and Luke.



http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Great_Commission

Images for Great Commission

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The Challenge of the Great Commission: Essays on God's Mandate for the Local Church by Thom S. Rainer, Chuck Lawless (Editor)

"All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Therefore, go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely, I am with you always, to the very end of the age" (Matt. 28:18-20, NASB). With these words, Jesus gave to his disciples their marching orders. They were to take the gospel to all people groups in the world, and they were to teach them that they, too, might become devoted disciples of Christ. These orders remain just as relevant to us today as they were to the disciples. We, too, are expected to do the work of the Great Commission—taking the gospel to the world, baptizing believers, and teaching them to obey God. Yet, the majority of North American churches are plateaued in growth, with little commitment to reaching their neighbors or the world. In this series of practical essays, faculty and staff members of The Southern Baptist Theological Seminary challenge churches to re-focus their attention on the Great Commission. Our prayer is that you, the reader, will accept God's mandate for you and your church.

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Caste and Church Growth - Southern Seminary

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Images for The Challenge of the Great Commission: Essays on God's Mandate for the Local Church by Thom S. Rainer, Chuck Lawless (Editor)

What Does the Bible Say About The Great Commission?

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8) Guests

8 Effective Ways to Follow Up With Guests at Your Church – unSeminary

Creating clear and deliberate next steps for your guests is important.

<http://www.unseminary.com/8-effective-ways-to-follow-up-with-guests-at-your-church/>
Images for Follow Up with Guests at Your Church

Encourage guests to return with great follow-ups | United Methodist Communications

While statistics on the subject are dated, most suggest that when a church follows-up with its guests, they are more likely to visit again. Here are a few great ways to increase the odds.

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Five Key Steps to Reach and Retain Guests - ThomRainer.com

These are five key steps to reach and retain guests. Most of these can be implemented in your church right away.

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Fusion: Turning First-Time Guests into Fully-Engaged Members of Your Church [Nelson Searcy, Jennifer Dykes Henson, Steve Stroope]

Creating an environment that both embraces our newcomers and excites them enough to return does not happen by chance. We must be prepared to be effective stewards of those God brings us. Why should the Church not be the epitome of service at its best, as modeled by the greatest server of all time? Built on The Journey Church of the City's Assimilation Seminar, *Fusion* embodies a step by step, biblically grounded, tested and proven plan for establishing a relationship with newcomers that ultimately prompts them to become fully developing members of our congregations. This innovative, practical guide is full of how to information, testimonials from the recently assimilated and from participating church leaders, examples of the assimilation materials used and check points to make sure the reader is on track. Engaging, informative and immediately applicable, here is help for setting newcomers on the path toward true life transformation and spiritual maturity.

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Images for Nelson Searcy, Jennifer Dykes Henson, Steve Stroope

Images for Fusion: Turning First-Time Guests into Fully-Engaged Members of Your Church [Nelson Searcy, Jennifer Dykes Henson, Steve Stroope]

10 best For Church Guests images on Pinterest

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Images for church guests pinterest

10 Church Growth Strategies that Cost Zero Dollars – Carey Nieuwhof

1. Pay much better attention to first-time **guests**

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3 Big Guest Follow Up Mistakes - ChurchTechToday

Today we'll cover the 3 Big Guest Follow Up Mistakes that are preventing your church from reaching young families. If you don't know all three... chances are you're making one of them.

<http://churchtechtoday.com/2015/09/21/guest-follow-up-mistakes/>

Images for 3 Big Guest Follow Up Mistakes - ChurchTechToday

What Does the Bible Say About Welcoming New Guests? - Open Bible

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9) Heal

Making Your Church a House of Healing by Michael Gemignani (Author), Journalist Keith Miller (Foreword)

Author, pastor, and spiritual director Michael Gemignani affirms that Jesus Christ established the church primarily as an instrument of spiritual healing. Each local congregation, as the Body of Christ on earth, should, therefore, have spiritual healing as the focus of its ministry. In this practical resource, explore the key questions of What is spiritual healing and why is it so important? If my church wants to become deeply involved in spiritual healing, how should we go about it? What obstacles are we likely to encounter and how might we overcome them? Includes questions for small-group discussion and congregational action.

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Images for keith miller author making your church
Images for Making Your Church a House of Healing by Michael Gemignani (Author), Journalist Keith Miller (Foreword)

Your church – a place of healing for the broken | Heart for Truth

I believe local churches can become equipped to embrace the deeply wounded, and lead them swiftly, effectively and joyfully into freedom. It is vital that we allow the testimony of the wounded-made-whole to be heard loud and clear if we are to truly speak to our hurting world.

www.h4t.org.uk/articles/your-church-a-place-of-healing-for-the-broken/
Images for Your church – a place of healing for the broken | Heart for Truth

10) Hospitality

[PDF] Congregation Hospitality Checklist – Episcopal Diocese of Georgia

<http://gaepiscopal.org/docs/hospitalitychecklist.pdf>
Images for Congregation Hospitality Checklist – Episcopal Diocese of Georgia
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Five Practices of Fruitful Congregations [Robert Schnase]

People are searching for a church shaped and sustained by Radical **Hospitality**, Passionate Worship, Intentional Faith Development, Risk-Taking Mission and Service, and Extravagant Generosity. These fundamental practices are critical to the success of congregations. Their presence and strength demonstrate congregational health, vitality, and fruitfulness. By repeating and improving these practices, churches fulfill their mission to make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world. Imagine a congregation-wide focus on these practices that includes a five-week sermon series, five weeks with every household reading daily devotions and sharing prayers on these practices, five weeks of leadership teams and small groups stimulated to take new initiatives, five weeks of conversation and commitment focused on the mission of the church. These are the practices that lead to excellence and fruitfulness, and they can change your church. Imagine!

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Images for Bishop: Fruitful congregations engage in five practices
Images for Radical Hospitality, Passionate Worship, Intentional Faith Development, Risk-Taking Mission and Service, Extravagant Generosity
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Images for Robert Schnase, author
Images for Five Practices of Fruitful Congregations [Robert Schnase]

Hospitality & Fellowship

Tell about fellowship ministries of your congregation? Corporately and small groups?

What are things your congregation does to grow fellowship?
Comprehensive Ministry Review. Rev. Laurie Skow-Anderson. Assistant to the Bishop. Northwest Synod of Wisconsin. Director for Evangelical Mission. lskow-anderson@nswsi.org
[Images for Comprehensive Ministry Review. Rev. Laurie Skow-Anderson. Hospitality & Fellowship](#)

Hospitality is key to church growth | Insights into Religion

Church leaders who recognize that marketplace and assume worshippers are there by choice are more likely to inspect the church grounds, make sure the bathrooms are clean, and train greeters to be more hospitable.
<http://religioninsights.org/hospitality-key-congregational-growth>
[Images for Hospitality is key to church growth | Insights into Religion](#)

Hospitality Quotes - BrainyQuote

<https://www.brainyquote.com/topics/hospitality>
[Images for hospitality quotes](#)
<https://www.goodreads.com/quotes/tag/hospitality>
www.wiseoldsayings.com/hospitality-quotes/
www.wendygunn.net/2010/12/quotes-on-christian-hospitality/
<http://healthyspirituality.org/quotes-and-resources-for-cultivating-hospitality/>
[Images for christian hospitality quotes](#)
www.christianityoasis.com/DailyBread/3John/ChristianHospitality.htm
www.archspm.org/wp-content/uploads/sites/5/2014/01/QuotesSheet2013.pdf
https://www.allchristianquotes.org/topics_detail/6150/hospitality/

Hospitality - Wikipedia

Hospitality refers to the relationship between a guest and a host, wherein the host receives the guest with goodwill, including the reception and entertainment of guests, visitors, or strangers. Louis, chevalier de Jaucourt describes hospitality in the Encyclopédie as the virtue of a great soul that cares for the whole universe through the ties of humanity.^[4]



Bringing in the boar's head. In heraldry, the boar's head was sometimes used as symbol of hospitality, often seen as representing the host's willingness to feed guests well.^[1] It is likewise the symbol of a number of inns and taverns.^[2]

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

Radical Hospitality & The Rooster Soup Company

How might Kickstarter, the crowdfunding platform, be used by religious organizations? Generally speaking, Kickstarter hasn't been taken up much by churches or church-related non-profits (or, when it is, the projects are poorly put-together and stand no chance of getting funded). But now the always-innovating **Broad Street Ministry** is giving Kickstarter a shot. They may have the ingredients for a delicious success.

<http://www.adamjcopeland.com/2014/06/30/radical-hospitality-the-rooster-soup-company/>
[Images for Radical Hospitality & The Rooster Soup Company](#)

Radical Hospitality: Benedict's Way of Love: 2nd Edition [Lonni Collins Pratt, Father Daniel Homan]

Today's culture is increasingly hostile and suspicious toward anyone who appears to be different--especially when tragedy strikes. Our instinct is to bolt our doors and protect the ones we love. But deep within the heart of Benedictine spirituality lies a remedy to hatred, fear, and suspicion: hospitality. At once deeply comforting and sharply challenging, true Benedictine hospitality requires that we welcome the stranger, not only into our homes, but into our hearts. With warmth and humor, drawing from the monastic tradition and sharing personal anecdotes from their own lives, Pratt and Homan encourage us to embrace not only the literal stranger, but the stranger within and the stranger in those we love.

<http://www.amazon.com/Radical-Hospitality-Benedicts-Love-Edition/dp/1557258910>
http://www.goodreads.com/book/show/777342.Radical_Hospitality
http://site.paracletepress.com/samples/exc-radicalhospitality_i-20.pdf
https://www.christianbook.com/radical-hospitality-benedicts-love-expanded-edition/lonni-pratt/9781557258915/pd/258915?kw=21904556532&mt=b&dv=c&event=PPCSRC&p=1186432&qclid=Cj0KCQiAtOjyBRC0ARIsAlpJyGNe34uwtfjWjp_iuFfJcEaEiWdzWfoE8avbrRKfKhmSkwlbRYAoUsaAnukEALw_wcB
<https://picclick.co.uk/Radical-Hospitality-Benedicts-Way-of-Love-by-Lonni-392162235715.html>

<https://www.pinterest.com/tpcmckinney/radical-hospitality/>
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<https://ddc.duq.edu/cgi/viewcontent.cgi?article=1224&context=etd>
<https://iws.edu/2014/08/what-are-they-reading-now-faculty-recommendations/>
<http://www.loyolapress.com/authors/lonni-collins-pratt>
http://www.goodreads.com/author/show/174424.Lonni_Collins_Pratt
Images for Lonni Collins Pratt, author
<http://www.huffingtonpost.com/author/lonni-pratt>
<https://twitter.com/lcpratt?lang=en>
<https://www.uua.org/directory/people/lonni-collins-pratt>
<http://www.benedictinemonks.com/mem-FrDanielHoman.html>
http://www.goodreads.com/author/show/696390.Daniel_Homan
Images for Father Daniel Homan, author
Images for *Radical Hospitality: Benedict's Way of Love: 2nd Edition* [Lonni Collins Pratt, Father Daniel Homan]

Radical Hospitality workbook | Five Practices

Five Practices - Radical Hospitality is a planning workbook for use in group study. It helps lead the group to develop a plan to implement Radical Hospitality in your congregation.

<http://fivepractices.org/books/radical-hospitality-workbook/>
Images for Five Practices - Radical Hospitality
<https://www.pinterest.com/tpcmckinney/radical-hospitality/>
Images for pinterest/radical-hospitality

65 best Hospitality Ministry images on Pinterest

<https://www.pinterest.com/galntheentry/hospitality-ministry/>
Images for Hospitality Ministry Pinterest
<https://www.pinterest.com/annebabb/church-hospitality/>
<https://www.pinterest.com/bjmrowe/church-hospitality/>
<https://www.pinterest.com/rbkisme/church-hospitality/>
<https://www.pinterest.com/Evangelismcoach101/church-hospitality/>
<https://www.pinterest.com/elexiossoftware/church-hospitality-visitor-care/>
Images for church-hospitality-visitor-care
<https://www.pinterest.com/enobongita/church-hospitality/>
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<https://www.pinterest.com/featherournest/hospitality/>
https://www.pinterest.com/randi_hom/youth-ministry-hospitality/
<https://www.pinterest.com/duttonla/hospitality/>
<https://www.pinterest.com/lHginqmarie/quotes-hospitality-friendships-christian-living/>
Images for hospitality-friendships-christian-living
<https://www.pinterest.com/churchdisplays/hospitality/>
<https://www.pinterest.com/taunam/meals-ministry-hospitality/>
<https://www.pinterest.com/terryinalberta/hospitality/>
<https://www.pinterest.com/bradhoefs/hospitality-room-for-church/>
Images for hospitality-room-for-church

The Gift of Hospitality - Synod Resource Center

Hospitality could be called the "making friends gift" because it is the great bridge-builder between people. Perhaps it was the quality tapped in olden times when a "match-maker" was employed to bring a boy and girl together. Most people have a natural reluctance or shyness when it comes to meeting people or approaching others about possibly getting together. There is a fear of rejection. But on neutral territory it is natural to converse, the first step in making friendships. People with the gift of hospitality can offer that neutral territory by bringing lonely folks into their homes and helping them mingle with others. It is a great service.

http://synodresourcecenter.org/stew/personal_stewardship/spiritual_gifts/0002/hospitality.html
Images for Gift of Hospitality - Synod Resource Center

Training Your Congregation to Be Radically Hospitable

Have you ever tried to teach a child to tie their shoes? It's something most of us do so naturally and automatically that breaking down the process into teachable steps is a challenge. According to a number of pastors I've spoken to recently, teaching people to extend Christ's radical hospitality to first time guests is no less a challenge.

