

Partial Bibliography
Resources for Transformation
April 16, 2005

Canadian

Bandy, Thomas G. *Coaching Change: Breaking Down Resistance, Building Up Hope.*

Nashville: Abingdon Press, 2000.

Bibby, Reginald W. *Restless gods: the renaissance of religion in Canada.*

Toronto: Stoddart, 2002.

Emberly, Peter C. *Divine Hunger: Canadians on a spiritual walkabout.* Toronto: Harper Collins, 2002.

MacLean, Paul and Michael Thomson. *Seeking the Seekers.* Toronto: Anglican Book Centre, 2000.

Focuses on how mainline congregations might better reach the communities around them.

Posterski, Donald and Irwin Barker. *Where's a Good Church?: Canadians respond from pulpit, podium and pew.* Winfield: Wood Lake Books, 1993.

Based on broad polling of what churchgoers value in their congregations.

Posterski, Donald and Gary Nelson. *Future Faith Churches: Reconnecting with the power of the gospel for the 21st century.* Winfield: Wood Lake Books, 1998.

Concrete examples of connections of the social and spiritual thrusts of the gospel.

Saunders, Clark and Clair Woodbury. *Ministry as an Art: Exploring Volunteer and Professional Church Leadership.* Toronto: United Church Publishing House, 1996.

Invites ministry personnel to consider their vocation as a living artistic expression rather than merely the application of technique.

Sim, R. Alex. *The Plight of the Rural Church.* Toronto: United Church Pub. House, 1990.

United Church of Canada Division of Mission. *Discovering Mission: A Tool Kit for Assessing Local Mission Opportunities in Presbyteries and Congregations*. Etiboke, Ontario: United Church of Canada, 1999.

Church Conflict

Cosgrove, Charles H. and Dennis D. Hatfield. *Church Conflict: The Hidden Systems*

Behind The Fights. Nashville: Abingdon Press, 1994.

Halstead, Kenneth A. *From Stuck to Unstuck: Overcoming Congregational Impasse*. MD: Alban, 1998.

Halverstadt, Hugh F. *Managing Church Conflict*. Kentucky: Westminster/John Knox, 1991.

Hobgood, William Chris. *Welcoming Resistance*. MD: Alban, 2001.

Lott, David B. *Conflict Management in Congregations*. MD: Alban, 2001.

Rendle, Gilbert R. *Behavioral Covenants in Congregations: A Handbook for Honoring Differences*. Maryland: The Alban Institute, 1999.

This resource offers practical suggestions for those occasions with a faith community when Christians have difficulty being respectful toward one another.

Discernment

Mann, Alice. *Can Our Church Live?: Redeveloping Congregations in Decline*.

Maryland: The Alban Institute, 1999.

This book is a great resource for churches in decline that seek new life. An excellent resource for understanding life-cycles of congregations and how to address issues that emerge at particular moments of decline.

Maritime Conference. *A Toolbox for Committees and Groups: A Resource to Nurture Congregational Spirituality*. 2004.

Useful for individual study, as a basis for a study group, openings for board meetings or other church groups. Included are brief readings, reflection questions, prayers and hymn suggestions.

Oswald, Roy. *Discerning Your Congregation's Future*. Maryland: The Alban Institute, 1996.

Excellent resource for congregations seeking to know themselves more fully and wanting to discern where God is calling them?

Rendle, Gil and Alice Mann. *Holy Conversations: Strategic Planning as a Spiritual Practice for Congregations*. Maryland: The Alban Institute, 2003.

Your Conference's Church Revitalization Committee highly recommends this resource! *It is very helpful to both pastors and lay leaders who strive to provide leadership in changing times. The resource invites congregations into "holy conversations" as they work to discern God's calling for their future ministry.*

Schaller, Lyle E. *Tattered Trust: Is There Hope for your Denomination?* Maryland: The Alban Institute, 1996.

Schaller, Lyle E. *Discontinuity and Hope: Radical Change and the Path to the Future*. Nashville: Abingdon, 1999.

Growth

Hunter 111, George G. *Leading and Managing a Growing Church*. Nashville: Abingdon, 2000.

Mead, Loren. *More Than Numbers: The Ways Churches Grow*. MD: Alban, 1993.

An exploration of growth beyond attendance and revenue.

Warren, Rick. *The Purpose Driven Church: Growth Without Compromising Your Message and Mission*. Michigan: Zondervan Publishing House, 1995.

