**Resource for MC USA Core Competencies**

(All recommended resources have been published since 1990)

(All resources are available in the WDC Resource Library.)

**1. Biblical Story**

As a pastor ordained in Mennonite Church USA, I want to be firmly grounded in the Biblical story and foundational theology and preach and teach the Word of God for life transformation.

Beachy, Duane. *Reading the Bible as if Jesus Mattered.* 2014.

Cone, James H. *God of the Oppressed.* 1997.

Hershberger, Michele. *God’s Story, Our Story.* 2013.

Mulholland, Robert. *Shaped by the Word: The Power of Scripture in Spiritual Formation.* 2001.

Stanley, Andy and Lane Jones. *Communicating for a Change.* An accessible guide in preaching for life transformation. 2006.

**2. Anabaptist/Mennonite Principles**

As a pastor ordained in Mennonite Church USA, I want to understand and embody core Anabaptist values, beliefs, and practices.

Becker, Palmer. *What is an Anabaptist Christian.* Available online at [www.MennoniteMission.net](http://www.MennoniteMission.net); easily remembered updating of the three core Anabaptist principles in Harold S. Bender’s The Anabaptist Vision. 2008.

Hinojosa, Felipe. *Latino Mennonites: Civil Rights, Faith, and Evangelical Culture.* 2014.

Neufeld, Alfred. *What We Believe Together: Exploring the shared Convictions of Anabaptist-Related Churches.* 2007.

Snyder, Arnold. *Anabaptist History and Theology: An Introduction.* 1995.

Swartley, Mary and Rhoda Keener. *She Has Done a Good Thing.* Mennonite Women Tell Their Stories. 1999.

**3. Christian Spirituality/Discipleship**

As a pastor ordained in Mennonite Church USA, I want to grow in a spirituality that is continually being shaped by the everlasting love of God the Father, the life, death and resurrection of Jesus Christ and the transforming power of the Holy Spirit.

Boers, Arthur Paul, et al. *Take Our Moments and Our Days: An Anabaptist Prayer Book.* Offers a four-week cycle of morning and evening prayer for personal or group use; rich in scripture and reflects a Mennonite spirituality. 2010.

Foster, Richard. *Celebration of Discipline: The Path to Spiritual Growth.* A basic introduction to the inward, outward and corporate spiritual disciplines. 1978, 1988, 2002.

Guenther, Margaret. *At Home in the World: A Rule of Life for the Rest of Us.* This book has a chapter on “Learning from our enemies” – forgiving as a spiritual discipline. 2006.

Gutierrez, Gustavo. *We Drink From Our Own Wells: A Spiritual Journey of a People.* 2003.

Weems, Renita. *Listening for God: A Minister’s Journey Through Silence and Doubt.* 1999.

**4. Self-Understanding and Self-Awareness**

As a pastor ordained in Mennonite Church USA, I seek a healthy sense of self and a capacity to enter into and maintain healthy relationships with others.

Marcuson, Margaret J. *Leaders Who Last – Sustaining Yourself and Your Ministry.* 2009.

McNeal, Reggie.  *A Work of Heart: Understanding How God Shapes Spiritual Leaders.* A pathway to understanding how God has shaped you as a person and pastor by looking at how God shaped Moses, David, Jesus, and Paul. 2000.

Rohr, Richard. *The Enneagram: A Christian Perspective.* 2001.

Scazzero, Peter. *The Emotionally Healthy Church.* 2003.

Sisk, Ronald. *The Competent Pastor: Skills and Self-Knowledge for Serving Well.* Covers the landscape for beginning pastors – self-motivation, communication, time and stress management, leadership, spiritual development and more. 2005.

**5. Contextual Awareness and Missional Leadership**

As a pastor ordained in Mennonite Church USA, I want to grow in my ability to recognize, interpret, and redemptively engage the natural, cultural, ecclesial and global environments of my ministry context.

Barrett, Lois and Darrel L. Guder. *Missional Church: A Vision for the Sending of the Church in North America.* 1998.

Griffin, Mark, and Theron Walker. *Living on the Borders: What the Church Can Learn from Ethnic Immigrant Cultures.* 2004.

Keller, Timothy. *The Reason for God: Belief in an Age of Skepticism.*  Apologetics from a pastor who effectively connects with agnostics and atheists every week. 2009.

Kreider, Alan, Eleanor Kreider and Paulus Sidjaja. *A Culture of Peace.* 2005.

Rah, Soong-Chan. *Many Colors: Cultural Intelligence for a Changing Church.* 2010.

**6. Leadership**

As a pastors ordained in Mennonite Church USA, I want to grow in my capacity for leadership.

Barton, Ruth Haley. *Pursuing God’s Will Together.* 2012.

Branson, Mark Lou and Juan Martinez. *Multi-Cultural Churches, Cultures, and Leadership: A Practical Theology of Congregations and Ethnicity.* 2011.

Claiborne, Shane. *Follow Me to Freedom: Leading and Following as an Ordinary Radical.* 2009.

Hirsch, Alan and Lance Ford. *Right Here Right Now: Everyday Mission for Everyday People.* Grand Rapids: Baker Books, 2011.

Sawatzky, Erick, ed. *The Heart of the Matter: Pastoral Ministry in Anabaptist Perspective.* A collection of essays on various aspects of pastoral ministry by professors of Associated Mennonite Biblical Seminary. 2004.