<https://emc3coaching.com/training-your-congregation-to-be-radically-hospitable/>
Images for Training Your Congregation to Be Radically Hospitable
<https://www.umc.org/en/content/what-is-radical-hospitality>
<https://www.ministrymatters.com/all/entry/518/radical-hospitality-the-first-practice-of-fruitful-congregations>

<https://www.pbs.org/thecongregation/indepth/beyondoutreach.html> Beyond Outreach: Worship, Justice, and Radical Hospitality
<https://www.pinterest.com/cvitality/radical-hospitality/>
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12 best church hospitality images on Pinterest

<https://www.pinterest.com/bjmrowe/church-hospitality/>
Images for church hospitality Pinterest
<https://www.pinterest.com/annebabb/church-hospitality/>
<https://www.pinterest.com/Evangelismcoach101/church-hospitality/>
<https://www.pinterest.com/bfeicht/church-hospitality/>
<https://www.pinterest.com/enobongita/church-hospitality/>
<https://www.pinterest.com/rbkisme/church-hospitality/>

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

<https://www.openbible.info/topics/hospitality>
Images for Bible and Hospitality
<https://bible.knowing-jesus.com/topics/Hospitality>
<http://biblereasons.com/hospitality/>
<https://www.biblestudytools.com/topical-verses/hospitality-bible-verses/>
<https://www.kingjamesbibleonline.org/Bible-Verses-About-Hospitality/>
<https://www.whatchristianswanttoknow.com/what-does-the-bible-say-about-hospitality-a-christian-study/>
<https://bible.knowing-jesus.com/topics/Hospitality>
<https://www.tcdsb.org/Board/NurturingOurCatholicCommunity/VirtueoftheMonth/Documents/Virtue%20New%20Secondary%20Sources/Sept-Hospitality/September%20Virtue%20Secondary,%20quotes.pdf>
<https://www.thegospelcoalition.org/article/how-do-we-practice-biblical-hospitality/>
Images for practice-biblical-hospitality
<https://www.desiringgod.org/messages/strategic-hospitality>
<https://www.gotquestions.org/Bible-hospitality.html>
<https://www.crosswalk.com/blogs/christian-trends/3-things-you-should-know-about-biblical-hospitality.html>
<https://youngwifeguide.com/biblical-hospitality-defined/>
<https://www.evangelismcoach.org/christian-hospitality-verses/>
Images for christian-hospitality-verses
<http://topverses.com/about/hospitality>
https://www.huffingtonpost.com/sara-barton/biblical-hospitality-what_b_8908102.html

What Is Radical Hospitality | The United Methodist Church

I suppose the simplest explanation is offered in the phrase itself: radical hospitality is offering hospitality in a radical way. As an adjective, "radical" means "to affect the fundamental nature of something." So offering hospitality in a radical way means offering hospitality in a fundamentally different way.

<https://www.umc.org/en/content/what-is-radical-hospitality>
Images for What Is Radical Hospitality | The United Methodist Church
<https://www.missionvalleyumc.org/seedlings-ideas-for-ministry-radical-hospitality.html>
Images for seedlings-ideas-for-ministry-radical-hospitality
<https://www.resourceumc.org/en/content/is-it-time-to-move-from-friendly-to-radical-hospitality>
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https://www.la-umc.org/files/tables/content/1549169/fields/files/e5853427c5514b1f912cbf62a9e1cfbe/lanowwinter2015_ezhmuzpy.pdf
Radical Hospitality Page 10
<https://www.moumethodist.org/resourcedetail/radical-hospitality-sermon-series-11582834>
Images for radical-hospitality-sermon-series
<https://www.greatplainsumc.org/eventdetail/12681837> ShareChurch Conferences: The Art of Radical Hospitality and Empowered: A Model of Care
Images for ShareChurch Conferences: The Art of Radical Hospitality and Empowered: A Model of Care

11) House Church

House Church and Mission: The Importance of Household Structures in Early Christianity by Roger W. Gehring

For nearly three hundred years, early Christians met almost exclusively in private homes initially built only for domestic use. In this study, Roger Gehring investigates the missional significance of house churches from the time of Jesus through Paul in light of both theological and socio-historical considerations. All church structures take shape in the tension between pre-established theological requirements and the concrete social situation. Even in the New Testament, the emergence of separate house churches involved the potential danger of splintering the Christian movement. Nevertheless, their essential family based foundation has proven to be the life generating cell and fundamental core of the missional church. The development of early Christian ethics, the emergence of leadership structures, and the growth of ecclesiological concepts were all noticeably influenced by the households in which believers lived and gathered. In the last twenty-five years the house church phenomenon has generated a great deal of interest among New Testament scholars and church practitioners. Research has focused primarily on the architecture of these homes and

on its corresponding social and theological implications. *House Church and Mission* offers scholars the first comprehensive summary of evidence concerning home churches in the New Testament and supplies pastors and lay leaders with a well-crafted discussion of the nature of "church" that explores the practical implications of house churches on outreach.

<http://www.amazon.com/House-Church-Mission-Importance-Christianity/dp/0801046327>

https://www.goodreads.com/en/book/show/1442665.House_Church_And_Mission

https://books.google.com/books/about/House_Church_and_Mission.html?id=Rs3YAAAAMAAJ

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<http://its.oxfordjournals.org/content/58/2/666.short>

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http://cvi2.org/paul-timothy/pages/cpm/gehring_household_structures_early_christianity_2004.pdf

<http://www.thehousechurchbook.com/wp-content/uploads/2009/03/the-house-church-book-chapter-one.pdf>

http://paul-timothy.net/pages/cpm/gehring_household_structures_early_christianity_2004.pdf

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<https://www.amazon.com/Roger-W.-Gehring/e/B001K6CDC6>

[Images for Roger W. Gehring, author house church](#)

[Images for House Church and Mission: The Importance of Household Structures in Early Christianity by Roger W. Gehring](#)

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House Church Networks: A Church for a New Generation [Larry Kreider]

A new model of church is emerging throughout North America. Discover how these new house church networks offer community and simplicity, especially as they fit the heart, call and passion of the younger generations. These house church networks will work together with the more traditional community churches and mega-churches to show the transforming power of Christ to our neighborhoods.

<http://www.amazon.com/House-Church-Networks-New-Generation/dp/1886973482>

<http://www.dcfi.org/resources/articles/there%E2%80%99s-a-new-church-emerging/>

<http://www.dcfi.org/about-us/our-leaders-profiles/larry-and-laverne-kreider/>

http://www.h2hp.com/product_authors/larry-kreider/

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

<https://www.amazon.com/Larry-Kreider/e/B001JSDZOK>

http://www.goodreads.com/author/show/147644.Larry_Kreider

[Images for Larry Kreider, author](#)

[Images for House Church Networks: A Church for a New Generation \[Larry Kreider\]](#)

House to House: Growing Healthy Small Groups and House Churches in the 21st Century [Larry Kreider]

House to House documents how God transformed a small fellowship of young believers into a worldwide movement. DOVE Christian Fellowship International grew from 25 people to a cell church of over 2,300, and then transitioned into a family of small group churches and house churches that is now networking together throughout six continents. This field-tested book is a blueprint and training guide for believers, Christian leaders, and churches to make an impact on today's world, and serves as an invaluable tool to train potential leaders. The House to House model will inspire churches across the country, transforming them from individual congregations, large and small, into church-planting movements, encouraging many to start new churches to reach the coming harvest.

<http://www.amazon.com/House-Growing-Healthy-Churches-Century/dp/0768430577>

<https://books.google.com/books?isbn=0768496497>

https://books.google.com/books/about/House_to_House.html?id=K3NurkyGZsC

http://www.h2hp.com/product_authors/larry-kreider/

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

<http://www.dcfi.org/blog/>

<http://www.dcfi.org/resources/articles/house-church-networks%E2%80%9494a-wave-of-the-future/>

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

<http://www.lutheranrenewal.org/newsletters/1105.pdf>

[Images for House to House: Growing Healthy Small Groups and House Churches in the 21st Century \[Larry Kreider\]](#)

Starting a House Church: A New Model for Living out Your Faith by Larry Kreider (Author), Floyd McClung (Author)

There's a new way of doing church and it's taking North America by storm! Here, a recognized authority on the house church movement and a popular speaker and pastor share their expertise in starting and maintaining a healthy house church.

Together they look at current and future trends in the house church movement and provide best practice models for planting and leading house churches. Also, they explore how house churches are not always the same as simple cell-groups or small groups, especially in the areas of leadership and money. Readers will discover all the information they need to begin a house church in their community.

<http://www.amazon.com/Starting-House-Church-Model-Living/dp/0830743650>

https://www.goodreads.com/book/show/2325598.Starting_a_House_Church

<https://www.christianbook.com/starting-house-church-model-living-faith/larry-kreider/9780800796792/pd/796790>

https://books.google.com/books/about/Starting_a_House_Church.html?id=Lg6G-0mEm8QC

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<http://floydandsally.com/>

<https://www.amazon.com/Floyd-McClung/e/B001JS12V8>

https://www.goodreads.com/author/list/5294437.Floyd_McClung

[Images for Floyd McClung \(Author\)](#)

[Images for Starting a House Church: A New Model for Living out Your Faith by Larry Kreider \(Author\), Floyd McClung \(Author\)](#)

House church - Wikipedia

A house church or home church is a label used to describe a group of Christians who regularly gather for worship in private homes. The group may be part of a larger Christian body, such as a parish, but some have been independent groups that see the house church as the primary form of Christian community.

Sometimes these groups meet because the membership is small, and a home is the most appropriate place to assemble until such time as the group has sufficient funds to rent a regular place to meet (as in the beginning phase of the [British New Church Movement](#)). Sometimes this meeting style is advantageous because the group is a member of a Christian congregation which is otherwise banned from meeting as is the case in [China](#) and Iran.

Some recent Christian writers have supported the view that the [Christian Church](#) should meet in houses, and have based the operation of their communities around multiple small home meetings. Other Christian groups choose to meet in houses when they are in the early phases of church growth because a house is the most affordable option for the small group to meet until the number of people attending the group is sufficient to warrant moving to a commercial location such as a church building. House church organizations claim that this approach is preferable to public meetings in dedicated buildings because it is a more effective way of building community and personal relationships, and it helps the group to engage in [outreach](#) more naturally.^[1] Some believe small churches were a deliberate apostolic pattern in the [first century](#), and they were intended by [Christ](#).^[2]

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

[Images for House church](#)

[Images for group of Christians who regularly gather for worship in private homes](#)

House Churches Quotations - House Church Network

<http://housechurch.org/basics/quotations.html>

[Images for House Churches Quotations - House Church Network](#)

<https://www.goodreads.com/quotes/tag/house-church>

<https://www.goodreads.com/work/quotes/2332157-starting-a-house-church>

[Images for quotes/starting-a-house-church](#)

House Churches — The Renew Community

House churches meet the opposite weeks in various homes and living rooms across the region. If gatherings are family reunions with the extended family, house churches are what we describe as “immediate families.” Together, house churches celebrate, eat, serve, worship and study the Scriptures. The early church understood church to be a ‘family.’ We seek to embrace one another as family primarily through our house church approach, which offer rich opportunities to be deeply involved in the lives of other people in Renew.

<http://www.renewcommunity.org/house-churches/>

[Images for House Churches — The Renew Community](#)

Houses that Change the World: The Return of the House Churches by Wolfgang Simson

Millions of Christians around the world are becoming aware of an imminent reformation of global proportions within the church. God is changing this revered institution and is making a new collective awareness of an age-old revelation, a corporate spiritual echo that reflects God's desire for the church. In this book, Simson brings to light what God is saying to Christians everywhere.

Researched across the globe, he presents the case for the reformation of the church's existence. In a world where the church is being ignored, it is time to bring the church to the people and not the people to the church. Whether it is what we know as church from the last five years or the last five hundred years, no one has truly been able to break free from the structures of the past.

Many may see this book as radical, many may see it as a reforming of old ideals but all who read it will be challenged and their priorities refocused in a life-changing way.

<http://www.abebooks.com/servlet/BookDetailsPL?bi=17126702269&searchurl=sortBy%3D20%26an%3DWOLFGANG+SIMSON>

[http://thinktheology.co.uk/pdf/Houses_That_Changed_The_World_\(Jonathan_Bell\).pdf](http://thinktheology.co.uk/pdf/Houses_That_Changed_The_World_(Jonathan_Bell).pdf)

<http://www.livingtruth.com/PDF/housethat%20change.pdf>

https://books.google.com/books/about/Houses_that_Change_the_World.html?id=b68MAAAACAAJ

http://housechurch.org/basics/simson_15.html

<https://www.cmresources.org/houses-that-change-the-world>

<https://organicchurchresource.files.wordpress.com/2012/01/houses-that-change-the-world-by-wolfgang-simson.pdf>

<https://organicchurchresource.wordpress.com/pdf-books/>

<http://buckburch.blogspot.com/2012/08/review-of-wolfgang-simsons-houses-that.html>

<https://jacksonwu.files.wordpress.com/2012/11/interaction-with-houses-that-change-the-world-by-wolfgang-simson.pdf>

<https://9marks.org/review/houses-change-world-wolfgang-simson/>

<https://www.amazon.com/Wolfgang-Simson/e/B0028OLXJ8>

http://www.goodreads.com/author/show/102071.Wolfgang_Simson

[Images for Wolfgang Simson, author](#)

[Images for Houses that Change the World: The Return of the House Churches by Wolfgang Simson](#)

Letters to the House Church Movement by Rad Zdero (Author)

Real Letters. Real People. Real Issues. God is raising up the simple, organic, house church movement. And this book gives you, for the first time, a real-life inside look at the controversies, struggles, victories, and personalities emerging from within this revolution. This book is a collection of real letters to real people facing real issues. These letters challenge, persuade, and encourage. They address theological issues and practical problems. They were sent to friends, acquaintances, strangers, radicals, and critics. This book will not just satisfy your curiosity about today's house church movement, but it will propel you to complete the task to which Jesus Christ has called you.

<http://www.amazon.com/Letters-House-Church-Movement-Zdero/dp/1613790228>

<https://www.goodreads.com/book/show/12978137-letters-to-the-house-church-movement>

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<https://www.cmaresources.org/audio/interview-with-rad-zdero>

https://www.wordproject.org/bibles/resources/house_church/why_house_churches.pdf

http://www.goodreads.com/author/show/992224.Rad_Zdero

[Images for Rad Zdero \(Author\) house church](#)

[Images for Letters to the House Church Movement by Rad Zdero \(Author\)](#)

Nexus: The World House Church Movement Reader by ZDERO RAD (Author)

Welcome to the Nexus, your point of connection to the world house church movement. Grassroots Christianity is exploding all over the world. Northern India sees 4,000 churches planted in just a decade. China witnesses 160,000 new believers baptized in a single year. Cuba's petrol crisis catalyzes the birth of almost 10,000 churches. What is happening in all these places? Saturation church planting through simple, inexpensive, participatory, reproducible, and missional communities of 'house churches'. Over thirty-five leaders, practitioners, and academics from all around the world have contributed their insight and experience in over sixty provocative articles. Let them inform, challenge, and invite you to start your own network of multiplying house churches no matter where you live.

