

Congregational Transformation

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Part I. General

A. Transforming Congregations

1. . **Natural Church Development** by Christian A. Schwarz Church Smart Resources 1 - 800 – 253 – 4276 Schwarz did a research study of 1000 congregations from 32 Countries on six continents. He has identified eight quality characteristics that were found together in all high quality growing congregations.
2. **Color Your World With Natural Church Development** by Christian Schwarz Church Smart Resources 2005 A progress report on NCD after almost a decade. Evidence that healthy congregations will grow naturally. Also how NCD principles inform the individual's life of discipleship.
3. **Transforming Congregational Culture** by Anthony B. Robinson William B Eerdmans Publishers Grand Rapids MI 2003 An excellent “road map” for traditional Protestant congregations that are trying to be transformed in order to be fruitful in ministry in the twenty first century.
4. **In Dying We Are Born: The Challenge and Hope for Congregations** by Peter Bush The Alban Institute Herndon VA 2008 When Jesus said “Whoever seeks their life will lose it and whoever loses their life for my sake will find it” he was speaking about congregations. Sometimes a congregation must die in order for resurrection and new life to occur at the hands of God.

5. **Gifts of an UncommonLife: The Practice of Contemplatve Activism** by Howard E. Friend Jr. The Alban Institute Herndon VA 2008 An exciting description of the spiritual journey in the context of congregational transformation, based on the experience of an extraordinary pastor, leader and prophet.
6. **A New And Right Spirit: Creating An Authentic Church In A Consumer Culture** by Rick Barger The Alban Institute Herndon VA 2005 Rick is pastor of Abiding Hope Lutheran Church in Littleton Colorado, site of the Columbine High School tragedy. This is one of the largest and fastest growing congregations in the ELCA. Explores how the church can live out of its Gospel story offering Jesus instead of offering deals, providing goods and services or promoting causes.
7. **The Practicing Congregation: Imagining A New Old Church** by Diana Butler Bass The Alban Institute 2004 Describes mainline Protestant congregations that display an unexpected vitality, adaptability and faithfulness. Traditional congregations can experience new life by reappropriating their traditions in new and living ways.
8. **From Nomads To Pilgrims: Stories From Practicing Congregations** by Diana Butler Bass and Joseph Stewart – Sicking (Editors) Alban Institute Herndon VA 2006. Actual stories from the congregations studied in **The Practicing Congregation**
9. **Christianity For The Rest Of Us: How The Neighborhood Church Is Transforming The Faith** by Diana Butler Bass Harper San Francisco 2006. Diana did a study of some 50 mainline congregations that had been in decline but have “turned around”. She identifies and describes ten corporate spiritual practices that are key to transformation.
10. **A People’s History of Christianity: The Other Side of the Story** by Diana Butler Bass Harper-Collins publishers New York NY 2009 How have ordinary Christians practiced their faith and followed Jesus in the successive periods of the last 20 centuries?
11. **Saving Jesus From The Church: How to Stop Worshipping Christ and Start Following Jesus** by Robin R. Meyers Harper Collins Pulishers New York NY 2009
 Jesus as Teacher not Savior
 Christianity as Compassion not Condemnation
 Prosperity as Dangerous not Divine
 Discipleship as Obedience not Control
 Religion as Relationship not Righteousness
12. **Becoming A Blessed Church: Forming A Church of Spiritual Purpose, Presence and Power** by N. Graham Standish Alban Institute 2005 For those who seek the Creator’s purposes, hunger for Jesus’ presence, and know that the Spirit’s power alone can save and heal the world.

- 13. The Disciple Making Church: From Dry Bones To Spiritual Vitality** by Glenn McDonald Faithwalk Publishing Grand Haven Michigan 2004 Describes six discipling relationships and six marks of a disciple pursuing personal transformation in community.
- 14. Borderland Churches: A Congregation's Introduction to Missional Living** by Gary V. Nelson Chalice Press St. Louis MO 2008 Wisdom from Canada on being the body of Christ in a post modern, post Christian society. We can no longer expect the unchurched to come to us. We must go to them..
- 15. A Field Guide For The Missional Congregation** by Rick Rouse and Craig Van Gelder Augsburg-Fortress Publishing 2008 This is a clear and succinct manual for congregations choosing to embark on a journey of transformation.

