

Visioning and Strategic Planning: Resources for Your Congregation at the Conference Resource Library (this list also at: www.mennowdc.org/Vision.pdf)

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on-line catalog: www.mennowdc.org/library/html

TOP PICKS!

Treasures in Clay Jars: patterns in missional faithfulness.

Barrett, Lois. Eerdmans, 2004. 277.3083 Tre

Centers on case studies of nine missional congregations across North America. Written through an Anabaptist lens, this book explores eight concrete "patterns" common to these churches.

Moving Off the Map: a field guide to changing the congregation.

Bandy, Thomas G. Abingdon, 1998. 254 Ban

Attempts to answer the question, "Where and how do we begin to implement change?" Suggests powerful processes and tools to help congregations identify their strengths, weaknesses and addictions. These processes can help a congregation shift attitudes, deepen spiritual awareness, receive biblical visions, and shape ministries for the future.

Resources for the Journey: a profile of Mennonite Church USA. (DVD / CD)

Kanagy, Conrad L. Herald Press, 2007. DVD 289.773 Kan

Includes CD and DVD to accompany the book by the similar title which reports the findings of the 2006 Mennonite Member Profile survey. Included on CD are printable devotionals, worship resources, small group and Sunday school curriculum for up to seven weeks. Kanagy provides spiritual and sociological markers of the church and maps changes over the decades as well as ways to engage the challenges that lie ahead.

Road Signs for the Journey: a profile of Mennonite Church USA. (Book)

Kanagy, Conrad L. Herald Press, 2007. 289.773 Kan

Using data from a 2006 survey of Mennonite Church USA members, Kanagy provides spiritual and sociological markers of the church. A well-documented mapping of changes over the decades as well as ways to engage the challenges that lie ahead.

Discerning Your Congregation's Future: a strategic and spiritual approach.

Oswald, Roy. Alban, 1996. 254 Osw

Holy Conversations: strategic planning as a spiritual practice for congregations.

Rendle, Gilbert R. Alban, 2003. 254 Ren

A manual for those seeking approaches to planning that are theologically-based and congregationally oriented rather than based on corporate management. It's gold!

Other Fine Resources:

Revitalizing Congregations: refocusing and healing through transitions.

Avery, William O. Alban, 2002. 250.973

Features the stories of six congregations who used a trained interim pastor and a specific process to address a crisis in the congregation, all the while focusing on improving the health of the congregation.

Facing Reality: a congregational mission assessment tool.

Bandy, Thomas G. Abingdon, 2001. 254 Ban

Helps congregations use the accompanying diagnostic tools to do self-assessment in order to examine attitudes and perceptions before strategizing for missional activity.

Memories, Hopes and Conversations: appreciative inquiry and congregational change.

Branson, Mark Lau. Alban, 2004. 253.7 Bra

The framework of appreciative inquiry is presented through the story of one congregation's struggle to articulate its identity when so much has changed.

Small, Strong Congregations: creating strengths and health for your congregation.

Callahan, Kenneth L. Jossey-Bass, 2000. 250 Cal

Who is Our Church: imagining congregational identity.

Cawley, Janet. Abingdon, 2006. 250 Caw

An accessible identity exercise in congregational self-discovery with delightfully quirky stories of how it works.

In Tune With God: the art of congregational discernment.

Glick, Sally Weaver. Herald Press, 2004. 253 Gli

This book helps congregations learn how to make decisions in healthy ways,

focused on God's purposes, and growing in love and truth. Works best in a congregational study setting and includes tips, a leader's guide, an outline for a one-day retreat and a series of dialogues that introduce each chapter.

Leadership from the Inside Out: spirituality and organizational change.

Granberg-Michaelson, Wesley. Crossroad, 2004. 253 Gra

A road-map for transformational leadership that uses knowledge as a step into wisdom.

Missional Church: a vision for the sending of the church in North America.

Guder, Darrell, editor. Eerdmans, 1998. 266.0097

Presentation of a biblically based theology that takes seriously the church's missional vocation and draws out the consequences of the future of congregations.

From Stuck to Unstuck: overcoming congregational impasse.

Halstead, Kenneth A. Alban, 1988. 254.5 Hal

Faithful Guides: coaching strategies for Church Leaders.

Hawkins, Thomas R. Discipleship Resources, 2006. 253 Haw

Describes how coaching is rooted in the Bible and church traditions, is an essential strategy for personal and organizational transformation, and is different from consulting and counseling.

The Learning Congregation: a new vision of leadership.

Hawkins, Thomas R. Westminster, 1997. 250 Haw

Provides a vision for church leadership that clarifies the relationship between learning, ministry and leadership. Offers strategies to break through defensive routines and habits of blaming authority and denial.

Welcoming Resistance.

Hobgood, William Chris. Alban, 2001. 253 Hob

An important book for pastors and church leaders who are ready to lead change, but feel resistance from the congregation.

Holy Spaces, Small Spaces: A hopeful future for the small membership church.

Kemp, James. Discipleship Resources, 2005. 254 Kem

Kemp charts changes that must take place in congregational leadership and perception of ministry and provides tools to evaluate current reality.

Values-Driven Leadership: discovering and developing your core values for ministry.

Malphurs, Audrey. Baker, 1996. 253 Mal

Very helpful guidance in developing core values as a way to define who you are. Includes dozens of examples of core values audit and a readiness for change inventory.

Paying Attention: focusing your congregation on what matters.

Peluso-Verdend, Gary E. Alban, 2005. 254 Pel

The author is determined to get congregations less obsessed with novelty as their chief goal and more finely tuned to delivering meaning and purpose that celebrates God in their midst. Is your church afflicted with *Attention Deficit Disorder*? This book calls congregations to the deep places so they can pay attention to the unique mission to which God has called them.

Robust Church Development: a vision for mobilizing regional bodies in support of missional congregations.

Regele, Mike. Percept, 2003. 254.5 Reg

Includes research-based principles and practices that regional denominational bodies can implement and help launch a missional future for their respective congregations.

The Life Cycle of a Congregation.

Saarinen, Martin. Alban, 1986. 254 Saa

The Power of Asset Mapping: how your congregation can act on its gifts.

Snow, Luther K. Alban, 2004. 254 Sno

Provides insights and techniques to cut through church bureaucracy and small church despair by offering a clear way for people to work together with hope and enthusiasm, and doing it all with a vision for God's will in their community.

More Resources can be found at [www.mennowdc.org / library/html](http://www.mennowdc.org/library/html) Search under: church growth; church development; missional church; church renewal

REMEMBER: Vision Grants Available!

Vision 2012 will offer vision grants (up to \$5,000) to current Western District Conference congregations for strategic planning, visioning and redevelopment planning. Area conference staff and others will provide consultation, resources and training. See www.mennowdc.org/Grants.html for guidelines and application.