<http://www.amazon.com/Nexus-World-Church-Movement-Reader/dp/087808374X>

<https://www.christianbook.com/nexus-world-house-church-movement-reader/rad-zdero/9780878083749/pd/083749>

<https://missionbooks.org/products/nexus>

<https://missionnexus.org/nexus-the-world-house-church-movement-reader/>

[Images for Nexus: The World House Church Movement Reader by ZDERO RAD \(Author\)](#)

The Global House Church Movement by Rad Zdero

Today, there is a major church shift happening all around the world. God is once again bringing back the power and simplicity of New Testament-style Christianity. The Lord is raising up the global house church movement. Do you want to reach your friends and your nation with an approach to church life and church planting that is biblical and effective? If so, you need this book.

<https://www.cmaresources.org/the-global-house-church-movement>

<http://missionbooks.org/products/detail/the-global-house-church-movement>

https://www.goodreads.com/en/book/show/2188358.Global_House_Church_Movement

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The Global House Church Movement - Page 20 - Google Books Result

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pvA4BtyNaXQ> The Global House Church Movement by Rad Zdero - YouTube

[Images for The Global House Church Movement by Rad Zdero - YouTube](#)

https://joelcomiskeygroup.com/en/resources/church_planting/en_howhouse/ Starting house churches

<http://ojs.globalmissiology.org/index.php/english/article/viewFile/322/906>

<http://www.northamericanmissions.org/files/Zdero-Review.pdf>

<https://www.cmaresources.org/audio/interview-with-rad-zdero>

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[Images for \[PDF\] Starfish Files – House Church Magazine](#)

[Images for Rad Zdero \(Author\) house church](#)

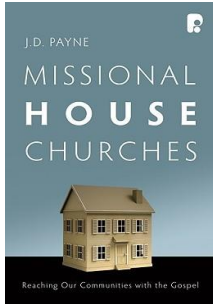
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Page 2

Missional House Churches: Reaching Our Communities with the Gospel [J. D. Payne]

Missional House Churches examines the impact and effect that house churches are having in the United States in evangelizing, discipling, and church planting in local communities. Based on the author's first-hand research and interviews with over thirty missional house churches as well as his own experiences, this insightful work offers an inside look at, and analysis of the workings of the missional house church. Topics addressed include the recent growth in the popularity of house churches in the United States, what defines church, various characteristics of the house churches, methods of evangelism and leadership development which lead to growth, use of financial resources for missions and benevolence, future of house churches in North America and the relationship of church planting movements and house churches. The appendices describe the research methodology and surveys

used in the study as well as characteristics of church planting movements. This book will be of interest to church leaders, mission-minded thinkers, and students who wish to explore, understand, and participate in this phenomenon of the missional house church movement.



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[Images for Missional House Churches: Reaching Our Communities with the Gospel \[J. D. Payne\]](#)

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Mustard Seed Ministries - Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

The Mustard Seed Ministries in the ELCA Rocky Mountain Synod is taking a page from the book of Acts. Acts describes how the early church met in people's homes, and this new ministry, led by Andy Boesenecker, an ELCA pastoral candidate studying at the Iliff School of Theology in Denver, is doing the same thing. It's a **ministry of house churches**.

<http://www.elca.org/en/Living-Lutheran/Stories/2013/11/131107>

[Images for Mustard Seed Ministries ELCA](#)

[Images for ministry of house churches](#)

New Testament house churches - Ministry Magazine

This article seeks to give a description of the house churches during the times of the early church.

<https://www.ministrymagazine.org/archive/2008/04/new-testament-house-churches.html>

[Images for New Testament house churches: A model for today's complex world? - Ministry Magazine](#)

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Reimagining Church: Pursuing the Dream of Organic Christianity [Frank Viola]

Author Frank Viola gives readers language for all they knew was missing in their modern church experience. He believes that many of today's congregations have shifted from God's original intent for the church. As a prominent leader of the **house church** movement, Frank is at the forefront of a revolution sweeping through the body of Christ. A change that is challenging the spiritual status quo and redefining the very nature of church. A movement inspired by the divine design for authenticity community. A fresh concept rooted in ancient history and in God Himself. Join Frank as he shares God's original intent for the church, where the body of Christ is an organic, living, breathing organism. A church that is free of convention, formed by spiritual intimacy, and unbound by four walls.

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Images for Reimagining Church: Pursuing the Dream of Organic Christianity [Frank Viola]

The Church in Many Houses: Reaching Your Community through Cell-Based Ministry by Dr. Steve Cordle (Author)

Although the largest churches in the world are cell-based, many have questioned whether the model will work in North America. *The Church in Many Houses: Reaching Your Community Through Cell-Based Ministry* makes the case that the cell model will work— if key assumptions about spiritual growth and the nature of the church are reexamined and renewed. By drawing on scripture, research, and insights gained through personal experience as the pastor of a growing cell church, Steve Cordle identifies the four pivotal philosophical shifts necessary for the cell approach to work. These are mindset shifts that move from:

- programs to relationships—the purposes of the church are best fulfilled in the cell group instead of in programs
- member to disciple-maker—every member can and should become a group leader
- educating to equipping—spiritual growth is not knowing more but applying more
- come and see to go and show—the power of penetration evangelism.

Impose a cell structure upon a congregation that has not yet made these philosophical shifts we are likely to fail. But when people adopt these biblical mindset changes, the cell approach will seem natural, and will result in great unity and effectiveness. *The Church in Many Houses* will help congregations make the changes that are necessary for success.

Forewords by Joel Comiskey and Michael Slaughter

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Images for dr. steve cordle (author)

Images for The Church in Many Houses: Reaching Your Community through Cell-Based Ministry by Dr. Steve Cordle (Author)

Images for The Church in Many Houses: programs to relationships, member to disciple-maker, educating to equipping, come and see to go and show

Images for programs to relationships—the purposes of the church are best fulfilled in the cell group instead of in programs

Images for member to disciple-maker—every member can and should become a group leader

Images for educating to equipping—spiritual growth is not knowing more but applying more

Images for come and see to go and show—the power of penetration evangelism

The Growing House-Church Movement — Ministry Today

WHY CHOOSE THE HOUSE CHURCH

The four main reasons why we choose to be part of a house church are:

<http://ministrytodaymag.com/ministry-today-archives/66-unorganized/720-the-growing-house-church-movement>

Images for Growing House-Church Movement — Ministry Today

<https://ministrytodaymag.com/278-archives>

The House Church: A Model for Renewing the Church [Del Birkey]

In this book, the author proposes the house church structure as a key to continuing renewal in the church today. After a biblical and historical look at the significance of the house church, he examines a model of ministry appropriate to that structure. Birkey

develops a theology of renewal through the servant leadership of both men and women, participatory worship, and community commitment.

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Images for Del Birkey, author
Images for The House Church: A Model for Renewing the Church [Del Birkey]

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Toward A House Church Theology [ed. Steve Atkerson]

The book *Toward a House Church Theology* edited by Steve Atkerson is 175 pages long, divided into 30 short chapters, and addresses the main categories of church meetings, church organization, and church issues. Its main focus is on rethinking and form and function of the church based on a fresh re-examination of the New Testament scriptures. The underlying framework is that the New Testament documents are prescriptive, rather than just descriptive, for the church through all the ages and is best expressed through the "house church" model.

-Rad Zdero, author of *Letters to the House Church Movement* and *The Global House Church Movement*

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Images for Steve Atkerson, author
Images for Toward A House Church Theology [ed. Steve Atkerson]

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Welcome Home - A Practical Guide to House Churches, Small Groups, Home Fellowships or Whatever Else We Call Them [Steve Lorch]

Unlike anything you may have read before on the subject, *Welcome Home* is a uniquely practical and soundly theological guide to nearly every aspect of house churches and small groups. Whether you are an elder of a large congregation with hundreds of small groups, a house church pastor, a church planter, or anyone at all interested in home fellowships, this book is sure to be an encouraging help to your ministry. By placing significant emphasis on developing leaders, *Welcome Home* maps out step-by-step ways to begin a house church ministry or to greatly improve existing small group programs. Drawing from solid, Biblical examples and over two decades of hands-on experience, *Welcome Home* sets a clear path for discipleship through home fellowships. The book also includes a CD containing various teaching outlines that may be printed freely for use as class materials.

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[Images for Welcome Home - A Practical Guide to House Churches, Small Groups, Home Fellowships or Whatever Else We Call Them \[Steve Lorch\]](#)

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12) Innovation

11 Innovations in the Local Church: How Today's Leaders Can Learn, Discern and Move into the Future [Elmer L. Towns, Ed Stetzer, Warren Bird]

Join three seasoned church-ministry experts on an insider's tour of the most innovative churches today! Discover a dozen types of innovation, each with profiles of congregations that have implemented that innovation. This is more than a show and tell tour, however. Each chapter offers a solid take-away for church leaders on how to learn and apply the appropriate innovation profiled. The authors also offer scripturally-based assessments of both the positive and negative implications of implementing each innovation, providing guidance and wisdom. There are many ways to present the Gospel, and this timely book will serve as a springboard for church leaders scratching their heads and asking themselves, "What should we do next?" By learning from a dozen different church types, church leaders can become more intentional about exploring new directions and reaching more of the world for Christ.

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[Images for 11 Innovations in the Local Church \[Elmer L. Towns, Ed Stetzer, Warren Bird\]](#)

How We Got to Now: Six Innovations That Made the Modern World [Steven Johnson]

From the New York Times–bestselling author of *Where Good Ideas Come From* and *Everything Bad Is Good for You*, a new look at the power and legacy of great ideas.

In this illustrated history, Steven Johnson explores the history of innovation over centuries, tracing facets of modern life (refrigeration, clocks, and eyeglass lenses, to name a few) from their creation by hobbyists, amateurs, and entrepreneurs to their unintended historical consequences. Filled with surprising stories of accidental genius and brilliant mistakes—from the French publisher who invented the phonograph before Edison but forgot to include playback, to the Hollywood movie star who helped invent the technology behind Wi-Fi and Bluetooth—*How We Got to Now* investigates the secret history behind the everyday

objects of contemporary life.

In his trademark style, Johnson examines unexpected connections between seemingly unrelated fields: how the invention of air-conditioning enabled the largest migration of human beings in the history of the species—to cities such as Dubai or Phoenix, which would otherwise be virtually uninhabitable; how pendulum clocks helped trigger the industrial revolution; and how clean water made it possible to manufacture computer chips. Accompanied by a major six-part television series on PBS, *How We Got to Now* is the story of collaborative networks building the modern world, written in the provocative, informative, and engaging style that has earned Johnson fans around the globe.

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[Images for innovation-quotes-to-inspire-your-next-idea](#)

Innovation - Wikipedia

Innovation in its modern meaning is "a new idea, creative thoughts, new imaginations in form of device or method".^[1] Innovation is often also viewed as the application of better [solutions](#) that meet new requirements, unarticulated needs, or existing [market](#) needs.^[2] Such innovation takes place through the provision of more-effective [products](#), processes, [services](#), [technologies](#), or [business models](#) that are made available to [markets](#), [governments](#) and [society](#). An innovation is something original and more effective and, as a consequence, new, that "breaks into" the market or society.^[3] Innovation is related to, but not the same as, [invention](#),^[4] as innovation is more apt to involve the practical implementation of an invention (ie new / improved ability) to make a meaningful impact in the market or society,^[5] and not all innovations require an invention. Innovation often^[quantify] manifests itself via the [engineering](#) process, when the problem being solved is of a technical or scientific nature. The opposite of innovation is [exnovation](#). While a novel device is often described^[by whom?] as an innovation, in economics, [management science](#), and other fields of practice and analysis, innovation is generally considered to be the result of a process that brings together various novel ideas in such a way that they affect society.^[citation needed] In [industrial economics](#), innovations are created and found^[by whom?] empirically from services to meet growing [consumer demand](#).^{[6][7][8]} Innovation also has an older historical meaning which is quite different. From the 1400s through the 1600s, prior to early American settlement, the concept of "innovation" was pejorative. It was an early modern synonym for rebellion, revolt and heresy.^{[9][10][11][12]}

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

[Images for innovation](#)

16 Best images about Church Innovations on Pinterest | Creative ideas and innovations for local churches

<https://www.pinterest.com/thelenwilson/church-innovations/>

[Images for Church Innovations Pinterest](#)

The Agile Church: Spirit-Led Innovation in an Uncertain Age: Dwight J. Zscheile

In today's dynamic cultural environment, churches have to be more than faithful—they have to be agile. That means embracing processes of trial, failure, and adaptation as they form Christian community with new neighbors. And that means a whole new way of being church.

Taking one page from the Bible and another from Silicon Valley, priest and scholar Dwight Zscheile brings theological insights together with cutting-edge thinking on organizational innovation to help churches flourish in a time of profound uncertainty and spiritual opportunity. Picking up where his recent bestseller, *People of the Way* left off, Zscheile answers urgent and practical questions around how churches become agile and adaptive to meet cultural change.

Cutting-edge leadership theory, approaches, and techniques for churches

Skillfully addresses both academic and church audiences

Study guide included

<https://www.amazon.com/Agile-Church-Spirit-Led-Innovation-Uncertain/dp/0819229776>

<https://www.goodreads.com/book/show/22618870-the-agile-church>

<https://www.churchpublishing.org/agilechurch>

<https://www.cokesbury.com/product/9780819229779/the-agile-church/>

<https://www.barnesandnoble.com/w/the-agile-church-dwight-j-zscheile/1119558042?type=eBook>

<https://cathedralbookstore.org/p-4045-the-agile-church-spirit-led-innovation-in-an-uncertain-age.aspx>

<https://www.christianbook.com/agile-church-spirit-innovation-uncertain-age/dwight-zscheile/9780819229779/pd/229770>

<https://www.dymocks.com.au/book/the-agile-church-by-dwight-j-zscheile-9780819229786/#.W8aBpmhKiUk>

https://books.google.com/books/about/The_Agile_Church.html?id=Gji0BAAAQBAJ

The Agile Church: Spirit-Led Innovation in an Uncertain Age

<https://dwightzscheile.com/2017/10/22/the-root-crisis/>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sZSkxcWggus> The Rev. Dwight J. Zscheile, Ph. D. conducts "Innovating a Faithful Future"

<https://www.stevethomason.net/2015/05/30/book-review-the-agile-church-spirit-led-innovation-in-an-uncertain-age-by-dwight-zscheile/>

<https://arl-jrl.org/the-agile-church-spirit-led-innovation-in-an-uncertain-age/>

<http://www.salempresbytery.org/healthy-ministry-conversations-a-blog/failure-is-an-option>

<https://gustavus.edu/churchrelations/concertFiles/media/Schedule.pdf>

http://s3.amazonaws.com/dfc_attachments/public/documents/3200646/Agile_Church_Flyer_bulletin_.pdf

<https://books.google.com/books?isbn=0802864937>

<https://www.librarything.com/author/zscheiledwightj>

https://www.luthersem.edu/faculty/fac_home.aspx?contact_id=dzscheile001

http://www.luthersem.edu/photos/facultypublish/cvs/dwight_zscheile_cv.pdf

<https://www.luthersem.edu/faculty/dzscheile001/>

<https://www.amazon.com/Dwight-J.-Zscheile/e/B005ZVLWB0>

https://www.goodreads.com/author/show/8347096.Dwight_J_Zscheile

[Images for Dwight J. Zscheile](#)

[Images for The Agile Church: Spirit-Led Innovation in an Uncertain Age: Dwight J. Zscheile](#)

Page 145

Northwest Synod of Wisconsin Winter Theological Education – January 20-21, 2019

Faithful **Innovations**

The churches of the future will be adaptive learning communities, that learn from "failing fast and flipping." The church of the future will be agile and engaged in constant experimentation, innovation, and evaluation. Rostered leaders of the Northwest

Synod of Wisconsin are invited to come together for a midwinter break and a time of learning and conversation about how God might be calling us to faithfully explore ministry in new and creative ways.