B. Modern - Post Modern and the Emerging Generation

16. The Church On The Other Side: Doing Ministry In The Postmodern Matrix by Brian D. McLaren Zondervan Publishing House Grand Rapids Michigan 2000 A clearly written statement by a pastor who dissolved and reconstituted his congregation in order to reach unchurched young people in a postmodern era

17. A Generous Orthodoxy : Why I Am A missional + evangelical + post/protestant + liberal/conservative + mystical/poetic + biblical + charismatic/contemplative + fundamentalist/Calvinist + Anabaptist/Anglican + Methodist + catholic + green + incarnational + depressed-yet-hopeful + emergent + unfinished CHRISTIAN by Brian McLaren Zondervan Book 2004. An affirmation of the rich diversity within the Christian church.

18. The Emerging Church: Vintage Christianity For New Generations by Dan Kimball Zondervan 2003 An exploration of what is being learned in congregations that reach out to the unchurched young adults in a post modern, post Christian society. The appendices offer a rich variety of resources. A book for those who dare to venture into new and uncharted territory.

19. They Like Jesus But Not The Church: Insights From Emerging Generations by Dan Kimball Zondervan Publishers Grand Rapids MI 2007 Jesus is not into right wing politics, being judgmental, oppressing females, being homophobic, disparaging people of other faiths, or interpreting the Bible literally.

20. Exiles: Living Missionally In A Post Christian Culture by Michael Frost Hendrickson Publishers Peabody Mass 2006 A compelling description of the church as an alternative vision living out the claims of the Kingdom of God in contrast to the claims of empire. Like Walter Brueggemann, Frost believes that Christians are living in exile today, much like the ancient Hebrews in Babylon.

21. The Forgotten Ways: Reactivating The Missional Church by Alan Hirsch Brazos Press Grand Rapids MI 2006 How we must have a complete reorientation of the church around mission. A detailed and thoughtful strategy.

22. The Irresistible Revolution: Living As An Ordinary Radical by Shane Claiborne Zondervan Publishers Grand Rapids MI 2006 “What do we do when the foolishness of the cross actually makes more sense than the wisdom of the sword? What if a fragile world is more attracted to God’s vision of interdependence and sacrificial sharing than to the mirage of independence and materialism. What do we do when we are the ones who have gone sane in a crazy world?”

23. The New Christians: Dispatches From The Emergent Frontier by Tony Jones Jossey Bass San Francisco 2008 A key book for understanding Emergent Christianity. An insider’s view of the brief history of the movement.

24. Inside The Organic Church: Learning From 12 Emerging Congregations by Bob Whitesel Abingdon Press Nashville TN 2006 A rich description of twelve emerging congregations and how they function. They focus on improvising instead of institutionalizing.

25. An Emergent Manifesto of Hope – Doug Pagitt and Tony Jones Editors Baker Books Grand Rapids MI 2007 Twenty five emergent church leaders present honest compelling reflections on spiritual formation, social justice, sex, church and community, evangelism, racial reconciliation, post colonialism and the Bible.

26. Reimagining Spiritual Formation: A Week In The Life Of An Experiential Church by Doug Pagitt and the Solomon’s Porch Community Zondervan publishers Grand Rapids MI 2004 Captures the communal journey of an emerging congregation through a week in the life of this faith community.

27. The Shaping Of Things To Come: Innovation and Mission For The 21st Century Church by Michael Frost and Alan Hirsch Hendrickson Publishers Peabody Mass. 2003 Two Australians offer excellent insights and stories concerning the emerging missional Church.

28. Emerging Churches: Creating Christian Community In Postmodern Cultures by Eddie Gibbs and Ryan K Bolger Baker Academic Grand Rapids MI 2005. A study of 50 congregations in the USA and the UK that have been started in the last 20 years by people under 35 for people under 35.

29. The Secret Message Of Jesus: Uncovering The Truth That Could Change Everything By Brian D. McLaren W Publishing Group a division of Thomas Nelson 2006. What does it mean to really live the message of Jesus today?

30. Postmodern Children’s Ministry: Ministry to Children in the 21st Century by Ivy Beckwith Zondervan Grand Rapids MI 2004 “A church program can’t spiritually form a child but a family living in an intergenerational community of faith can.”

31. The Emerging Way: Thoughts, Stories and Wisdom for a Faith of Transformation Michael Schwartzengruber (Ed) Copperhouse Books Kelowna BC Canada 2006 Beliefs do not transform us. Trust and loyalty do. Fourteen essays reflecting the emergent church.

32. Soul Graffiti: Making A Life In The Way of Jesus by Mark Scandrette Jossey-Bass San Francisco 2007 A young post modern leader describes his experience of the journey to discipleship.

33. The Phoenix Affirmations: A New Vision For The Future Of Christianity by Eric Elnes Jossey-Bass 2006 Elaborates 12 affirmations that reflect commitments to environmental stewardship, social justice, artistic expression, and openness to other faiths.

