
Church Renewal web catalog

Title 1	Title 2	Author	Publisher	Media	Summary
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ABC'S NATURAL CHURCH DEVELOPMENT

Schwarz, Christian A.			Church Smart Resources		BOOK
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A short booklet that covers the most important principles of church development.

ACTIVATING THE PASSIVE CHURCH

Schaller, Lyle B.			Abingdon Press		BOOK
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Written for both lay and ordained congregational leaders, this book diagnoses the causes of church passivity, and formulates a method for combatting the problem.

AUTHENTIC CONGREGATIONS

Hopper, Jr., William H.			Geneva Press, 2000		BOOK
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At a time in which our congregations are entering the strange new world of the 21st century, this book is "just what the doctor ordered". It is an exciting account of Christian faithfulness in local congregations and a challenge to Presbyterians to renew their congregations for a new century and a new millennium.

CHRIST THE RECONCILER

A THEOLOGY OF OPPOSTIES, DIFFERENCES AND ENEMIES

Schmiechen, Peter			William B. Eerdmans Publishing Company		BOOK
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After first analyzing the dysfunctional state of America's churches--with their capitulation to modern culture--Schmiechen argues convincingly that the church can be renewed only through the recovery of Christ's gospel of reconciliation.

CHURCH CREATIVE

Clark, M. Edward, et al, editors			Abingdon Press		BOOK
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A reader on the renewal of the church. Eighteen exciting experiments in expanding the church's ministry: to the retarded, to youth, to senior citizens; interracial and interfaith activities; to apartment dwellers and to those who need help when ordinary assistance is not available.

CHURCH OF THE LAST STOP: THE STORY OF BIDWELL

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Cootsma, Gregory S.			Geneva Press, 2007		PAMPHLET
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Vol. 9 of The Price H. Gwynn III Church Leadership Series. The author, an associate pastor at the Bidwell Presbyterian Church in Chico, CA writes about experiences in three churches he has served. The mainline church which was thought to be "dying" may actually be able to turn around and become a vibrant presence in its community and even experience real growth.

CHURCH PLANTER'S ASSESSMENT GUIDE

Logan, Robert E. and Charles R. Ridley			ChurchSmart Resources, 2002		BOOK
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This assessment is a companion guide to Training for Selection Interviewing and Evaluating and Reporting. It will provide many tools to help you in the interview process. Included are evaluation aids for 13 behavioral categories.

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DRY BONES LIVE: HELPING CONGREGATIONS DISCOVER NEW LIFE

Craig, Robert H. and Robert C. Worley Westminster/John Knox Press BOOK

How to envision, set goals, plan, organize, and evaluate a congregation's ministries. A practical manual for revitalizing congregations into holistic, faith-based missions.

**EMERGING CHURCHES
CREATING CHRISTIAN COMMUNITY IN POSTMODERN CULTURES**

Gibbs, Eddie & Ryan K. Bolger Baker Academic, 2005 BOOK

The "emerging church" movement is perhaps the most significant church trend of our day. The emerging church offers and encourages a new way of doing and being the church. While it largely resonates with an eighteen-to-thirty-four-year-old audience--the first fully postmodern generation--it is also gaining popularity with older Christians and encompasses a broad array of traditional and contemporary churches. Emerging Churches explores this movement and provides insight into its success. Filled with the latest research and interesting, anecdotal testimonies from those on the cutting edge of ministry, this book provides pastors, church leaders, and interested readers with an insightful glimpse into the thriving churches of today--and tomorrow.

ENTERING THE WORLD OF THE SMALL CHURCH

Pappas, Anthony G. The Alban Institute, Inc., 1988 BOOK

The author offers a road map into the world of the small church. He is especially helpful in motivating change and growth by mobilizing the natural strengths of small churches.

**FIELD GUIDE TO U.S. CONGREGATIONS
WHO'S GOING WHERE AND WHY**

Woolever, Cynthia & Deborah Bruce Westminster John Knox Press, 2002 BOOK

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FIVE CHALLENGES FOR THE ONCE AND FUTURE CHURCH

Mead, Loren B. Alban Institute, 1996 BOOK

The author presents five key challenges facing today's church--and how they represent opportunities for the evolutionary, transformative changes he believes must take place in congregations if the church is to remain a viable institution into the 21st century.

**FROM GENERATION TO GENERATION: THE RENEWAL OF THE
CHURCH ACCORDING TO ITS OWN THEOLOGY AND PRACTICE**

Leith, John H. Westminster/John Knox Press BOOK

On the basis of his own experience--both as a pastor and as a professor of theology--the author explores the dilemma of the church today and finds it primarily "a crisis of faith." He draws on crucial Christian traditions to restate a central vision of renewing and sustaining the church through preaching, teaching, and pastoral care.