Joining us for this event will be Dwight Zscheile, an Episcopal priest, associate professor of congregational mission and leadership at Luther Seminary in St. Paul, Minnesota, and consultant with The Missional Network. He also serves part-time as associate priest at St. Matthew's Episcopal Church in St. Paul. He is author of *The Agile Church: Spirit-Led Innovation in an Uncertain Age* (Morehouse Publishing, 2014)

A graduate of Stanford University (BA), Yale University (MDiv) and Luther Seminary (PhD, Congregational Mission and Leadership), he previously served congregations in Virginia and Connecticut. Dwight's experience growing up in a secular home in California has shaped his commitment to helping the church cultivate Christian community with new populations and generations in today's changing world.

<https://files.constantcontact.com/0deff306001/73b9d156-c59e-461f-a271-ed0abb662f79.pdf>

[Images for Faithful Innovations - Dwight Zscheile](#)

info@nswi.org

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

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

[Images for Bible and Innovation](#)

<https://bible.org/seriespage/16-change-and-innovation>

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

<https://www.bible.com/reading-plans/4553-discover-your-call-to-innovation/day/1>

[Images for discover-your-call-to-innovation](#)

<https://www.faithandleadership.com/traditioned-innovation-biblical-way-thinking>

[Images for innovation-biblical-way-thinking](#)

https://learn.tearfund.org/en/resources/publications/footsteps/footsteps_71-80/footsteps_75/bible_study_innovation/

www.theologyofbusiness.com/restorative-vs-disruptive-bible-says-innovation/

<http://biblehub.com/topical/i/innovation.htm>

<https://blog.logos.com/2012/11/logos-5-where-innovation-meets-bible-study/>

<http://get.bible/blog/post/5-innovative-ways-that-billy-graham-proclaimed-the-gospel>

[Images for innovative-ways-that-billy-graham-proclaimed-the-gospel](#)

13) Interim Ministry

An Intentional Interim Concept :: Interim Ministry Association

5. Focus on Spiritual Needs of Membership

Congregations today have taken on much of the milieu and structure of secular institutions. There is a hunger for recapturing the spiritual power that comes from Bible study and prayer engaged in to discern God's will for the congregation and for individual members. Such a developmental task can easily dovetail with the search for understanding the congregation's identity, vision, and mission.

<https://www.imaelca.org/resources/an-intentional-interim-concept/>

[Images for An Intentional Interim Concept :: Interim Ministry Association 5. Focus on Spiritual Needs of Membership](#)

[Images for congregation's identity, vision, and mission](#)

Commitment to New Directions in Ministry: The Developmental Tasks Revisited

The Journal of the Interim Ministry Network. Volume 2, Number 3 – November, 1998. Pages 38-49. By Walter Marttila. Interim Ministry Network. 5740 Executive Drive, Suite 212. Baltimore, MD. 21228. www.imnedu.org ellen@imnedu.org

[Images for Commitment to New Directions in Ministry: The Developmental Tasks Revisited The Journal of the Interim Ministry Network.](#)

Congregational Handbook for Pastoral Transitions

Development/Review of Core Values, Mission Statement and Vision Statement III-6

Every church has a purpose. We know that we have been sent "to make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit." (Matthew 28:19) And we know that churches function in the areas of faith, fellowship, and service. A mission statement that reflects those three things could be applied to almost any Christian church. But no two churches are exactly the same. Each one has a different personality, a different ambience, a different realm in which it functions best. Each one has its own set of core values, some of which may be similar to other churches, but there are some core values that make your church unique. These are the lenses through which you see the world, the priorities you have established for yourselves. As you begin to evaluate and update your mission statement, try to list 4 or 5 core values for your congregation.

A mission statement is more about doing:

It tells something about your purpose as a part of the larger body of Christ.

It hints at how you will make your vision a reality.

It is short, motivational, and easy to memorize.

Example: We welcome our neighbors with enthusiasm and love knowing that God will show us the ministry we might do.

Your congregation probably has a mission statement already. Does it reflect your core values? Does it describe the overall purpose of the congregation? Is it clear to those who are not members or part of the congregation? Does it guide the members as they make decisions, make policies, and develop ministries? Do the members of the congregation know and embrace the mission statement? Where is the mission statement displayed? Where is it discussed? How does the mission statement shape the mission

of the congregation and how is the mission reflected in the mission statement? It is usually easier to write a mission statement in a small group than in the congregation as a whole. It is important, however, to have a feedback loop that includes everyone, so that the statement is not something imposed on them and the congregation can “own” it.

There are many resources to help you develop your mission, vision, and values statements. One site online would be http://www.managementhelp.org/plan_plan/stmnets.htm#anchor519441. But there are many others as well. Your interim pastor will help you put together your discovery process.

<http://www.lutheransnw.org/files/leadership/TransitionHandbook.pdf>

[Images for congregational handbook for pastoral transitions Development/Review of Core Values, Mission Statement and Vision Statement](#)

Congregational Handbook for Pastoral Transitions

Section III – Self-Study

Development of Core Values, **Mission**, and Vision Statements

III-6

<http://www.lutheransnw.org/files/leadership/TransitionHandbook.pdf>

[Images for Congregational Handbook for Pastoral Transitions Section III – Self-Study Development of Core Values, Mission, and Vision Statements](#)

Congregational Ministry Assessment: Mission and Purposes

Mission and Purposes

- When were the mission statement and purposes last updated? By what process?
- How well understood are they by the congregation?
- How intentionally are they pursued?

http://www.nswi.org/webfiles/fnitools/documents/call_process_rev11.17.09smaller.pdf

Page 54

[Images for Congregational Ministry Assessment: Mission and Purposes](#)

IMN | Step Two – FTM: The Work of the Congregation (FTMC)

This five-day course emphasizes the work of the congregation. The fundamental tasks of the congregation, framed as Focus Points, are to successfully navigate the transition period:

HERITAGE– Reviewing how the congregation has been shaped and formed.

LEADERSHIP– Reviewing the member needs and its ways of organizing and developing new and effective leadership

MISSION– Defining and redefining sense of purpose and direction

CONNECTIONS– Discovering all the relationships a faith community builds outside of itself

FUTURE– Developing congregational and pastoral profiles

http://imnedu.org/interim_transitional-education/the-fundamentals-of-transitional-ministry-the-work-of-the-congregation/

[Images for Congregation MISSION– Defining and and redefining sense of purpose and direction](#)

In Calling a Pastor, We Consider the Changing Context/New Opportunities and Challenges

Listen to Colossians 3:12–17. We are being changed. That is what the Spirit of Christ is doing with us. There is a marvelous new-life prayer in the Evening Prayer/Vespers of the ELW:

Lord God, you have called your servants to ventures of which we cannot see the ending, by paths yet untrodden, through perils unknown. Give us faith to go out with good courage, not knowing where we go, but only that your hand is leading us and your love supporting us; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

We are not the same congregation we were last year, or ten years ago. Times have changed, things have changed, we have changed since last calling a pastor. What do those changes mean for the calling of a new one? What is different now? How has our community felt the changes? Changing demographics, aging populations, new immigrants, all these factors make for renewal in mission and ministry too, in service and witness for the community of faith. Let’s take some time to reflect yet again on these new opportunities and challenges as a committee.

Are we more open as a congregation to see the gifts of a candidate we may not have considered so seriously before? Many congregations have found that to be true, for example, in looking at single candidates, female and older candidates. Pastor Eleanor Hunsberger states the matter boldly, “When God calls you to ministry as a person of color, a person who is physically challenged, a person who is different, who does not fit the Lutheran mold of this is what a pastor looks like, somehow the Holy Spirit removes the barriers and people are able to open up to receive such people.” She goes on to say, “We’re helping God, we’re working with the Holy Spirit in this process.”

We refresh ourselves in these words from scripture about our life in the Spirit: Romans 8:26–30. We are so called according to God’s purpose. The times may be changing, but we are standing on that solid promise.

Gracious accompanying God, The One in whom we live and move and have our being. Give us a vision of the times of our lives, the new situations in which we live out our faith in Jesus. May we ask anew what it means to be the Church in our time, our place.

And as we work to call a new pastor to our congregation may we welcome according to your Spirit the one you are sending to us to lead us into the new days ahead. Amen.

[PDF] Call Process Booklet EDITED - Northwest Synod of Wisconsin

http://www.nswi.org/webfiles/fnitools/documents/call_process_rev11.17.09smaller.pdf

Page 92

[Images for Call Process Booklet EDITED - Northwest Synod of Wisconsin](#)

Call Process Booklet - Yumpu

<https://www.yumpu.com/en/document/view/53432941/call-process-booklet>

Images for In Calling a Pastor, We Consider the Changing Context/New Opportunities and Challenges

Intentional Interim Ministry

a purposeful approach for transitions and crises

Setting a fresh course. When a church feels it's at a difficult crossroad, quick decisions may be made without fully exploring options and potential outcomes. Intentional Interim Ministry slows down the call process, allowing the congregation time to make well-informed and deliberate decisions regarding the future course of the church.

<http://interimministrylcms.org/>

[Images for Intentional Interim Ministry a purposeful approach for transitions and crises](#)
[Images for informed and deliberate decisions regarding the future course of the church](#)

Intentionality, Practice, and Vitality - Alban Institute

In all of this, we may well feel the Spirit's tug toward a different kind of congregational cooperation. What if we begin to see other faith communities as pilgrims on a journey to God instead of as competitors in a religion marketplace? Can we share with and serve each other as we walk a new—yet very old—road of shaping communal faith as a way of wisdom?

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

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

<https://alban.org/archive/vital-congregations-as-intentional-communities-of-practice/>

<https://alban.org/archive/signs-of-vitality/>

<https://alban.org/category/missions-evangelism/>

<https://alban.org/category/renewal-vitality/>

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

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

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

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

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

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

<https://www.uua.org/sites/live-new.uua.org/files/documents/congservices/smallcongs/growthresources.pdf>

9 Signs Your Church Needs an Intentional Interim Pastor

1. **Mission**, Vision and Strategic Planning. An intentional interim pastor will possess the skills necessary to *guide* the congregation into their own understanding of the mission. This requires the ability to work within denominational guidelines and doctrinal statements while remaining true to the text of scripture. The pastor must also know how to move from mission to vision and thence to strategic planning. The end result of this part of the transition process is that the members themselves own the mission, they are energized by the vision and they are committed to executing the strategic plan. *The intentional interim pastor must know how to guide the congregation or its leaders so they are the ones who do the actual development work. If they don't, the mission, vision and plans aren't theirs!*

<http://pastors.com/intentional-interim/>

[Images for Church Mission, Vision and Strategic Planning](#)

Norman Bendroth: Transitional Ministry Today - Alban Institute

Three Questions. The three most important questions that any congregation must answer, but especially those in transition, are: "Who are we?" (Identity); "Who is our neighbor?" (**Mission**); and, "What is God calling us to do and to be?" (Vision). Making ample time to mine this data will help a congregation to learn who they are and create a road map towards tomorrow.

<https://alban.org/2015/03/06/norman-bendroth-transitional-ministry-today/>

http://macucc.s3.amazonaws.com/71BBE2C7B9B049B0883D51809D9A1E82_Rethinking%20Transitional%20Ministry.pdf

[Images for "Who is our neighbor?" \(Mission\) congregation](#)

<https://rowman.com/ISBN/9781566997669/Transitional-Ministry-Today-Successful-Strategies-for-Churches-and-Pastors>

<https://www.amazon.com/Transitional-Ministry-Today-Successful-Strategies/dp/156699750X>

<http://www.goodreads.com/book/show/23811442-transitional-ministry-today>

<http://www.barnesandnoble.com/w/transitional-ministry-today-norman-b-bendroth/1120409955>

https://books.google.com/books/about/Transitional_Ministry_Today.html?id=Oy7VBQAAQBAJ

<https://www.amazon.com/Transitional-Ministry-Today-Successful-Strategies/dp/156699750X>

<https://rowman.com/isbn/9781566997669/transitional-ministry-today-successful-strategies-for-churches-and-pastors>

<http://thecrg.org/resources/transitional-ministry-today-successful-strategies-for-churches-and-pastors>

https://books.google.com/books/about/Transitional_Ministry_Today.html?id=Oy7VBQAAQBAJ

<http://bendroth.org/?author=1>

<https://www.linkedin.com/in/norman-bendroth-19575434>

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

<https://www.christiancentury.org/contributor/norman-b-bendroth>

[Images for Norman Bendroth: Transitional Ministry Today - Alban Institute](#)

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

David Sawyer, director of the D.Min. program at Louisville Presbyterian Seminary, which offers a specialization in interim ministry, proposes that the interim minister pay attention three areas of concentration: structures, symptoms, and narrative. First, structures

include healthy processes built (or needing to be built) into the “immune system” of a congregation to deal with conflict and change when it inevitably comes. These further comprise sound policies, effective governance, and firm boundaries. Second, symptoms include watching where conflict or anxiety bubbles up indicating not only points of friction but of passion. Sawyer prefers to talk about “conflict utilization” instead of management to emphasize the ways in which change is impacting a congregation. And third, narrative includes the church’s story around issues of identity, core values, and mission. “It’s no longer the case that the church changes during ministerial change, but that the church is always changing,” says Sawyer. “A congregation will always be true to its soul, but it must release things that are not essential to its identity or mission.”