34. Not For Sale: The Return of the Global Slave Trade – and How We Can Fight It by David Batstone Harper San Francisco 2007 Addressing the worldwide crisis involving some 27 million people, especially women and children who have been forced into slavery in the illegal prostitution industry or into other forms of forced labor.

35. Everything Must Change: Jesus, Global Crises and a Revolution of Hope by Brian McLaren Thomas Nelson Publishers Nashville 2007 What would happen if:

- People of faith moved beyond political polarization to the deeper questions nobody is asking.
- The world's leading nations spent less on weapons and more on peacemaking, poverty alleviation, and creation care.
- A renewed understanding of Jesus sparked a profound spiritual awakening
- We believed that God's will really could be done on earth and not just in heaven.

36. Emerging Culture by Jimmy Long Intervarsity Press 2004 An interactive curriculum to help us understand the transition from Modern to Post Modern and its implications for ministry with the post modern generation. Based on the book entitled **Emerging Hope** by the same author. The curriculum includes a Leader's Guide, a Participant's Guide and Powerpoint Presentations.

37. A Christianity Worth Believing: Hope - Filled, Open – Armed Alive and Well Faith For The Left Out, Left Behind and Let Down in Us All by Doug Pagitt Jossey-Bass San Francisco CA 2008 Describes the faith journey of one of the leading emergent church pastors. The Gospel is not about pie in the sky but about God's will being done here on earth.

38. The Church of the Perfect Storm Leonard Sweet Editor, Abingdon Press Nashville TN 2008. A collection of essays concerning the sea changes that confront our congregations and how we might respond.

39. The Great Emergence: How Christianity Is Changing and Why by Phyllis Tickle Baker Books Grand Rapids MI 2008 A clear overview of the emerging church movement and the developing conversation between the various branches of the church in North America

40. Jesus Wants To Save Christians: A Manifesto For The Church In Exile by Rob Bell and Don Golden Zondervan Publishers Grand Rapids MI 2008 A prophetic challenge to the Church in the United States to reclaim our story and our commitment to God's justice.

C. Clergy Development and Renewal

41. Under The Unpredictable Plant: An Exploration Of Vocational Holiness by Eugene Peterson William B. Eerdmans Grand Rapids Michigan 1992
Explores the vocational integrity of parish ministry in the face of pressures to distort from culture, congregation and denomination. Advocates more emphasis on being a spiritual director and less a program director.

42. In It For The Long Haul: Building Effective Long Term Pastorates by Glenn E. Ludwig Alban Institute Bethesda MD 2002 A thoughtful description of the steps and processes involved in developing and sustaining a healthy long pastorate.

43. The Spiritual Leader's Guide To Self Care by Rochelle Melander and Harold Eppley Alban Institute 2002 Provides the agenda for a comprehensive journey over 52 weeks including provision for periodic overnight retreats. Major themes include, Creating a Life Vision, Caring For Yourself At Work, Nurturing Your Relationships, Caring For Your Physical and Material Needs, Caring For Your Spiritual and Intellectual Needs, and Sustaining A Life Vision.

D. The Congregation, Culture and Community – Diversity, Multiethnic Congregations and Intergenerational Congregations:

44. The Wolf Shall Dwell With The Lamb by Eric H. F. Law Chalice Press St. Louis 1993 A spirituality for leadership in a multi cultural community. Other titles by Eric law include **The Bush Was Blazing But Not Consumed** 1996, **Inclusion** 2000, and **Sacred Acts, Holy Change** 2002, and **The Word At The Crossings: Living The Good News In A Multicontextual Community** 2004. all from Chalice Press.

45. A Mosaic Of Believers: Diversity and Innovation In A Multiethnic Church by Gerardo Marti Indiana University Press Bloomington IN 2005. A brilliant study of the MOSAIC congregation in the Los Angeles area, Erwin McManus Pastor. Probably the largest multiethnic congregation with about 1900 in attendance on an average weekend. The congregation is 32.8% Caucasian, 30.3% Hispanic. 27.8 Asian, 4.8 Middle Eastern, 1.7 % African American, 1.2 % Armenian, 1 % Native American. Keen insights into how this complex congregation “works” and the kinds of people that it attracts or discourages.

46. People of the Dream: Multiracial Congregations In The United States by Michael O.

Emerson and Rodney M Woo Princeton University Press 2006 A comprehensive study of multiracial and multiethnic congregations in the U.S.A. What are the accomplishments? What are the challenges? Lasting multiracial congregations continue to be rare but there are significant stories of congregations that have become bridges of understanding across racial and ethnic barriers.