Hospitality

Lee, Robert A. *First Impressions: How to Present an Inviting Church Facility*. Nashville: Abingdon, 1993.

Oswald, Roy. ***Making Your Church More Inviting: A Step by Step Guide for In-Church Training***. MD: Alban, 1992.

Leadership and Ministry

Chandler, Russell. *Feeding the Flock: Restaurants and Churches You'd Stand in Line For*. MD: Alban, 1998.

A fun provocative read!

Covey, Stephen R. *First things First*. New York: Merrill, 1994.

A values-based approach to leadership that helps the leader(s) keep focused on what is important and how leadership truly implements the values we claim to hold.

Dale, Robert D. *Leading Edge: Leadership Strategies from the New Testament*. Nashville: Abingdon Press, 1996.

Dale, Robert D. *Leadership for a Changing Church: Charting the Shape of the River*. Nashville: Abingdon Press, 1998.

Hahn, Celia Allison. *Growing in Authority – Relinquishing Control*. Bethesda Ma: Alban Institute, 1994.

Biblical models with contemporary application of giving up the need to micromanage every detail actually permits the leader to exercise greater authority in his/her areas of genuine expertise.

Hawkins, Thomas R. *The Learning Congregation: A New Vision of Leadership*. Louisville: Westminster John Knox, 1997.

Offers a model of religious education based on every aspect of ministry being a learning opportunity.

Heifetz, Ronald. *Leadership Without Easy Answers*. New Haven: Belknap Press of Harvard, 1994, 2000.

Although written for a business audience, pushes the leader to examine her/his own values and to see leadership as the process of aiding a community to understand and grasp its future.

Palmer, Parker. *The Courage to Teach*. San Francisco: Jossey-Bass, 1998.

Offers ways in which the leader can clarify his/her own values and commitments.

Phillips, Roy D. *Letting Go: Transforming Congregations for Ministry*. Maryland: The Alban Institute, 1999.

Rendle, Gilbert. *Leading Change in the Congregation: Spiritual and Organizational Tools for Leaders*. Bethesda Ma: Alban, 1998.

Examines the personal and communal challenges of change, resources and pitfalls. Provides useful ideas that encourage congregations to “hang in” through uncomfortable times that they might truly discern the best future path.

Rendle, Gilbert R. *Study Guide: Transforming Congregations for the Future*. Maryland: The Alban Institute, 1995.

Multicultural and Multigenerational

Lee, Jung Young. *Marginality: The Key to Multicultural Theology*. Minneapolis: Fortress Press, 1995.

While focused on cultural minorities, gives insights into the place of mainline churches in the contemporary setting.

Rendle, Gilbert R. *The Multigenerational Congregation: Meeting the Leadership Challenge*. MD: Alban, 2001.

New Models

Malphurs, Aubrey. *Advanced Strategic Planning: A New Model For Church And Ministry Leaders*. Michigan: Baker Books, 1999.

Mead, Loren B. *The Once and Future Church: Reinventing the congregation for a new mission frontier*. Washington: Alban Institute, 1993.

Mead, Lorne. *Transforming Congregations for the Future*. Washington: Alban, 1994.

Mead gives good theoretical discussions of what mainline churches in North America might anticipate in the future (a little weak on practical suggestions).

Waldkoenig, Gilson A. C. and William O. Avery. *Cooperating Congregations: Portraits of Mission Strategies*. Maryland: The Alban Institute, 1999.

Rural and Small Town Ministry

Farris, Lawrence W. *Dynamics of Small Town Ministry*. Maryland: The Alban Institute, 2000.

Jung, Shannon L. and Mary A. Agria. *Rural Congregational Studies: A Guide For Good Shepherds*. Nashville: Abingdon Press, 1997.

Jung, Shannon et al. *Rural Ministry: The Shape of the Renewal to Come*. Nashville: Abingdon Press, 1998.

A must read for people in a rural ministry context! This resource identifies the dynamics and patterns of behavior of rural congregational life and addresses issues that beset rural congregations in this day and age. Although American based, many of the illustrations and examples are transferable to the Canadian context.

Pappas, Anthony G. *Entering the World of the Small Church: A Guide for Leaders*. Maryland: The Alban Institute, 2000.

Excellent resource for understanding the small church context and what is needed for effective leadership.

Gillespie, Joanna Bowen. *Women Speak: Of God, Congregations and Change*. Pennsylvania: Trinity Press International, 1995.