And third, narrative includes the church’s story around issues of identity, core values, and mission. “It’s no longer the case that the church changes during ministerial change, but that the church is always changing,” says Sawyer. “A congregation will always be true to its soul, but it must release things that are not essential to its identity or mission.”

http://macucc.s3.amazonaws.com/71BBE2C7B9B049B0883D51809D9A1E82_Rethinking%20Transitional%20Ministry.pdf

Page 5

[Images for church’s story around issues of identity, core values, and mission](#)

<https://books.google.com/books?isbn=1566997518>

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

Sand Bur Consulting - Tools

Interim Ministry:

[Tips for Interim Pastors about Leading Mission Studies](#)

[Interviewing a Candidate for an Interim Position](#)

[Questions an Interim Candidate Might Ask](#)

[Ten Ways to help an interim time get underway](#)

<http://www.sandburconsulting.com/resources.html>

[Images for Tips for Interim Pastors about Leading Mission Studies](#)

So you’re changing pastors (A transition awareness resource) by Conrad W Weiser (Author)

Planning the Interim Process	23
The Interim Process	24
Meeting 1: Where We Are	25
Meetings 2 and 3: Defining Our Identity and Mission	26
Meetings 4 and 5: Evaluating Our Program in Light of Mission	27
Meeting 6: Brainstorming New Directions	29
Meeting 7: What Kind of Pastor Do We Need?	30
Meeting 8: What I Want to Ask the Candidate	31

https://www.amazon.co.uk/changing-pastors-transition-awareness-resource/dp/B00072AMBI?ie=UTF8&*Version*=1&*entries*=0

<http://fortresspress.com/author/conrad-w-weiser>

[Images for Conrad W Weiser \(Author\) so you’re changing pastors](#)

[Images for So you’re changing pastors \(A transition awareness resource\) by Conrad W Weiser \(Author\)](#)

[Images for pastor transition awareness resource](#)

[Images for Defining Our Identity and Mission Congregation](#)

Staff & Laity: Organizing for Mission

Trust the Spirit

Risk failure and be bold in ministry endeavors.

Brace yourself to be surprised by what God can do!

<http://www.feautor.org/uploads/contributions/11956953849/organizing.pdf>

[Images for Staff & Laity: Organizing for Mission Trust the Spirit Risk failure and be bold in ministry endeavors.](#)

[Images for Staff & Laity: Organizing for Mission - Brace yourself to be surprised by what God can do!](#)

10 Reasons why interim ministry is a growth sector - Turnaround Pastors

The many reasons why being an interim pastor is a “growth sector” fall into four basic categories: The American church is losing ground; church planting won’t solve the problem; church revitalization is a sensible solution and the knowledge of how to revitalize dead and dying churches is in hand. In this post I’ll briefly detail two of those categories (and four of the ten reasons). I’ll treat the rest of the issue in a follow-up article.

<https://www.turnaroundpastor.com/10-reasons-why-interim-ministry-is-a-growth-sector/>

[Images for 10 Reasons why interim ministry is a growth sector - Turnaround Pastors - church revitalization images](#)

Terms Helpful in Understanding Congregations in Transition

Mission Focus

How clear has the mission focus been? How has mission changed?

<http://interiministry.org/resources/helpful-terms/>

[Images for Terms Helpful in Understanding Congregations in Transition - Mission - Focus](#)

[Images for How clear has the congregation mission focus been?](#)

The Turnaround Church: Inspiration and Tools for Life-Sustaining Change [Mary Louise Gifford]

Chapter 5: Vision and Mission

<http://www.amazon.com/Turnaround-Church-Inspiration-Life-Sustaining-Change/dp/1566993938>
<https://rowman.com/ISBN/9781566993937/The-Turnaround-Church-Inspiration-and-Tools-for-Life-Sustaining-Change>
<https://alban.org/archive/turning-toward-life/>
<http://www.enterpriseneews.com/article/20140719/NEWS/307199992> New pastor settles in at Randolph First Congregational Church
http://www.firstuccrandolph.org/our_staff.htm
Images for Mary Louise Gifford, author the turnaround church
Images for The Turnaround Church: Inspiration and Tools for Life-Sustaining Change [Mary Louise Gifford] Chapter 5: Vision and Mission

[PDF]What is Intentional Interim Ministry?

· **Mission**—a church should have a call from God that belongs to the whole church. Too often the church depends upon the pastor to create the mission and to enlist workers, while the church ignores the mission because they have not heard the same call. The IIM period will guide a church in finding their God-given purpose and to express it with broad generalities and specific short-term actions.

<http://www.absc.org/files/uploads/WhatisIntentionalInterimMinistry.pdf>
Images for Mission—church call from God

What's Missional about Interim Ministry?

Interim Ministry Association Serving the ELCA. The Newsletter. Spring 2011.

Page 1

<http://www.elca.org/Growing-In-Faith/Ministry/Interim-Ministry-Association/Newsletter.aspx>
Images for What's Missional about Interim Ministry?

14) Judicatory

Nathan Kirkpatrick: What is the ministry we need from a judicatory today?

Judicatories help us remember and uphold the common good, ... innovative collaborations across their region for the sake of **mission** and ...

<https://www.faithandleadership.com/nathan-kirkpatrick-what-ministry-we-need-judicatory-today>
Images for Nathan Kirkpatrick: What is the ministry we need from a judicatory today?
Images for Judicatories help us remember and uphold the common good
Images for judicatory innovative collaborations

Reinventing the Judicatory in an Unthinkable World | The Network

How does one reinvent a judicatory shaped by programs and seek to provide resources to transform it into a **mission** agency?

<https://network.crcna.org/classis/reinventing-judicatory-unthinkable-world>
Images for Reinventing the Judicatory in an Unthinkable World | The Network
Images for Reinventing the Judicatory into a mission agency

TRANSFORMING THE JUDICATORY – Center for Parish Development

The mid-council/judicatory and all its congregations and units are supported to discern God's vision and more faithfully to engage the missionary context in which they exist.

<https://missionalchurch.org/middle-governing-bodies/transforming-the-judicatory/>
Images for TRANSFORMING THE JUDICATORY – Center for Parish Development
Images for discern God's vision and more faithfully to engage the missionary context

15) Leslie Newbigin

Foolishness to the Greeks: The Gospel and Western Culture [Lesslie Newbigin]

How can biblical authority be a reality for those shaped by the modern world? This book treats the First World as a mission field, offering a unique perspective on the relationship between the gospel and current society by presenting an outsider's view of contemporary Western culture.

<http://www.amazon.com/Foolishness-Greeks-Gospel-Western-Culture/dp/0802801765>
http://www.goodreads.com/book/show/567180.Foolishness_to_the_Greeks
<https://www.eerdmans.com/Products/0176/foolishness-to-the-greeks.aspx>
<https://www.logos.com/product/121512/foolishness-to-the-greeks-the-gospel-and-western-culture>
<https://books.google.com/books?id=TpNhwjgxRUQC>
https://books.google.com/books/about/Foolishness_to_the_Greeks.html?id=4TBeCwAAQBAJ
https://books.google.com/books/about/Foolishness_to_the_Greeks.html?id=TpNhwjgxRUQC
<https://archive.org/details/foolishnesstogre00newb>
<http://www.logosapologia.org/book-review-foolishness-to-the-greeks-by-lesslie-newbigin/>
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 Images for Foolishness to the Greeks: The Gospel and Western Culture [Lesslie Newbigin]

Grasping Truth and Reality: Lesslie Newbigin's Theology of Mission to the Western World [Donald Le Roy Stults]

When Lesslie Newbigin returned to Britain in 1974 after years of missionary service, he observed that his homeland was as much a mission field as India, where he had spent the majority of his missionary career. He concluded that the Western world needed a missionary confrontation. Instead of the traditional approach to missions, however, Newbigin realized that the Western world needed to be confronted theologically. From his earliest days at Cambridge University, Newbigin developed the theological convictions that shaped his understanding of the Christian faith, and he used these theological convictions as criteria to evaluate the belief system of Western culture and to provide an answer to its dilemma. The Enlightenment reintroduced humanism and dualism into Western culture, which resulted on the loss of purpose and the rise of skepticism. This book discusses Newbigin's theological convictions and how they factored into both his critique of and his solution to Western culture's spiritual and worldview problems. Donald Le Roy cleverly explains Newbigin's solution to reintroduce the Christian belief system into Western culture in order to restore purpose and truth to Westerners and put them back in contact with true reality through Jesus Christ.

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 Images for Grasping Truth and Reality: Lesslie Newbigin Theology of Mission to the Western World [Donald Le Roy Stults]

Leslie Newbigin: A Theological Life by Geoffrey Wainwright (Author)

This book offers an intellectual and spiritual biography of Lesslie Newbigin, a figure of patristic proportions in the twentieth-century history of the Church. Drawing on thirty-five years of personal and literary acquaintance with his subject and on a thorough examination of the Newbigin archives, Geoffrey Wainwright crafts a rich and varied portrait of this outstanding witness to the Gospel.

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James Edward Lesslie Newbigin (8 December 1909 – 30 January 1998) was a British theologian, missiologist, missionary and author. Though originally ordained within the Church of Scotland, Newbigin spent much of his career serving as a missionary in India and became affiliated with the Church of South India and the United Reformed Church, becoming one of the Church of South India's first bishops. A prolific author who wrote on a wide range of theological topics, Newbigin is best known for his contributions to missiology and ecclesiology. He is also known for his involvement in both the dialogue regarding ecumenism and the *Gospel and Our Culture* movement.^[1] Many scholars also believe his work laid the foundations for the contemporary missional church movement, and it is said his stature and range is comparable to the "Fathers of the Church."^{[2][3][4]}

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Proper Confidence: Faith, Doubt, and Certainty in Christian Discipleship by Lesslie Newbigin (Author)

Looking to end the divisive conflict that has raged between Christians who attack each other either as "liberals" or as "fundamentalists," Newbigin here gives a historical account of the roots of this conflict in order to begin laying the foundation for a middle ground that will benefit the Christian faith as a whole. What results is a perspective that allows Christians to confidently affirm the gospel as public truth in our pluralistic world.

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Signs amid the Rubble: The Purposes of God in Human History [Mr. Lesslie Newbigin, Mr. Geoffrey Wainwright]

The late Lesslie Newbigin was widely regarded as one of this generation's most significant voices on Christianity in relation to modern society. Now that he is gone, there is a call for his unpublished writings to be made available. To that end *Signs amid the Rubble* gathers some of Newbigin's finest statements on issues of continuing relevance. The first set of chapters consists of the 1941 Bangalore Lectures, in which Newbigin speaks powerfully of the kingdom of God in relation to the modern - severely deficient - idea of "progress." The second group of writings, the Henry Martyn Lectures of 1986, deals mainly with the importance of Christian mission. In the last piece, his address to the World Council of Churches conference on mission and evangelism in Brazil

in 1996 - which editor Geoffrey Wainwright calls his "swan song on the ecumenical stage" - Newbigin wonders aloud how future generations will judge today's practice of abortion.

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The Gospel in a Pluralist Society [Lesslie Newbigin]

How does the gospel relate to a pluralist society? What is the Christian message in a society marked by religious pluralism, ethnic diversity, and cultural relativism? Should Christians encountering today's pluralist society concentrate on evangelism or on dialogue? How does the prevailing climate of opinion affect, perhaps infect, Christians' faith?

These kinds of questions are addressed in this noteworthy book by Lesslie Newbigin. A highly respected Christian leader and ecumenical figure, Newbigin provides a brilliant analysis of contemporary (secular, humanist, pluralist) culture and suggests how Christians can more confidently affirm their faith in such a context.

While drawing from scholars such as Michael Polanyi, Alasdair MacIntyre, Hendrikus Berkhof, Walter Wink, and Robert Wuthnow, *The Gospel in a Pluralist Society* is suited not only to an academic readership. This heartfelt work by a missionary pastor and preacher also offers to Christian leaders and laypeople some thoughtful, helpful, and provocative reflections.

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The Household of God: Lectures on the Nature of Church by Lesslie Newbigin (Author)

This book discusses the question that the author regards as central in the present ecumenical debate: the nature of the Church itself. He thus describes the plan of the book: The First chapter sketches the present context of the discussion and touches on the Biblical meaning of the word Church. The next three chapters examine the three answers to the central question, which may be roughly categorized as Protestant, Catholic, Pentecostal. The last two chapters argue that the Church is only to be understood in a perspective that is at once eschatological and missionary, the perspective of the ends of the earth. Bishop Newbigin's evaluations are provocative, scholarly, and filled with profound passion and insight. He is concerned with the searching questions men today

are asking: Is there in truth a family of God on earth to which I can belong, a place where all men can be truly at home? If so, where is it to be found and how is it that those who claim to be spokesmen of that holy fellowship are themselves at war with one another as to the fundamentals of its nature? I think there is no more urgent theological task than to try to give plain and simple answers. This he does, drawing deeply upon biblical sources.

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The Open Secret: An Introduction to the Theology of Mission [Lesslie Newbigin]

Aimed at bringing contemporary concerns in mission theology to a wide-reading public, this volume flows from Newbigin's extensive experience in the mission field and from lectures developed especially to prepare men and women for missionary service. Newbigin describes the Christian mission as the declaration of an open secret--open in that it is preached to all nations, secret in that it is manifest only to the eyes of faith. The result is a thoroughly biblical attempt to lead the church to embrace its Christ-given task of presenting the gospel in our complex modern world. This revised edition includes a helpful index and a new preface.

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Truth to Tell: The Gospel as Public Truth (Osterhaven Lecture) [Mr. Lesslie Newbigin]

An important book for all who are concerned with the impact of Christianity on today's world, *Truth To Tell* affirms the gospel as the truth - not only for personal life but also for life at the public, societal level.

In emphasizing the Christian gospel as the truth that calls for radical conversion, Lesslie Newbigin runs counter to the prevailing subjectivism and skepticism in our society regarding the possibility of knowing ultimate truth. Societies like ours that have undergone "modernization" tend to regard the world's religions as agencies for the cultivation of privately held religious opinions -- agencies that can be studied with the tools of sociology, psychology, and other secular disciplines.

But, says Newbigin, the Christian church is not simply an agency that stands for good personal values. In three pointed chapters – “Believing and Knowing the Truth,” “Affirming the Truth in the Church,” and “Speaking the Truth to Caesar” - Newbigin develops the argument that the Christian gospel is a statement of objective, historical truth, and all other modes of thought are to be evaluated in the light of the gospel truth.

Directed especially to ministers and concerned laypeople, *Truth to Tell* consists of the Osterhaven lectures delivered by Newbigin at Western Theological Seminary in Holland, Michigan.