47. The Church Enslaved: A Spirituality of Racial Reconciliation by Tony Campolo and

Michael Battle Fortress Press Minneapolis MN 2005 Challenges Christians to a deeper spirituality enabling them to resume leadership in overcoming and redressing America's legacy of racial division

48. The Church of All Ages: Generatins Worshipping Together – Howard Vanderwell Editor

Alban Institute Herndon VA 2008 How to become an age inclusive congregation that values and includes all generations especially in worship.

Part II. Natural Church Development – Eight Qualities of Healthy Congregations (As identified in the research of Christian Schwarz and the Natural Church Development Survey)

A. Empowering Leadership

49. The Missional Leader: Equipping Your Church To Reach A Changing World by Alan

J. Roxburgh and Fred Romanuk Josse-Bass San Francisco 2006 What does congregational leadership look like in a turbulent and unpredictable time when the models of the past no longer work?

50. Primal Leadership: Realizing The Power Of Emotional Intelligence by Daniel

Goleman, Richard Boyatzis and Annie McKee Harvard Business School Press Boston 2002. Explores the eighteen personal competencies needed to be an effective leader.

51. Leadership Without Easy Answers Ronald A. Heifetz Harvard University Press 1994

The difference between the leadership of expertise and the leadership that enables others to do the adaptive work to face new realities.

52. The Leader's Journey: Accepting The Call To Personal and Congregational

Transformation. By Herrington, Creech and Taylor Jossey Bass San Francisco 2003 An outstanding study of the pastor as spiritual leader.

53. Redeveloping The Congregation: A How To For Lasting Change by Mary K. Sellon,

Daniel P. Smith, and Gail F. Grossman Alban Institute Bethesda MD 2002 Uses the eight reasons why efforts at institutional change fail from the book Leading Change by John Kotter to describe the stages in transforming a declining congregation.

54. The Leadership Labyrinth: Negotiating The Paradoxes of Ministry by Judson Edwards Smyth and Helwys Macon GA 2005 A brilliant exposition of 21 leadership paradoxes that confront the pastor. (Example: “The harder you try to control a group the less control you will have.”)

55. Congregational Leadership in Anxious Times: Being Calm and Courageous No Matter What by Peter Steinke Alban Institute Herndon VA 2006 Managing our anxiety and staying connected to those who differ are key to fruitful leadership in congregations.

56. Leading Change in the Congregation: Spiritual and Organizational Tools For Leaders by Gilbert R. Rendle Alban Institute 1998. A practical guide for congregational leaders in a turbulent and unpredictable environment. “Welcome to the wilderness.”

57. When Better Isn’t Enough: Evaluation Tools For The Twenty First Century Church by Jill M. Hudson Alban Institute 2004 An overview of a new paradigm for ministry. 12 characteristics by which we can measure effective ministry in a post modern world.

58. Leadership In Congregations – Richard Bass Editor Alban Institute Herndon VA 2007 An excellent collection of 21 essays on various aspects of leadership in congregations including some that explore the dysfunctional aspects of our church systems that undermine the fruitful ministry of pastors.

59. Making Disciples, Making Leaders: A Manual For Developing Church Officers by Steven P. Eason Geneva Press 2004 Written for the Presbyterian tradition but much is translatable for all congregations. Assumes that church officers will become a community of spiritual leader at the heart of the congregation.

60. Transform Your Church With Ministry Teams by E. Stanley Ott 2004 Eerdmans Publishers The power of ministry teams lies in their unique capacity to generate genuine Christian fellowship, nurture disciples, develop leaders, and mobilize people for ministry..

61. Twelve Dynamic Shifts For Transforming Your Church by E. Stanley Ott Eerdmans Publishers Grand Rapids MI 2002 A practical guide for established congregations that are seeking to affirm the past and discern their future.

62. Leading On Purpose: Intentionality and Teaming In Congregational Life by Eric Burtness Augsburg-Fortress Press 2004 Translates Rick Warren’s **Purpose Driven Church** into the Lutheran Tradition.

63. Extraordinary Leadership: Thinking Systems, Making A Difference by Roberta M. Gilbert MD Leading Systems Press Falls Church VA 2006 An exceedingly lucid description of mature pastoral leadership based on the family systems insights of Murray Bowen

64. A Generous Presence: Spiritual Leadership and the Art of Coaching by Rochelle Melander Alban Institute Herndon VA 2006. Describes how the spiritual journey informs the work of those who coach.

65. Leadership For Vital Congregations by Anthony B. Robinson The Pilgrim Press Cleveland OH 2006 A leadership tool for clergy and lay leaders. Draws on the wisdom of James McGregor Burns, Edwin Friedman, Parker Palmer, Ronald Heifetz and Margaret Wheatley

66. Spirited Leadership: Empowering People To Do What Matters by Thomas G Bandy Chalice Press St Louis MO 2007. Especially helpful in describing the leadership role of the church board.