Although situated in an Episcopalian context, Gillespie describes well the differing expectations of church as well as the differing spiritual needs of four different generations of women in today's faith communities.

Poling-Goldenne, David and L. Shannon Jung. ***Discovering Hope: Building Vitality in Rural Congregations***. Augsburg Fortress Pub., 2001.

This American and somewhat conservative resource provides a number options that leaders could explore within their own rural context. AVEL office has an accompanying video for this resource.

Self Appraisal

Ammerman, Nancy T. et al. *Studying Congregations: A New Handbook*. Nashville: Abingdon Press, 1998.

An excellent resource with suggestions for gathering internal and external data upon which to reflect and discern new congregational directions for ministry and mission and/or affirming

old directions. This resource offers theory and practical tools to assist congregational self- understanding. It is a useful resource for lay and ministry personnel alike.

Saarinen, Martin F. *The Life Cycle of a Congregation*. Maryland: The Alban Institute, 1986.

Schaller, Lyle E. *Forty Four Questions for Congregational Self-Appraisal*. Nashville: Abingdon Press, 1998.

Sitze, Bob. *Not Trying Too Hard: New Basics for Sustainable Congregations*. MD: Alban, 2001.

With fine humor, Sitze entwines scripture and theology with post modern thinking to explore fun, effective and energy-enhancing ways to be about leadership in today's congregations.

Size Transitions

Gaede, Beth Ann ed. *Size Transitions in Congregations*. MD: Alban, 2001.

Mann, Alice. *The In-Between Church: Navigating Size Transitions in Congregations*. Maryland, The Alban Institute, 1998.

Explores the nature of congregations in a size transition. Includes practical examples and suggestions for responding to emerging issues.

Mann, Alice. *Raising the Roof: The Pastoral to Program Size Transition*. MD: Alban, 2001.

Spiritual Care

Olsen, Charles. *Transforming Church Boards into Communities of Spiritual Leaders*. Maryland: The Alban Institute, 1995.

The spiritual life and well being of a congregation is influenced by the spiritual life and well being of its leaders. In his book, Olsen provides practical ways to nurture the spiritual life of leaders through the integration of the spiritual into the ordinary administrative and business tasks of church life.

Oswald, Roy. *Transforming Rituals: daily practices for changing lives*. Bethesda: Alban, 1999.

Rendle, Gilbert R. *Leading Change in the Congregation: Spiritual and Organizational Tools for Leaders*. Maryland: The Alban Institute, 1998.

Thomas, Frank A. *Spiritual Maturity: Preserving Congregational Health and Balance*. Minneapolis: Fortress Press, 2002.

Thomas explores connections between spiritual growth, spiritual maturity and effective leadership. His book examines some of the pit falls leaders face when leading congregations and how to avoid their seduction. Although some language, such as “victorious” Christian life, may not resonate with United Church folk, this resource does offer thoughtful analysis of congregational behaviour through the lens of scripture texts and personal/congregational stories.

Wink, Walter. *Unmasking the Powers: The Invisible Forces That Determine Human Existence*. Philadelphia: Fortress Press, 1986.

Chapter Three “The Angels of the Church” is particularly helpful in assisting “safe” discussion on congregational identity.

Stewardship

Mead, Loren. *Financial Meltdown in the Mainline?* Maryland: The Alban Institute, 1998.

Systems

Steinke, Peter. *Healthy Congregations: A Systems Approach*. Maryland: The Alban Institute, 1996.

User friendly! A great resource for understanding how congregations function as systems!

Theology

Zaragosa, Edward C. *No Longer Servants but Friends: A Theology of Ordained Ministry*. Nashville: Abingdon, 1999.

Rejects the familiar servant-leader paradigm as manipulative and instead offers a model where the “leader” trusts the community to make its own decisions.

Russell, Keith A. *In Search Of The Church: New Testament Images For Tomorrow's Congregations*. MD: Alban, 1994.

Worship and Liturgy

McLure, John S. *The Roundtable Pulpit: Where leadership and preaching meet*. Nashville: Abingdon, 1995.

A method of involving the whole community in the preparation for worship and proclamation.

Tisdale, Leonora Tubbs. *Preaching as Local Theology and Folk Art*.
Minneapolis: Fortress Press, 1997.

Contains many useful and practical tools for understanding the worship community and the context in which the congregation lives and works.