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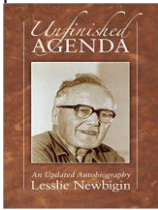
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Unfinished Agenda: An Updated Autobiography [Lesslie Newbigin]

An autobiography by Lesslie Newbigin, which describes the breadth and depth of his missionary service - as a student, wrestling with problems of faith and vocation, as a Church of Scotland missionary, helping to build the Church of South India and as bishop in Madurai and Madras, as midwife of the integration of the International Missionary Council and World Council of Churches and as pastor in one of Birmingham's toughest inner city areas.



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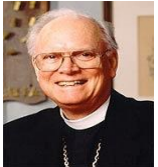
<http://www.newbigin.net/general/biography.cfm>

[Images for Unfinished Agenda: An Updated Autobiography \[Lesslie Newbigin\]](#)

16) Lutheran

A Good Time to Be the Church: A Conversation with Bishop H. George Anderson

“A good time to be the church is right now,” declares Bishop H. George Anderson. Rather than lamenting the lost influence of the church or dreaming of some golden age, Christians can see the spiritual hunger of our time as a special opportunity to speak and act boldly. Solidly grounded in the Bible and Christian history, and keenly aware of contemporary issues, the **Lutheran** bishop identifies Christian truths that are especially needed in our time. He recalls his own spiritual journey and encourages readers to tell their faith stories. In an engaging question-and-answer format, Anderson helps readers clarify their own beliefs and discover ways to **share the Christian faith with others**. With questions for reflection and discussion, along with suggested prayers and hymns, this book is a stimulating study guide for congregations, church councils, evangelism committees, and other Christian groups.



<http://www.amazon.com/A-Good-Time-Be-Church/dp/0806635258>

<https://www.augsburgfortress.org/store/product/5887/A-Good-Time-to-Be-the-Church-A-Conversation-with-Bishop-H-George-Anderson>

http://books.google.com/books/about/A_Good_Time_to_Be_the_Church.html?id=122GtxgB_ZEC

<https://www.christtheservant.net/lutheran-church--theology.html>

<http://www.elca.org/About/History/Former-Presiding-Bishops/The-Rev-H-George-Anderson>

<http://store.augsburgfortress.org/store/co>

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/H._George_Anderson

[Images for A Good Time to Be the Church: A Conversation with Bishop H. George Anderson](#)

Crazy Talk: A Not-so-stuffy Dictionary of Theological Terms by Karl N. Jacobson (Author), Marc D. Ostlie-Olson (Author), Megan J. Thorvilson (Author), Megan L. Torgerson (Author), Hans H. Wiersma (Author), Rolf A. Jacobson (Editor)

So much theology is confusing and intimidating. The concepts themselves are given weighty-sounding names, such as incarnation and justification, and the explanations of the concepts sometimes can be more confusing than the names.

Captivating, entertaining, and highly informative, *Crazy Talk* helps readers navigate their way through that complexity and offers a vocabulary that dares - and equips! - its readers to embrace their own faith in a new, well-informed way.

The purpose of *Crazy Talk*, says author Rolf Jacobson, is to render the heart of our Christian theology in a form that is accessible and appealing to everyone. The format of the book is similar to that of a dictionary of theological terms- but with a twist of humor!

Each entry includes the name of the theological term, an ironic definition of the term, and a short humorous essay offering a fuller explanation of the term. In making the term understandable, Jacobson concentrates on the big theological issue that is at stake in the term - and why it matters. Includes over 50 black and white illustrations.

<http://www.amazon.com/Crazy-Talk-Not-so-stuffy-Dictionary-Theological/dp/0806680377>

http://www.goodreads.com/book/show/1664496.Crazy_Talk

<http://store.augsburgfortress.org/store/product/8204/Crazy-Talk-A-Not-So-Stuff-Dictionary-of-Theological-Terms>

https://www.festivalofhomiletics.com/speakers.aspx?speaker_id=45

http://www.goodreads.com/author/show/768575.Rolf_A_Jacobson

[Images for Crazy Talk: A Not-so-stuffy Dictionary of Theological Terms](#) by Karl N. Jacobson (Author), Marc D. Ostlie-Olson (Author),

[Megan J. Thorvilson \(Author\), Megan L. Torgerson \(Author\), Hans H. Wiersma \(Author\), Rolf A. Jacobson \(Editor\)](#)

Listen! God Is Calling!: Luther Speaks of Vocation, Faith, and Work (Lutheran Voices) [D. Michael Bennethum]

The Christian faith has implications for all of life. Yet, many Christians do not make the connection between the resources of their faith and the challenges they face in daily life and work. God's call to faithful living is often understood primarily in terms of being involved in church-sponsored ministries. In *Listen! God Is Calling!* author D. Michael Bennethum presents Martin Luther's teaching on vocation as a resource both for individual believers, helping them find deeper meaning in their ordinary daily labors; and for congregations, encouraging them to develop a climate that supports their members at work.

<http://www.amazon.com/Listen-God-Is-Calling-Vocation/dp/0806649917>

http://www.goodreads.com/book/show/1308063.Listen_God_Is_Calling

<https://books.google.com/books?isbn=1451405529>

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<http://store.augsburgfortress.org/store/product/7116/Listen-God-Is-Calling-Luther-Speaks-of-Vocation-Faith-and-Work>

<https://www.augsburgfortress.org/store/search?ss=D.%20Michael%20Bennethum>

http://wordandworld.luthersem.edu/content/pdfs/25-4_Work_and_Witness/25-4_Kleinhaus.pdf

<http://nepasynod.org/people/synod-staff-and-officers/>

[Images for D. Michael Bennethum, author](#)

[Images for Listen! God Is Calling!: Luther Speaks of Vocation, Faith, and Work \(Lutheran Voices\)](#) [D. Michael Bennethum]

Living Lutheran: Renewing Your Congregation (Lutheran Voices) by Dave Daubert (Author)

Kelly Fryer's book *Reclaiming the L Word* introduced one congregation's journey through renewal. Now Dave Daubert provides a practical how-to guide that will enable church leaders to help individual congregations walk through the process for themselves.

Creative and informative, the book provides a straightforward approach that helps congregations reclaim Lutheran tradition for the 21st century. Includes questions for individual or group reflection and an additional resources section.

<http://store.augsburgfortress.org/store/product/7420/Living-Lutheran-Renewing-Your-Congregation>

<http://www.amazon.com/Living-Lutheran-Renewing-Congregation-Voices/dp/0806653345>

http://www.goodreads.com/book/show/1363749.Living_Lutheran

<https://www.barnesandnoble.com/w/living-lutheran-dave-daubert/1100072417>

<https://www.augsburgfortress.org/store/productgroup/1709/Living-Lutheran>

<https://books.google.com/books?isbn=1451405847>

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

<https://pastorstephen.wordpress.com/2007/11/14/book-highlights-living-lutheran-renewing-your-congregation/>

<https://www.livinglutheran.org/2010/09/first-seeks-should-first/>

<https://www.livinglutheran.org/author/david-daubert/>

<https://www.day8strategies.com/storepage2843439.aspx>

<https://www.amazon.com/Dave-Daubert/e/B001JSBV3C>

http://www.goodreads.com/author/show/648095.Dave_Daubert

[Images for dave daubert \(author\)](#)

[Images for Living Lutheran: Renewing Your Congregation \(Lutheran Voices\)](#) by Dave Daubert (Author)

<https://www.linkedin.com/in/dave-daubert-6b59bb7>

<http://www.authorstream.com/DDaubert/>

<http://synodresourcecenter.org/evang/resources/specialists/0013/luthersmissiontheology.html>

<http://synodresourcecenter.org/evang/resources/specialists/0011/conversion.pdf>

<http://www.lss-elca.org/renewing-the-church-from-the-inside-out/>

Luther Seminary: Annual consultation on the missional church

CULTIVATING SENT COMMUNITIES:
MISSIONAL SPIRITUAL FORMATION

A renewed call for deeper discipleship that takes seriously God's mission in the world is emerging across the church. What does it mean for Christian communities to cultivate members who discover their identity in Christ as they participate in the Triune God's creative, reconciling, and renewing movement in the world?

Join a conversation that brings scholars, pastors, judicatory executives and other church leaders together for a theologically-probing and practically relevant exploration of this important theme for the missional church.

- Biblical Frameworks
- Theological Reflection
- Practical Insights
- Spirit-filled Worship

http://www.luthersem.edu/mission/consultation/consult_overvw.aspx

[Images for Luther Seminary: Annual consultation on the missional church](#)

[PDF]Luther's Priesthood of All Believers - Synod Resource Center

Some Implications for **Missional** Congregations of the 21st Century

Implications for Mission

- All Christians have these responsibilities and are gifted and to be equipped to carry them out.
- Laity are the majority of "all." Mission must equip them to do this work or assume that it will be ineffective.
- Congregations need to reassess their programming in light of this missional work.

http://synodresourcecenter.org/evang/resources/specialists/0012/luthers_priesthood.pdf

[Images for Luther's Priesthood of All Believers](#)

[Images for Implications for Missional Congregations of the 21st Century](#)

Reclaiming the "L" Word: Renewing the Church from Its Lutheran Core [Kelly A. Fryer]

Reclaiming the "L" Word is a book about renewing congregations by recognizing and living out the core teachings of the Lutheran faith. In the introduction, the author states: "I hope that people of every denomination will find this book helpful as they wrestle with these important issues within their own traditions. But this little book is primarily written for those who call themselves Lutheran and, specifically, those who are members of ELCA congregations, and it is intended to help us answer central questions: Who are we? What DOES it mean to be a Lutheran today, anyway? And, why does it matter?" Inspirational, engaging, and challenging, this book is a must-read for pastors and congregational leaders!



<http://store.augsburgfortress.org/store/product/6759/Reclaiming-the-L-Word-Renewing-the-Church-from-Its-Lutheran-Core>

<http://www.amazon.com/Reclaiming-Word-Renewing-Church-Lutheran/dp/0806645962>

<https://www.barnesandnoble.com/w/reclaiming-the-l-word-kelly-a-fryer/1100072943>

https://books.google.com/books/about/Reclaiming_the_L_Word.html?id=nWZoAOJ9qyoC

https://books.google.com/books/about/Reclaiming_the_L_Word.html?id=RsvVwAEACAAJ

<https://archive.org/details/reclaiminglwordr0000frye>

<http://mcsletstalk.org/turning-around/the-adult-catechumenate-and-the-missional-church/>

https://www.luthersem.edu/story/default.aspx?article_id=120&issue_id=13 Meet Kelly Fryer – Assistant Professor of Congregational Leadership

<http://store.afcanada.com/store/contributor/2473/Kelly-A-Fryer>

<https://www.amazon.com/Kelly-A.-Fryer/e/B001JSC6S6>

[Images for Kelly A. Fryer, author](#)

[Images for Reclaiming the "L" Word: Renewing the Church from Its Lutheran Core \[Kelly A. Fryer\]](#)

The Evangelizing Church: A Lutheran Contribution by Richard H. Bliese (Editor), Craig Van Gelder (Editor)

In a series of engaging essays and responses, the book explores how evangelism has functioned within Lutheranism historically and articulates a Lutheran theological perspective on evangelism within the broader developments in mission theology over the past several decades. It further helps to show how evangelism from a Lutheran perspective may be differentiated from other theologies of evangelism that are part of the Christian movement in our day.

The book moves from theory to practice as it relates this theology of evangelism to the life of congregations that are seeking to proclaim the gospel in the emerging postmodern context, provides congregations with perspectives on how to utilize this theology in shaping the practice of evangelism within their church life. A study guide to encourage group discussion and reflection is included.

<http://www.amazon.com/Evangelizing-Church-Richard-H-Bliese/dp/0806651091>

https://www.goodreads.com/book/show/1172596.The_Evangelizing_Church

<https://store.augsburgfortress.org/store/product/7222/The-Evangelizing-Church-A-Lutheran-Contribution>

<http://www.iksynod.org/Resources/Missional%20Leadership%20Books%20from%20AF.pdf>

<https://books.google.com/books?isbn=1451405448>
https://books.google.com/books/about/The_Evangelizing_Church.html?id=V9wwd8NL9EkC
<https://books.google.com/books?isbn=1621891992> Page 296
 The Evangelizing Church - Google Books
 Church on Earth: Grounding Your Ministry in a Sense of Place Page 82
<http://www.ats.edu/richard-bliese>
<http://www.christianpost.com/news/interview-with-dr-richard-bliese-luther-seminary-s-new-president-7536/>
<https://www.christiancentury.org/contributor/richard-bliese>
http://www.luthersem.edu/faculty/fac_home.aspx?contact_id=cvangeld
https://digitalcommons.luthersem.edu/cgi/viewcontent.cgi?article=1012&context=phd_theses Page 274
<https://digitalcommons.fuller.edu/cgi/viewcontent.cgi?article=1251&context=dmin> Page 133
https://digitalcommons.luthersem.edu/cgi/viewcontent.cgi?article=1026&context=dmin_theses Page 188
https://download.elca.org/ELCA%20Resource%20Repository/Formation_With_the_Whole_Church.pdf Page 50
<https://books.google.com/books?isbn=1621891992> Page 296
<http://www.religion-online.org/showarticle.asp?title=2878> A Small Church Redefines its Mission
<http://www.ats.edu/richard-bliese>
<https://www.christiancentury.org/contributor/richard-bliese>
http://www.goodreads.com/author/show/1928842.Richard_H_Bliese
 Images for Richard H. Bliese, author
<http://themissionalnetwork.com/uncategorized/craig-van-gelder/>
https://www.luthersem.edu/faculty/fac_home.aspx?contact_id=cvangeld
http://www.goodreads.com/author/show/164854.Craig_Van_Gelder
 Images for Craig Van Gelder (Editor)
http://www.goodreads.com/author/show/329462.Kelly_A_Fryer
 Images for Kelly A. Fryer
http://www.goodreads.com/author/show/723724.Craig_L_Nessan
 Images for Craig L. Nessan
http://www.goodreads.com/author/show/4735745.J_Paul_Rajashekar
 Images for J. Paul Rajashekar
https://www.goodreads.com/author/show/1928842.Richard_H_Bliese
 Images for The Evangelizing Church: A Lutheran Contribution by Richard H. Bliese (Editor), Craig Van Gelder (Editor)

The Lutheran Handbook II by Kristofer Skrade (Author)

Being a good Lutheran is twice as hard in today's world. That's why every good Lutheran needs the power of *The Lutheran Handbook II*. With twice the Lutheran doctrine of its predecessor (and twice the humor!), this handbook will guide you through the most difficult theological terrain with ease. Never feel like you don't know enough Lutheran theology to accept a church council position or lead a Bible study! The Lutheran Handbook II puts it all at your fingertips, with clear, concise helps on: The Lutheran Reformers' Five Most Dastardly Theological Opponents A Brief History of the Lutheran Movement How To Usher How To Tell if Your Will is in Bondage To Sin and What To Do About It The Five Most Common Heresies Well-Intentioned Lutherans Commit How To Tell the Difference Between a Vocation and a Vacation How To Interpret Controversial Bible Passages and Remain Lutheran ... plus dozens of other essential tips for 21st-century Lutherans!