67. Shaping Spiritual Leaders: Supervision and Formation in Congregations by Abigail Johnson The Alban Institute Herndon VA 2007 A superb description of supervision as a way of life that stimulates the growth and development of paid and unpaid leaders in the local church. Based on the assumption that all Christians are “called to full time Christian service” and therefore must grow and become leaders.

B. Gift Oriented Ministry

68. The Equipping Church: Serving Together To Transform Lives by Sue Mallory The Leadership Network Zondervan Publishers A wonderful detailed story of the transformation of the Brentwood Presbyterian Church in California into a ministering community through a focus on helping each member to discover, develop and exercise their God given gifts in ministry.

69. The Equipping Church Guidebook by Sue Mallory Published by The Leadership Network A companion piece to The Equipping Church, the Guidebook is a working manual for congregational leaders who are seeking to develop gift oriented ministry throughout the congregation. Mobilizing church members for volunteer service and for ministry in daily life. Includes an outstanding list of tools, curricula and software.

70. Life Keys: Discovering Who You Are, Why You’re Here, and What You Do Best by Kise, Stark and Hirsh Bethany House Publishers Minneapolis MN 1996 An excellent manual for helping church members discern their gifts and their ministry. Different chapters help us explore our natural talents, our spiritual gifts, our personality type, our values and our passions.

71. Created and Called: Discovering our Gifts for Abundant Living by Jean Morris Trumbauer. (Three ring binder) A superb resource for helping us clarify ourselves and our call.

72. The Volunteer Revolution by Bill Hybels Zondervan Publishers Helps the church plan for ministry that is empowered by lay volunteers. Includes stories of people who have been transformed by serving the church in their area of giftedness. .

C. Passionate Spirituality

73. Listening To God: Spiritual Formation In Congregations by John Ackerman Alban Institute 2001 A manual for spiritual formation in the life of a congregation. Helpful exercises and instruments.

74. A Praying Congregation: The Art Of Teaching Spiritual Practice by Jane E. Vennard Alban Institute Herndon VA 2005 An excellent manual on how to develop a praying congregation.

75. Breathing Space: A Spiritual Journey In The South Bronx by Heidi B. Neumark Beacon Press Boston MA 2003 Spirituality and Justice meet in this beautiful account of ministry at the Lutheran Church of the Transfiguration set in one of the most troubled neighborhoods in America. Beautiful stories of people who have been through hell and found new life together.

76. SABBATH: Restoring The Sacred Rhythm of Rest by Wayne Muller Bantam Books 1999 Explores the manner in which we have traded time for money in this society to the point where our relationships to one another and to God are at risk.

77. A Hidden Wholeness: The Journey Toward An Undivided Life by Parker J. Palmer Jossey Bass San Francisco CA 2004. The journey to integrity where your inner self and outer self become congruent. The importance of creating circles of trust.

78. Paying Attention: Focusing Your Congregation On What Matters by Gary E. Peluso Verdend The Alban Institute Herndon VA 2005. “Where in our society do we give anyone or anything our quiet undivided attention for any sustained meaningful period of time?”

79. The Rapture Exposed: The Message of Hope in the Book of Revelation by Barbara R. Rossing Basic Books New York NY 2004 Reveals the unbiblical nature of the “rapture” theory and the “Left Behind” series of novels which makes Jesus the opposite of the Jesus described in the Bible. Then proceeds to expound the real meaning of the book of Revelation.

80. The Spirit Led Leader: Nine Leadership Practices and Soul Principles by Timothy C. Geoffrion The Alban Institute Herndon VA 2005. An exposition of the relevance of the spiritual journey for fruitful leadership.

81. One Step At A Time: A Pilgrim’s Guide To Spirit Led – Living by Timothy C. Geoffrion The Alban Institute Herndon VA 2008 Timothy takes his family on a five hundred mile walking pilgrimage in northern Spain in 2006 to learn lessons about how we can intentionally grow in our relationships to god, self and one another. This book is filled with lucid questions that are relevant to our journey.

82. Traveling Together: A Guide For Disciple Forming Congregations by Jeffrey D. Jones Alban Institute Herndon VA 2006. An excellent description of the specifics of a disciple making congregation.

83. Living The Resurrection: The Risen Christ In Everyday Life by Eugene H. Peterson Navpress 2006. Connects the heart of Christian faith with everyday life.

84. The Word That Redescribes the World: The Bible and Discipleship by Walter Brueggemann Fortress Press Minneapolis 2006 Traces the conflict between the Kingdom of God and the succession of empires that seek to play God throughout the Bible and on into the present. A sobering study for those of us who find ourselves citizens of what may be the most pretentious empire in history.