**FROM NOMADS TO PILGRIMS
STORIES FROM PRACTICING CONGREGATIONS**

Bass, Diana Butler and Joseph Steward-Sicking, ed The Alban Institute, 2005 BOOK

This book tells the extended stories of a dozen congregations that have been on a pilgrimage to vitality -retrieving and reworking Christian practice, tradition, and narrative. A follow up to The Practicing Congregation: Imagining a New Old Church by Diana Butler Bass. Both books offer a hopeful view of a new and often overlooked renaissance occurring in mainline Protestant congregations.

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LEADING TURNAROUND CHURCHES

Wood, Gene		ChurchSmart Resources	BOOK
<p>Leading turnaround churches is one of the most pressing challenges facing every denomination in America. We know that plateau ministries soon become dying institutions if they are not guided by turnaround leaders. Where will these leaders come from? How will we recognize them? What steps must they take to change the downward spiral?</p>			

LIVING THE VISION: CONGREGATIONAL TRANSFORMATION

Boots, Steven		PCUSA	PAMPHLET
<p>To redevelop a congregation is to redirect its ministry in response to significant changes that have taken place among its membership and/or in the larger community it serves.</p>			

LIVING THE VISION: CONGREGATIONAL TRANSFORMATION

Boots, Steven		PCUSA	PAMPHLET
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MAINLINE TO THE FUTURE: CONGREGATIONS FOR THE 21ST CENTURY

Carroll, Jackson W.		Westminster John Knox Press, 2000	BOOK
<p>"Go forth, remembering," this author advises the mainline church. The ability to adapt allows the authority of tradition to shift from being "out there" to "in here" and the Gospel is interpreted anew and faithfully to this time and place.</p>			

**MANAGING POLARITIES IN CONGREGATIONS
EIGHT KEYS FOR THRIVING FAITH COMMUNITIES**

Oswald, Roy M. and Barry Johnson		The Alban Institute, 2010	BOOK
<p>Congregations often find themselves in power struggles over two opposing views. People on both sides believe strongly that they are right. No matter what it is called, the research is clear: leaders and organizations that manage polarities well outperform those who don't.</p>			

**MOVEABLE FEAST
A MENU FOR REDEVELOPMENT**

Redevelopment Training Design Team		Synod of the Northeast, PCUSA, 2000	BOOK
<p>The Synod of the Northeast presents a training event designed especially for Presbyteries. This workbook outlines the steps to take to incorporate the six dynamics of redevelopment: creating spiritual energy, congregational identity, building a ministry team, re-entering the community, building a financial base and developing a ministry plan. The Synod will bring the training to you!</p>			

**NATURAL CHURCH DEVELOPMENT
IMPLEMENTATION GUIDE**

Schwarz, Christian A. and Christoph Schalk		ChurchSmart Resources, 1998	BOOK
<p>Every church is unmistakably unique. Instead of projecting the experiences of a few successful model churches on every church, natural church development helps you discover and develop the God-given, unique nature of your church.</p>			

**NATURAL CHURCH DEVELOPMENT: A GUIDE
TO EIGHT ESSENTIAL QUALITIES OF HEALTHY CHURCHES**

Schwarz, Christian A.		Church Smart Resources	BOOK
<p>This book presents the practical conclusions drawn from the most comprehensive study conducted on the cause of church growth to help church leaders assess and revitalize their congregations. It is a guide to essential qualities of healthy churches for church growth.</p>			

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ONCE AND FUTURE CHURCH: REINVENTING THE CONGREGATION FOR A NEW MISSION FRONTIER

Mead, Loren B. Alban Institute, Inc., 1991 BOOK

Mead takes a broad and insightful look at past and present changes in church, then postulates a future to which these changes are calling us. He believes the church now meets the world in the lives of laity--rather than in the far-off lands of foreign mission. Thus the church needs to be reinvented for the new mission. Mead is founder and president of The Alban Institute.

PARADIGM SHIFT IN THE CHURCH: HOW NATURAL CHURCH DEVELOPMENT CAN TRANSFORM THEOLOGICAL THINKING

Schwarz, Christian A. ChurchSmart Resources, 1999 BOOK

This book presents the theological paradigm that is the foundation of the practical tools and concepts behind natural church development. Natural church development is not just one church growth method among many, it is a different theological paradigm altogether. It introduces a different way of thinking for Christians.

PEOPLE OF THE TRUTH: THE POWER OF THE WORSHIPPING COMMUNITY IN THE MODERN WORLD

Webber, Robert E. & Clapp, Rodney Wipf and Stock Publishers, 2001 BOOK

In this provocative book, a prominent theologian and a leading Christian editor speak to all Christians who have grown mistrustful of the church's involvement in "religio-political power-plays" and are seeking the way home. Robert E. Webber and Rodney Clapp examine the dilemma so many Christians face--what to do if you are an enthusiast for neither the New Right nor the Old Left but still take seriously the church's social and political responsibility.