<http://www.amazon.com/The-Lutheran-Handbook-Kristofer-Skrade/dp/0806670371>
http://www.goodreads.com/book/show/1308081.The_Lutheran_Handbook_II
http://www.goodreads.com/author/show/182371.Kristofer_Skrade
 Images for Kristofer Skrade (Author)
 Images for Lutheran Handbook II by Kristofer Skrade (Author)

25 years of raising the roof - The Lutheran Magazine

ELCA Mission Builders still going strong
 For 25 years **Mission Builders** have — literally — raised the roof on Lutheran churches all across the U.S. They have helped Lutheran congregations build or repair 157 buildings, additions, schools and Bible camps. This year they are adding four more. To use an old cliché, **Mission Builders** are a gift to the church that keeps on giving. And it almost didn't happen.
 In the mid-80s a small group of mission-oriented pastors in the American Lutheran Church began looking for ways to help new congregations get into their buildings faster. They included James Bergquist, executive director for the Division for Service and Mission in America; William J. Hanson, the unit's deputy director; and Don Johnson, a mission director.

http://www.thelutheran.org/article/article.cfm?article_id=11025
 Images for 25 years of raising the roof - The Lutheran Magazine
<https://www.elca.org/Our-Work/Related-Ministries/Mission-Builders>
<https://www.livinglutheran.org/contact-us/>
<https://www.livinglutheran.org/issues/>

17) Members

Assimilating New Members (Creative leadership series) [Lyle E. Schaller]

How do you reach new members and help them adapt to the local church more effectively? In *Assimilating New Members*, Lyle E. Schaller, a recognized church planner, simply and directly shows how to reach more people, bring them into the local church

family, make them feel at home, and keep them active in church programs. Mr. Schaller discusses those things that attract and hold new members of a local church together. He shows how to evaluate the local church recruitment and assimilation processes, recognize and avoid counterproductive behavior patterns, and make people more effective by involving more members in the ongoing life of the church. A checklist for self-evaluation and numerous questions for self-examination are included for the congregational leaders.

<http://www.amazon.com/Assimilating-New-Members-Creative-leadership/dp/0687019389>

<https://books.google.com/books?isbn=1426761627>

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Lyle_E._Schaller

<https://www.amazon.com/Lyle-E.-Schaller/e/B0011R1J9K>

https://www.goodreads.com/author/list/179868.Lyle_E_Schaller

Images for lyle e schaller author

Images for Assimilating New Members (Creative leadership series) [Lyle E. Schaller]

http://www.abingdonpress.com/lyle_e_schaller

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

Images for Creative leadership series

Being Religious? Being Spiritual? Being Faithful by Nancy T. Ammerman

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The Typical Members	50
The Marginal Members	51
The Truly Disaffiliated	52

http://www.luthersem.edu/convo/2015/Convo_2015_Nancy_Ammerman.pdf

Images for Being Religious? Being Spiritual? Being Faithful by Nancy T. Ammerman

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

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

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

Belonging. The Meaning of Membership. A Report by the Commission on Appraisal. Unitarian Universalist Association.

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Measures of Membership	39
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The Challenge of Incarnation	63
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[PDF]Belonging - Unitarian Universalist Association

<https://www.uua.org/sites/live-new.uua.org/files/documents/coa/belonging.pdf>

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<https://www.amazon.com/Belonging-Unitarian-Universalist-Commission-Appraisal/dp/1558964207>

<https://books.google.com/books?isbn=1558964207>

<https://firstuchicago.org/2017/03/21/discussion-commission-appraisal-report-belonging-meaning-membership-part-ii/>

<https://www.uua.org/sites/live-new.uua.org/files/documents/congservices/membershipjourney.pdf>

https://www.eruuf.org/images/.../Belonging_In_Community_UU_Iowa_City.docx

<https://www.uuworld.org/articles/three-in-thousand-identify-as-unitarians>

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

Biblical Understanding of Church Membership

Church membership is a church's corporate testimony to an individual member's salvation. Read Hebrews 13:17. The Bible teaches that church leaders will be required to give an account for those under their care. Do you think this "account" will simply be a statement that a person once made a decision for Christ, or is it a knowledgeable testimony that a person is faithfully bearing fruit in the gospel? How does this affect our understanding of who should be on our membership rolls?

<http://www.richmondhillbaptist.org/biblical.html>

Images for Biblical Understanding of Church Membership

Church Membership: How the World Knows Who Represents Jesus (9Marks: Building Healthy Churches) [Jonathan Leeman, Michael Horton]

Becoming a member of a church is an important, and often neglected, part of the Christian life. Yet the trend these days is one of shunning the practice of organized religion and showing a distaste or fear of commitment, especially of institutions.

Jonathan Leeman addresses these issues with a straightforward explanation of what church membership is and why it's important. Giving the local church its proper due, Leeman has built a compelling case for committing to the local body.

<http://www.amazon.com/Church-Membership-Represents-Building-Churches/dp/1433532379>

<http://astore.amazon.com/interimini06-20/detail/1433532379>

<http://www.goodreads.com/book/show/12797239-church-membership>

<http://www.exodusbooks.com/Samples/Crossway/49757Sample.pdf>

http://books.google.com/books/about/Church_Membership.html?id=42fczqBaF0sC

<http://9marks.org/about/jonathan-leeman/>

http://www.goodreads.com/author/show/3061358.Jonathan_Leeman

Images for Jonathan Leeman, author

http://www.goodreads.com/author/show/15374727.Michael_Horton

Images for michael horton author

Images for Church Membership: How the World Knows Who Represents Jesus (9Marks: Building Healthy Churches) [Jonathan Leeman, Michael Horton]

https://www.amazon.com/gp/bookseries/B01M053PPE/ref=dp_st_1433543133

<https://www.crossway.org/books/?series=9Marks%3A%20Building%20Healthy%20Churches>

<https://9marks.myshopify.com/>

Images for 9Marks: Building Healthy Churches

Does Membership Matter Anymore? | Ministry Matters™

So how important is it to be a member of a church?

Does it benefit the church more, or does it benefit the member?

Should I even be using the word "benefit" when it comes to membership?

Do nondenominational churches value church membership as much as local churches of the UMC do? Does becoming a member

prevent people from becoming chronic church shoppers?

Is membership vital to one's faith journey or is it simply overrated?

Ministry Matters™ | Does Membership Matter Anymore?

<http://www.ministrymatters.com/all/entry/4922/does-membership-matter-anymore>

Images for Ministry Matters™ | Does Membership Matter Anymore?

<https://www.ministrymatters.com/teach/entry/5033/does-church-membership-matter-anymore>

Images for Does Church Membership Matter Anymore?

<https://www.ministrymatters.com/reach/entry/5050/covenant-membership>

<https://www.ministrymatters.com/all/entry/4104/a-higher-standard-for-membership>

<https://www.ministrymatters.com/all/topic/Church+membership?page=2>

4 Kinds of Church Members and How They Relate to Your Church's Mission - Will Mancini

1. Crew
2. Passengers
3. Stowaways
4. Pirates

<http://www.willmancini.com/2013/11/4-kinds-of-church-members-and-how-they-relate-to-your-churchs-mission.html>

Images for 4 Kinds of Church Members and How They Relate to Your Church's Mission - Will Mancini

https://www.amazon.com/Will-Mancini/e/B001JS7R3K%3Fref=dbs_a_mng_rwt_scns_share

How Do New People Hear about Your Church? – The Parish Paper

Types of Potential New **Members**

There are three major types of potential members in your community and they usually have a variety of methods for seeking you out.

<http://www.wisconsinumc.org/Resources/Documents/ParishPaper/ParishPaper-May16.pdf>

Images for How Do New People Hear about Your Church? – The Parish Paper Types of Potential New Members

<http://www.wisconsinumc.org/connections/conference-news/the-parish-paper> May 2016 - "How Do New People Hear about Your Church?"

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

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

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

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

[PDF] How to Build Assimilation Bridges for New Members/Attendees – The Parish Paper

- | | | |
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| | 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 |

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	Do We Elevate People?	Page 19

[PDF]Church Effective Nugget, Volume 7: How to Build Assimilator Bridges for New Members/Attendees - The Parish Paper

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

<https://www.theparishpaper.com/free-resources> Church Effective Nugget, Volume 7: How to Build Assimilation Bridges for New Members/Attendees

[Images for How to Build Assimilation Bridges for New Members/Attendees – The Parish Paper](#)

[PDF] How to Encourage People toward a Church-Membership Decision – The Parish Paper

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B.	Distinguish between Relationship-Building and Decision Conversations	Page 2
C.	Designing a Monthly or Every-Three-Months Membership Sunday	Page 3
D.	Six Universal Principles for Effective Decision-Conversations	Page 3
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B.	"I Don't Know How Long We Will Live Here."	Page 6
C.	"I Want to Keep My Membership in the Old Home Church."	Page 7
D.	"I Want to Think It over Some More."	Page 8
E.	"We Haven't Decided Which Church to Join."	Page 8
F.	"I Have Just Gotten Out of the Habit of Going to Church."	Page 8
G.	"I Have to Work Sundays."	Page 8
H.	"I Had Too Much Religion Forced on Me as a Kid."	Page 9
I.	"There Are Too Many Hypocrites in the Church."	Page 10
J.	"I Work So Hard during the Week that I Have to Rest on Sunday."	Page 11
K.	"I Don't Know Enough about the Bible to Join a Church."	Page 11
L.	"I Can Be as Good a Christian Outside the Church as Inside."	Page 11
III.	How to Answer another Twenty-six Occasionally-Heard Excuses	Page 12
A.	Procrastination, False Humility, and Anti-Social Excuses	Page 12
B.	Anti-congregation, -Church, -pastor, and -parishioner Excuses	Page 15
C.	Negative Personal History and Experiences Excuses	Page 18
D.	Faith and Theological Issues Excuses	Page 20

[PDF]Ch. Effectiveness Nuggets--Volume 29--How to Encourage People toward a Church-Membership Decision - The Parish Paper

<https://www.theparishpaper.com/sites/default/files/resources/Church%20Effectiveness%20Nuggets-%20Volume%2029.pdf>

<https://www.theparishpaper.com/free-resources> Church Effective Nugget, Volume 29: How to Encourage People toward a Church-Membership Decision

[Images for How to Encourage People toward a Church-Membership Decision – The Parish Paper](#)

I Am a Church Member: Discovering the Attitude that Makes the Difference [Thom S. Rainer]

Best-selling author and ministry leader Thom S. Rainer drew an exceptional response when he posted a 500-word declaration about church membership to his daily blog. "I Am a Church Member" started a conversation about the attitudes and responsibilities of church members -- rather than the functional and theological issues -- that previous new member primers all but ignored. Thoughtfully expanded to book form, *I Am a Church Member* begins to remedy the outbreak of inactive or barely committed church members, addressing without apology what is expected of those who join a body of believers. When a person's attitude is consistently biblical and healthy, matters of giving, serving, and so forth will fall into place more naturally.

<http://www.amazon.com/Am-Church-Member-Discovering-Difference/dp/1433679736>

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<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Ya1VVk0Y1d4> 'I Am a Church Member: Discovering the Attitude that Makes the Attitude that Makes the Difference' by Thom S. Rainer

<https://vimeo.com/66842696> Biblical Church Membership - Thom Rainer - The Exchange - Aired May 21, 2013

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<http://thomrainer.com/2014/03/7-reasons-active-members-drop-out-of-church-rainer-on-leadership-047/>

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https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Thom_S._Rainer

<https://www.facebook.com/Thom.S.Rainer/>

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

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[Images for thom s. rainer, author](#)

[Images for I Am a Church Member: Discovering the Attitude that Makes the Difference \[Thom S. Rainer\]](#)

Member - Wikipedia

- Church membership begins at initiation (baptism)

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

[Images for Church membership begins at initiation \(baptism\)](#)

Membership Matters: Insights from Effective Churches on New Member Classes and Assimilation by Chuck Lawless (Author), Thom S. Rainer (Foreword)

Insights from Effective Churches on New Member Classes and Assimilation Findings from a national study to improve membership classes and to motivate current members into active ministry How do churches move members - both old and new - into ministry? Many church staff and lay leaders know they need to start new member classes as a point of entry into their churches but don't know how. This book is based on a national study of effective churches and shows how growing churches implement new member classes and motivate their members into ministry. *Membership Matters* is designed to be a guide for church leaders wanting to start or improve a membership class. It includes models for classes and examples of resources such as church covenants, class schedules, and lesson outlines. It also gives direction on motivating uninvolved members to participate in ministry. One chapter chronicles an ongoing discussion among pastors of growing churches that are effectively motivating members to do ministry.

<http://www.amazon.com/Membership-Matters-Insights-Effective-Assimilation/dp/0310262860>

http://books.google.com/books/about/Membership_Matters.html?id=XmMlfhGdkGwC

<http://9marks.org/review/membership-matters-chuck-lawless/>

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<https://thomrainer.com/2013/08/the-number-one-reason-for-the-decline-in-church-attendance-and-five-ways-to-address-it/>

<https://bookauthority.org/books/best-membership-books> 27

<http://chucklawless.com/books/>

[Images for Membership Matters: Insights from Effective Churches on New Member Classes and Assimilation by Chuck Lawless \(Author\), Thom S. Rainer \(Foreword\)](#)

Membership Matters: 3 Reasons for Church Membership | The Exchange: A Blog by Ed Stetzer

Why does church membership matter? Why is church attendance not enough? / Ed Stetzer

<http://www.christianitytoday.com/edstetzer/2015/july/membership-matters-3-reasons-for-church-membership.html>

[Images for Membership Matters: 3 Reasons for Church Membership | The Exchange: A Blog by Ed Stetzer](#)

Ministry Resource Guides Index - LifeandLeadership.com

New Members

[New Member Integration](#)

<http://www.lifeandleadership.com/ministry-resource-guide-index/>

[Images for New Members - LifeandLeadership.com](#)

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

Chapter 8.