85. God and Empire: Jesus Against Rome: Then And Now by John Dominic Crossan Harper Collins San Francisco 2007 Exploring the choice between empire and Kingdom of God.

86. War Is A Force That Gives Us Meaning by Chris Hedges Random House NY 2002 Chris was a foreign correspondent for fifteen years in Central America, the Sudan, Bosnia and the Middle East. He experienced a succession of life threatening situations. He gives a compelling description of the addictive power of war and the manner in which it can seduce and then destroy our humanity

87. The Limits of Power: The End of American Exceptionalism by Andrew J. Bacevich Metropolitan Books, Henry Holt and Co. New York 2008. Traces the growing economic, political and military crises that threaten the demise of the American Empire. Bacevich is profoundly influenced by Reinhold Niebuhr who was the outstanding Protestant prophetic theologian of the 20th century. America's addiction to self indulgence is causing us to deny the reality of our situation and as a result hasten our own demise.

88. Shaking The Gates Of Hell: Faith Led Resistance To Corporate Globalization by Sharon Delgado Fortress Press Minneapolis MN 2007 Exploring the likely consequences of corporate globalization and global warming. Provides documentation for Brian McLaren's conviction that our world is currently pursuing a suicidal course.

89. The Predator State by James K. Galbraith Free Press – Simon and Schuster Inc 2008 Describes how the religion of “free market fundamentalism” has betrayed our country and our Christian faith.

90. How Not To Speak of God by Peter Rollins Paraclete Press Brewster MA 2006 Explores the philosophical and theological underpinnings of the emerging church movement. Also **The Fidelity of Betrayal: Towards a Church Beyond Belief** Paraclete Press 2008 It may be necessary to betray your faith in order to keep it.

91. Packing Inferno: The Unmaking of a Marine by Tyler E. Boudreau A 12 year committed veteran of the Marine Corps who served in Iraq. What he did and experienced in Iraq undid him when he came home. Now he is struggling to recover himself and his soul. This book makes clear that the bumper sticker “support our troops” patriotism is a cruel sham. This criminally insane war has mutilated and destroyed countless lives, both Iraqi and American. We pass it off as “collateral damage”.

D. Functional Structures

92. Holy Conversations: Strategic Planning As A Spiritual Practice For Congregations

By Gil Rendle and Alice Mann Alban Institute 2003. An excellent guide to the processes through which a congregation can achieve clarity about its identity, mission, vision, core values and goals.

93. Holy Places: Matching Sacred Space With Mission and Message by Nancy DeMott, Tim Shapiro, and Brent Bill The Alban Institute Herndon VA 2007 A comprehensive handbook and list of resources for any congregation that is planning to build or renovate

94. Governance and Ministry: Rethinking Board Leadership by Dan Hotchkiss The Alban Institute Herndon VA 2009 Wisdom on how to develop fruitful and creative church boards who can partner with the pastor in leadership, empower the laity, and clarify the identity, mission, vision and core values of the congregation.

95. Pursuing The Full Kingdom Potential of Your Congregation by George W Bullard Lake Hickory Resources St Louis MO 2005 Provides new insights and engaging steps to assist churches at all stages in their history to be true to their ministry and mission.

96. When Not To Build by Ray Bowman and Eddy Hall Baker Books Grand Rapids MI 2002 Unconventional wisdom from an experienced church architect. A must read for any congregation that is thinking of building. Articulates sound principles on which to base decisions.

97. Memories, Hopes and Conversations: Appreciative Inquiry and Congregational Change by Mark Lau Branson Alban Institute Herndon VA 2004 Congregations can face change more readily if they can carry the best of their past into the future.

98. The Power Of Appreciative Inquiry: A Practical Guide To Positive Change by Diana Whitney and Amanda Trosten-Bloom Berrett-Koehler Publishers San Francisco 2003 Perhaps the best manual to guide those who undertake to use Appreciative Inquiry in congregations.

99. The Five Dysfunctions Of A Team by Patrick Lencioni Jossey Bass Publishers San Francisco 2002. A “must read” for heads of staff who are trying to build a high energy high trust staff team in a congregation. Also **Overcoming The Five Dysfunctions Of A Team** by the same author Jossey Bass 2005. The “how to” manual filled with strategies and practical exercises for addressing the five dysfunctions

100. Can Our Church Live? Redeveloping Congregations In Decline by Alice Mann Alban Institute 1999 Strategy for redeveloping declining congregations. Essential reading for congregations that are growing older and smaller.