POST-MODERN PILGRIMS

FIRST CENTURY PASSION FOR THE 21ST CENTURY WORLD

Sweet, Leonard J. Broadman & Holman Publishers, 2000 BOOK

The author, a professor at Drew University, argues that postmodern pilgrims must strive to keep the past and the future in perpetual conversation so every generation will find a fresh expression of the Gospel. His book addresses and answers the tension that exists between tradition and innovation by offering a biblical view of both, working together for the maturing of the church.

PRACTICING CONGREGATION IMAGINING A NEW OLD CHURCH

Bass, Diane Buttler The Alban Institute, 2004 BOOK

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PRACTICING CONGREGATION IMAGINING A NEW OLD CHURCH

Bass, Diane Buttler The Alban Institute, 2004 BOOK

The conventional wisdom about mainline Protestantism maintains that it is a dying tradition, irrelevant to a postmodern society, unresponsive to change, and increasingly disconnected from its core faith tenets. Historian and researcher Diana Butler Bass argues that there are signs that mainline Protestant churches are indeed changing, and laying the groundwork for a new type of congregation.

PRESENT FUTURE

SIX TOUGH QUESTIONS FOR THE CHURCH

McNeal, Reggie Jossey-Bass, 2003 BOOK

In *The Present Future*, McNeal identifies the six most important realities that church leaders must address including: recapturing the spirit of Christianity and replacing "church growth" with a wider vision of kingdom growth; developing disciples instead of church members; fostering the rise of a new apostolic leadership; focusing on spiritual formation rather than church programs; and shifting from prediction and planning to preparation for the challenges of an uncertain world. McNeal contends that by changing the questions church leaders ask themselves about their congregations and their plans, they can frame the core issues and approach the future with new eyes, new purpose, and new ideas.

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**RETROFUTURE: REDISCOVERING OUR ROOTS,
RECHARTING OUR ROUTES**

Kelly, Gerard
 InverVarsity Press, 1999
 BOOK
 This book explores the complexity of life today and the responses it demands from us. How is the new generation receiving or rejecting the gospel? Mr. Kelly is an insightful observer of postmodern culture and a compelling guide who dares to step forward to embrace the new and emerging opportunities for Christian life and witness.

ReVISION GUIDEBOOK

Regele, Mike, and Mark Schulz
 Percept Group, Inc., 1997
 BOOK
 Guidebook, Reflection Guide and Starter Kit for chair of ReVision Task Force. Foundational principles and concepts of program, 8 studies for reflection, and instructions for a retreat for team.

ReVISION GUIDEBOOK

Regele, Mike, and Mark Schulz
 Percept Group, Inc., 1997
 BOOK
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**SOULTSUNAMI
SINK OR SWIM IN NEW MILLENIUM CULTURE**

Sweet, Leonard J.
 Zondervan Publishing House, 1999
 BOOK
 The author believes we live in a pre-Christian society, fraught with challenges, dangers, critical choices, and above all, tremendous potential for the church. He explores topics ranging from the reentry of theism and spiritual longing to the impact of modern technology on today's society. It is a model of encouragement, affirming the church in its role as God's lifeboat, pointing the way to reach a world swept out to sea.

SURVIVAL OR REVIVAL: TEN KEYS TO CHURCH VITALITY

Calian, Carnegie Samuel
 Westminster John Knox Press, 1998
 BOOK
 Will churches merely survive in the next century? Or will they come alive? How can they work for congregational vitality and vision? The author challenges churches and their members to become committed to their own success and to take ownership of their future.

**TRANSFORMING THE MAINLINE CHURCH: LESSONS IN CHANGE
FROM PITTSBURGH'S CATHEDRAL OF HOPE**

Chesnut, Robert A.
 Geneva Press, 2000
 BOOK
 The story of the renewal of an urban church with a declining and graying congregation. By being more open to diversity, the pastor sparked a turnaround in membership, ministry, finances. Emphasizing the arts, a broad range of music, and addressing the religious hungers of a new generation were key.

**TRAVELING TOGETHER
A GUIDE FOR DISCIPLE-FORMING CONGREGATIONS**

Jones, Jeffrey D.
 Alban Institute, 2006
 BOOK
 The author guides readers through what it means to be a disciple, from key experiences that contribute to the growth of disciples to the practices of disciple-forming congregations. In this new world, disciple-filled congregations will be equipped to embrace the best parts of their church's heritage and reclaim it for a new day.

UNIQUE DYNAMICS OF THE SMALL CHURCH

Dudley, Carl S.
 The Alban Institute, Inc.
 BOOK
 A new perspective on the problem of the small economically marginal or submarginal congregation. It carries the past into the future and it will survive.