MEMBERSHIP

- *C8.01. Members of this congregation shall be those baptized persons on the roll of this congregation at the time that this constitution is adopted and those who are admitted thereafter and who have declared and maintain their membership in accordance with the provisions of this constitution and its bylaws.
- *C8.02. Members shall be classified as follows:
 - a. **Baptized** members are those persons who have been received by the Sacrament of Holy Baptism in this congregation, or, having been previously baptized in the name of the Triune God, have been received by certificate of transfer from other Lutheran congregations or by affirmation of faith.
 - b. **Confirmed** members are baptized persons who have been confirmed in this congregation, those who have been received by adult baptism or by transfer as confirmed members from other Lutheran congregations, or baptized persons received by affirmation of faith.
 - c. **Voting** members are confirmed members. Such confirmed members, during the current or preceding calendar year, shall have communed in this congregation and shall have made a contribution of record to this congregation. Members of this congregation who have satisfied these basic standards shall have the privilege of voice and vote at every regular and special meeting of the congregation as well as the other rights and privileges ascribed to voting members by the provisions of this constitution and its bylaws.
 - d. **Associate** members are persons holding membership in other Christian congregations who wish to retain such membership but desire to participate in the life and mission of this congregation. These individuals have all the privileges and duties of membership except voting rights or other rights and privileges ascribed to voting members by the provisions of this constitution and its bylaws.
 - e. **Seasonal** members are voting members of other ELCA congregations who wish to retain such membership but desire to participate in the life and mission of this congregation, including exercising limited voting rights in this congregation. The Congregation Council may grant seasonal membership to such persons provided that this congregation is a member of a synod where the Synod Council has approved seasonal member voting on its territory. Such seasonal members shall have all the privileges and duties of voting members except that:
 - 1) they shall not be eligible for elected office in, or for membership on the Congregation Council or on a call committee of, this congregation;
 - 2) they shall not have the right to vote on any matter concerning or affecting the call or termination of call of any minister of this congregation;

- 3) they shall not have the right to vote on any matter concerning or affecting the affiliation of this congregation with the ELCA;
- 4) they shall not be eligible to serve as voting members from this congregation of the Synod Assembly or the Churchwide Assembly;
- 5) they shall not, even if otherwise permitted by this congregation, vote by proxy or by absentee ballot; and
- 6) they shall not, within any two calendar month period, exercise voting rights in this congregation and in the congregation where they remain voting members.

***C8.03.** All applications for confirmed membership shall be submitted to and shall require the approval of the Congregation Council.

***C8.04.** It shall be the privilege and duty of members of this congregation to:

- a. make regular use of the means of grace, both Word and sacraments;
- b. live a Christian life in accordance with the Word of God and the teachings of the Lutheran church; and
- c. support the work of this congregation, the synod, and the churchwide organization of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America through contributions of their time, abilities, and financial support as biblical stewards.

***C8.05.** Membership in this congregation shall be terminated by any of the following:

- a. death;
- b. resignation;
- c. transfer or release;
- d. disciplinary action in accordance with ELCA constitutional provision 20.41. and the accompanying bylaws; or
- e. removal from the roll due to inactivity in accordance with the provisions of this constitution and its bylaws.

Such persons who have been removed from the roll of members shall remain persons for whom the Church has a continuing pastoral concern.

<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 8. MEMBERSHIP](#)

New Members & Visitors

How often do you have visitors?

What happens when a visitor comes?

How are they followed up with?

How do they become members? How often do you receive visitors?

How are members included in different aspects of ministry?

Comprehensive Ministry Review. Rev. Laurie Skow-Anderson. Assistant to the Bishop. Northwest Synod of Wisconsin. Director for Evangelical Mission. lskow-anderson@nswsi.org

[Images for New Church Members & Visitors](#)

Requirements for Membership: Which Ones Matter? By Cynthia Woolever – The Parish Paper

Studies indicate that successful groups and organizations establish clear boundaries: specific guidelines about what constitutes membership. By contrast, organizations with indistinct membership expectations communicate a question: what is this group really about?

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<http://www.winnebagoepresbytery.org/wp-content/uploads/2008/09/pp-10-2008.pdf>

http://www.neos-elca.org/unified_mailing/2008/10-2008/The_Parish_Paper_October_2008.pdf

http://media.wix.com/ugd/1c51b0_b2e5b912a8cc407f8544bd0d7aaa1231.pdf

<http://www.iksynod.org/filestodownload/Parish%20Paper%202008/P%20P%20--10-2008.pdf>

<http://www.hcucc.org/the-parish-paper> October 2008: Requirements for Membership: Which Ones Matter?

[Images for Requirements for Membership: Which Ones Matter? By Cynthia Woolever – The Parish Paper](#)

Rocking the Church Membership Boat: Counting Members or Having Members Who Count by Dr. Jan Linn (Author)

Linn challenges us to change the way we define church membership and to view it as a spiritual discipline. He introduces us to a new concept of membership, "covenant membership," in which the church and its members are bound together in a relationship of mutual support and responsibility.

<http://www.amazon.com/Rocking-Church-Membership-Boat-Counting/dp/0827232241>

<https://www.goodreads.com/book/show/2855084-rocking-the-church-membership-boat>

<https://books.google.com/books?isbn=0827232926>

<https://linnposts.com/about-jan-linn/>

<https://www.christiancentury.org/contributor/jan-g-linn>

<http://www.chalicepress.com/Author.aspx?AuthorID=23>

<https://www.thriftbooks.com/a/jan-g-linn/583872/>

http://www.goodreads.com/author/show/430301.Jan_Linn

[Images for Dr. Jan Linn \(Author\)](#)

[Images for Rocking the Church Membership Boat: Counting Members or Having Members Who Count by Dr. Jan Linn \(Author\)](#)

What Church Members Wish Ministers Knew by Jan G. Linn (Author)

In his second volume, Linn continues to approach serious matters with a light heart in essays with titles like “Politics in the Church Is Not All Bad”.

http://www.goodreads.com/book/show/1966797.What_Church_Members_Wish_Ministers_Knew

<http://www.amazon.co.uk/What-Church-Members-Wish-Ministers/dp/0827242344>

<http://www.paperbackswap.com/Jan-G-Linn/author/>

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Synod Resource Center - Evangelism

<http://synodresourcecenter.org/evang/> [New Members](#)

http://synodresourcecenter.org/evang/committee/new_members/

[Images for Evangelism - New Members – Synod Resource Center](#)

Terms Helpful in Understanding Congregations in Transition

Style of Incorporation

How have new [members](#) become integrated into the life of the congregation? Has it always been easy for new members to join?

What are the obstacles to full participation? How do new members become aware of the culture, mission, and opportunities for involvement in the congregation?

<http://interiministry.org/resources/helpful-terms/>

[Images for Terms Helpful in Understanding Congregations in Transition Style of Incorporation](#)

[Images for new members integrated into the life of the congregation](#)

What Does the Bible Say About Church Membership?

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

[Images for Bible and Church Membership](#)

<https://carm.org/what-does-the-bible-say-about-church-membership>

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

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<https://www.imb.org/2017/01/25/why-every-healthy-church-practices-membership-part-1/>

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<http://www.richmondhillbaptist.org/biblical.html>

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18) Millennials

A Different Take on Reaching Millennials – Carey Nieuwhof

Bottom line? Millennials are asking church leaders who they are... far more than they're asking what they'll do.

<http://careynieuwhof.com/2016/06/different-take-reaching-millennials/>

[Images for Different Take on Reaching Millennials – Carey Nieuwhof](#)

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<https://careynieuwhof.com/tag/reaching-millennials-in-your-church/>

<https://careynieuwhof.com/tag/how-to-connect-with-millennials/>

<https://careynieuwhof.com/7-things-every-leader-should-know-about-working-with-millennials/>

<https://careynieuwhof.com/different-take-reaching-millennials/>

<http://careynieuwhof.com/2015/06/episode40/> Churches That Reach Millennials—An Interview with Geoff Surratt

<https://careynieuwhof.com/episode69/> A Completely Different Take on Reaching Millennials with Haydn Shaw

<http://careynieuwhof.com/2016/02/episode74/> The Future Church, Reaching Millennials and Our Biggest Mistakes in Leadership. A Candid Conversation with Geoff Surratt, Brad Lomenick and Carey Nieuwhof

<http://careynieuwhof.com/2016/02/episode75/> Insights on Millennials from a Millennial Leader. An Interview with Jonathan Pearson

<https://careynieuwhof.com/episode124/> Ken Costa on how to Discover Your Calling, Hope in the Workplace, and Connecting with Millennials

<https://careynieuwhof.com/episode106/> Kara Powell On How Many Average Churches Are Actually Reaching Millennials

<https://careynieuwhof.com/episode236/> CNLP 236: JONATHAN POKLUDA ON THE KEYS TO REACHING AND INFLUENCING TENS OF THOUSANDS OF MILLENNIALS EVERY WEEK

<http://careynieuwhof.com/2015/10/5-surprising-characteristics-of-churches-that-are-actually-reaching-the-next-generation/>

<http://careynieuwhof.com/2014/04/5reasonsmillennials/>

<https://twitter.com/cnieuwhof/status/976457910011289600>

<https://careynieuwhof.com/millennials/> 7 Ways for Young Leaders to Beat The Slacker Generation Label
<http://careynieuwhof.com/5-surprising-characteristics-of-churches-that-are-actually-reaching-the-next-generation/>
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WPoho9uNWY8> What Christian Millennials Worry About in 2016 - YouTube
<https://www.pinterest.com/pin/371828512957830737/> 5 Reasons People Have Stopped Attending Your Church
https://twitter.com/cnieuwhof?ref_src=twsrc%5Egoogle%7Ctwcamp%5Eserp%7Ctwgr%5Eauthor
<http://churchleaders.com/author/careynieuwhof>
<https://www.facebook.com/cnieuwhof/>
<https://www.amazon.com/Carey-Nieuwhof/e/B003GJCLCM>
http://www.goodreads.com/author/show/3396023.Carey_Nieuwhof
Images for carey nieuwhof (author)

MILLENNIALS UNPACKED: WHAT 20-SOMETHINGS ARE SEEKING AND FINDING IN THE CHURCH

Katie Wagner, Campus Ministry, UW-Stout; and Laura Ramlow, Campus Ministry, UW-River Falls

During this session, we will identify the "millennials" and explore their unique and important role in the future of the church. Through the testimonies of young adults, we will offer insight for congregations to evaluate their current ministries, and work together to nurture communities of faith that are inviting and faith-forming for all generations.

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

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

[Images for MILLENNIALS UNPACKED: WHAT 20-SOMETHINGS ARE SEEKING AND FINDING IN THE CHURCH](#)

<https://lcmstout.com/ministry-leaders/meet-katie-director/>

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

7 Ways to Draw Millennials to Your Church | Facts & Trends

In [6 Reasons Millennials Aren't at Your Church](#), we looked at the statistical data behind why an individual church may not be effective in reaching young adults.

LifeWay Research found **70 percent of young adults** who indicated they attended church regularly for at least one year in high school do drop out of regular church attendance. That does not mean, however, they have left never to return. In fact, according to LifeWay Research, almost two-thirds return and currently attend church (within the time frame of the study).

That same study found most don't make a conscious decision to leave due to a doctrinal dispute or significant disagreement. They simply drift away because the church doesn't seem as important to their lives as it once did. Many have looked at a church and decided it is no longer relevant.

So how can churches change that? What can you do to draw millennials to your church and have them plant roots in your congregation?

http://factsandtrends.net/2014/05/20/7-ways-to-draw-millennials-to-your-church/#.VHUB0ovF_eJ

[Images for Ways to Draw Millennials to Your Church | Facts & Trends](#)

http://factsandtrends.net/2014/05/16/6-reasons-millennials-arent-at-your-church/#.VHUA1lvF_eJ

[Images for Reasons Millennials Aren't at Church](#)

<https://factsandtrends.net/2018/10/30/how-do-millennials-view-the-christian-faith/>

<https://factsandtrends.net/2018/07/31/black-millennials-remain-more-religious-than-their-peers/>

<https://factsandtrends.net/2018/03/01/millennials-billy-graham/>

<https://factsandtrends.net/tag/millennials/>

6 Ways Churches Can Reach Millennials - Vanderbloemen

By definition, I am a millennial. I was born in the 80's, I can remember a world without cell phones, but I also wrote my first research paper on an early version of Microsoft Word. Over the last decade, I've heard more and more talk about how the Church needs to reach *MY* generation.

But I'm also a millennial with almost a decade of ministry experience under my belt. I've served as an intern, [Youth Pastor](#), and [Associate Pastor](#). With a foot in both worlds, I've prepared what I believe to be six of the best ways the church can engage and reach millennials today.

<https://www.vanderbloemen.com/blog/churches-reach-millennials>

[Images for 6 Ways Churches Can Reach Millennials - Vanderbloemen](#)

<https://www.vanderbloemen.com/blog/reasons-church-attendees-millennials-return>

<https://www.vanderbloemen.com/blog/lead-millennials-on-church-staff>

The Millennials: Connecting to America's Largest Generation by Thom S. Rainer, Jess Rainer

At more than 78 million strong, the Millennials - those born between 1980 and 2000 - have surpassed the Boomers as the larger and more influential generation in America. Now, as its members begin to reach adulthood, where the traits of a generation really take shape, best-selling research author Thom Rainer (Simple Church) and his son Jess (a Millennial born in 1985) present the first major investigative work on Millennials from a Christian worldview perspective.

Sure to interest even the secularists who study this group, *The Millennials* is based on 1,200 interviews with its namesakes that aim to better understand them personally, professionally, and spiritually. Chapters report intriguing how-and-why findings on family matters (they are closer-knit than previous generations), their desire for diversity (consider the wave of mixed race and ethnic adoptions), Millennials and the new workplace, their attitude toward money, the media, the environment, and perhaps most tellingly, religion.

The authors close with a thoughtful response to how the church can engage and minister to what is now in fact the largest generation in America's history.

<https://www.amazon.com/Millennials-Connecting-Americas-Largest-Generation/dp/1433670038>
<http://www.goodreads.com/book/show/9750649-the-millennials>
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<http://christianaudio.com/the-millennials-thom-s-rainer-jess-rainer-audiobook-download>
<http://www.churchleaders.com/pastors/pastor-articles/172186-thom-rainer-millennials-are-shaping-the-church.html>
<http://www.stitcher.com/podcast/best-christian-workplaces-institute/the-flourishing-culture-podcast/e/44-millennials-in-the-christian-workplace-thom-rainer-lifeway-44207802>
<http://www.audible.com/pd/Religion-Spirituality/The-Millennials-Audiobook/B004SC4RCS>
<http://matthewcleek.com/2015/08/review-and-quotes-from-the-millennials-by-thom-and-jess-rainer/>
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What Millennials Want When They Visit Church - Barna Group

So, what do Millennials think of church? What pushes them away and what draws them in? And when they do visit a church, how are they hoping to be approached?

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