101. Raising The Roof: The Pastoral to Program Size Transition by Alice Mann Alban Institute 2001 A manual for managing the most difficult size transition from a pastoral sized congregation (worshipping 50 – 150) on Sunday morning to a program sized congregation (worshipping 150 – 350)

102. Size Transitions In Congregations Beth Ann Gaede Editor Alban Institute 2001 Collected essays reflecting the current wisdom concerning various transitions to become a larger or a smaller congregation.

103. Every Congregation Needs A Little Conflict by George W. Bullard Jr. Chalice Press St. Louis MO 2008 A typology of seven levels of intensity in congregational conflict. The challenge for leaders is to help the congregation manage conflict a levels one and two

104. Transforming Church Boards Into Communities Of Spiritual Leaders Charles Olsen Alban Institute Washington DC 1995. A manual for developing a church board into a spiritual leadership community. Explores community building, the use of scripture to illuminate the life and work of the board, decision making through a discernment process instead of Robert's Rules and a majority vote, and the importance of vision.

105. Power Of Asset Mapping: How Your Congregation Can Act On its Gifts by Luther K. Snow Alban institute Herndon VA 2004 How to plan based on the assets of your congregation instead of just on the basis of the discerned needs of others.

106. 40 Days & 40 Bytes: Making Computers Work For your Congregation by Aaron Spiegel, Nancy Armstrong and Brent Bill Rich wisdom on what kind and how much computer technology might best serve your church.

107. The Indispensable Guide To Smaller Churches by David R. Ray Pilgrim Press Cleveland OH 2003. Contains a wealth of information, wisdom and resources to challenge the vision and stimulate the life of smaller congregations. Begins with a whirlwind tour of 21 creative examples of flourishing small congregations.

108. Good To Great: Why Some Companies Make The Leap and Others Don't by Jim Collins Harper-Collins publishers 2001 The keys to institutional transformation in the business world. Also **Good To Great and the Social Sectors** an accompanying monograph that translates for non profit organizations.

109. Pathway To Renewal: Practical Steps for Congregations by Daniel P. Smith and Mary K. Sellon The Alban Institute Herndon VA 2008 Distinguishes three phases on the journey towards renewal:

1. Building the readiness of leaders to lead
2. Developing a vision
3. Aligning the congregation's life with the vision it has discerned.

110. When Moses Meets Aaron: Staffing and Supervision in Large Congregations by Gil Rendle and Susan Beaumont Alban Institute Herndon VA 2007 A “must read” for pastors of large congregations. Wisdom on searching for the right staff, supervising staff, developing an effective and fruitful staff team, having productive staff meetings, dealing with difficult staff etc. etc.

E. Inspiring Worship

111. Worship Evangelism by Sally Morgenthaler Zondervan Grand Rapids MI 1999 Makes a convincing case that true worship can be a power means of evangelism and that we need to reclaim authenticity in worship where there is a true encounter between people and the Almighty.

112. Emerging Worship: Creating Worship Gatherings For New Generations by Dan Kimball Zondervan Press Grand Rapids MI 2004 The post baby boomer generation wants something very different from their parents. They want authenticity, experience, tradition, liturgy and mystery.

113. A Royal Waste of Time: The Splendor of Worshipping God and Being The Church For The World by Marva J. Dawn William Eerdmans Publishing Grand Rapids 1999. A measured and thoughtful discussion of the issues surrounding worship...traditional vs. contemporary . This book is a sequel to her earlier book **Reaching Out Without Dumbing Down.**

114. Beyond The Worship Wars: Building Vital and Faithful Worship by Thomas G. Long The Alban institute 2001 Offers a third way beyond the worship wars between “traditional” and “contemporary”.

115. How We Seek God Together: Exploring Worship Style by Linda Clark, Joanne Swenson and Mark Stamm Alban Institute Identifies and explores congregational worship style. A unique resource for congregations seeking to answer the question “Why do we do things the way that we do?”

F. Healthy Small Groups

116. Companions In Christ: A Small Group Experience In Christian Formation Nashville Upper Room books 2001 This popular interdenominational resource is a guide to creating small groups around the Christian practices of prayer, scripture reading, ministry, worship, study, and conversation. Includes participants’ books, leaders’ guides, a journal, orientation and training events, and online support at www.companionsinchrist.org

117. Transforming Discipleship: Making Disciples A Few At A Time by Greg Ogden Intervarsity Press Downer’s Grove IL 2003 Explores the model of developing mature disciples through mutual coaching in small covenant groups. Of three or four. An excellent model for multiplying leaders who will multiply leaders.

118. The Disciple Bible Study Series published by the United Methodist Church is one of the best comprehensive Bible Study programs that approaches the bible from the perspective of growing disciples.

119. The Search To Belong: Rethinking Intimacy, Community and Small Groups by Joseph R. Myers Zondervan Grand Rapids MI 2003 Small groups are important but they are not a cure all. Myers describes the four spaces in which people need to belong. They are public space, social space, personal space and intimate space. Small groups can be misused with harmful results.

120. The Christian Small Group Leader by Thomas R. Hawkins Discipleship Resources Nashville TN 2004. A superb manual for those who are going to lead small groups.

121. Called Together: How Small Groups Support Call In The World by Doug Wysocky – Johnson Faith at Work Falls Church VA 2008. How small groups can help us discern our call from God.

G. Need Oriented Evangelism

122. Reclaiming Evangelism: A Practical Guide For Mainline Churches by Jan G. Linn Chalice Press St. Louis MO 1998 A challenging approach to evangelism in the Reformed Tradition that avoids the triumphalism of those who assert that “there will only be Christians in heaven.” A positive, caring, non invasive approach that declares our experience of the transforming power of Jesus.

123. The Celtic Way Of Evangelism George G Hunter III Abingdon Nashville 2000. A rich description of the contrast between Celtic Christianity and Roman Catholicism in medieval Ireland (St. Patrick), Scotland (St. Columba), and England At. Aidan.. Suggests the Celtic approach to reach the unchurched in post modern, post Christian America. A communal right brain compassionate piety!

124. Radical Outreach: The Recovery of Apostolic Ministry and Evangelism by George G. Hunter III Abingdon Press Nashville TN 2003 Challenges the cultural isolation of the church from the unchurched people who need the Gospel.

125. Testimony: Talking Ourselves Into Being Christian by Thomas G. Long Jossey Bass San Francisco 2004 How do we reclaim the lost art of authentic testimony and learn to share our experiences of grace?

126. Shaped By God’s Heart: The Passion and Practices Of Missional Churches by Milfred Minatrea Jossey Bass San Francisco 2004 A vision of the missional congregation describing nine essential practices and complete with assessment surveys related to each practice.

127. Jesus In Beijing: How Christianity Is Transforming China and Changing The Global Balance of Power by David Aikman Regnery Publishing Co. Washington DC 2003. The story of how the Christian population of China has grown from less than 4 million in 1949 when the

Communists took control to somewhere between 70 and 80 million now. During much of this time the Christian Church was officially not allowed to exist.

128. Preaching For Adult Conversion and Commitment: Invitation To A Life Transformed by Frank G. Honeycutt Abingdon Press Nashville 2003 Sees conversion and commitment as an ongoing process throughout our lives. A winsome and compelling expression of the gospel message. An antidote to much of the “pabulum” that is being promoted in the name of Jesus

129. Walk Across The Room by Bill Hybels Zondervan Publishers Casts a vision for relational evangelism that stands up to the demands of a post modern mission context

130. Unbinding The Gospel: Real Life Evangelism by Martha Grace Reese Chalice Press St Louis MO 2006 The result of the Mainline Evangelism Project, a study of seven protestant denominations (American Baptist, Disciples of Christ, Evangelical Lutheran, Presbyterian Church U.S.A., Reformed Church in America, United Church of Christ and United Methodist Church) A message of hope for renewal and evangelism in these traditions Companion books include **Unbinding Your Heart: 40 Days of Prayer and Faith Sharing** and **Unbinding Your Church: Pastor’s Guide to Real Life Evangelism.**

131. Tribal Church: Ministering To The Missing Generation by Carol Howard Merritt The Alban Institute Herndon VA 2007 Excellent insights into the emerging generation (20 – 35 year olds) and how to connect with them.

132. Fireweed Evangelism: Christian Hospitality in a Multi-Faith World by Elizabeth R. Geitz Church Publishing New York NY 2004 Exchanging our stories about healing that ultimately find their deepest meaning in the presence of the crucified and risen Christ.

H. Loving Relationships

133. Practicing Right Relationship: Skills for Deepening Purpose, Finding Fulfillment, and Increasing Effectiveness in Your Congregation by Mary K. Sellon and Daniel P. Smith Alban Institute Herndon VA 2005

134. Cultivating Christian Community - by Thomas R. Hawkins Discipleship Resources Nashville TN 2004 An excellent manual on how to nourish the gift of Christian community.

135. Mentoring: A Guide For Ministry by Cheryl Lawrie Discipleship Resources Nashville TN 2005 An excellent manual for a mentor, especially those who may be in mentoring relationships with youth.

136. Organic Community: Creating A Place Where People Naturally Connect by Joseph R. Myers Baker Books Grand rapids MI 2007 Helping your church create spaces where community naturally comes into being.

Edward A. White - April – May 2009