

Transformation Covenant Resources

RESOURCE	REFERENCE	USE COMMENTS
<b>ASSESSMENT RESOURCES</b>		
Studying Congregations	A new handbook by Nancy T. Ammerman and others	Using a comprehensive systems approach to congregations, this volume enables readers to analyze the ministries, stories, and processes that are at work in congregations. It provides techniques for studying the congregation as well as a framework for understanding the nature of the congregation.
Vitality Readiness Assessment	A congregational self study tool developed and test by the Kingsport District over four years	This set of eighteen questions for conducting a Holy conversation about congregation moving forward with vitality building.
The Externally Focused Church	A study guide by Rick Rusaw and Eric Swanson	Engaging the community with good news and good deeds is not just a tactic or even a foundational strategy of externally focused churches; it is at their very core; it is who they are. These churches have concluded that it's really not "church" if it's not engaged in the life of the community through ministry and service to others. Ministry and service are not programs reserved for a few extraordinarily dedicated individuals but are woven into every aspect of church life.
Memories, hopes,	Appreciated	Memories, Hopes, and

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<p>and Conversations</p> <p>Encyclopedia of Positive Questions</p>	<p>inquiry story by Mark Lau Branson</p> <p>Using Appreciative Inquiry to bring out the best in your organization</p>	<p>Conversations recounts the experience of First Presbyterian and outlines a process that any congregation can utilize to harness the energies of the congregation at all levels of its common life.</p>
<p>Five Practices of Fruitful Congregations</p>	<p>A study guide written by Bishop Robert Schnase, Missouri Conference</p>	<p>Though he first wrote it to describe the five core practices of congregational life for his Missouri congregations, the book is proving useful for congregations across the country and across denominations of the Christian faith. It includes a chapter on each practice plus a chapter on excellence and fruitfulness. The practices include Radical Hospitality, Passionate Worship, Intentional Faith Development, Risk-taking Mission and Service, and Extravagant Generosity.</p>
<p>Watching Over One Another in LOVE</p>	<p>A Wesleyan model for ministry assessment by Gwen Purushotham</p>	<p>This book offers a paradigm for ministry assessment that is grounded in a covenant of mutual support and accountability. Drawing on Wesleyan themes of grace and responsibility, Purushotham provides step-by-step guidance for creating a covenant-based ministry assessment process that holds persons accountable for fruit-bearing faith while</p>

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		<p>enabling the experience of ministry assessment to be edifying for both the church and the pastor.</p>
<p>Bearing Fruit</p>	<p>A study guide by Rev. Tom Berlin and Dr. Lovett Weems</p>	<p>Congregations need leaders who define ministry in terms of fruitfulness as well as faithfulness. They need pastors and lay leaders who ask about the outcomes of any given ministry or program, not just its process. Mostly, they need a vision of ministry that focuses on changing people’s lives. Absent that vision, ministry will fail.</p> <p>In <i>Bearing Fruit</i>, Lovett Weems and Tom Berlin provide readers with the tools they need to assess the fruit their ministry bears in the lives of their congregations, their communities, and the world.</p>
<p>Overflow</p>	<p>A study guide by Rev. Tom Berlin and Dr. Lovett Weems</p>	<p>In <i>Overflow</i>, Lovett Weems and Tom Berlin share research-based insights and tactical ideas that result in improved worship attendance and in fruitful congregations. The authors identify practices that lead to increased attendance. They offer clear instruction, showing church leaders the areas where we must pay attention throughout the year, and demonstrating new ways to approach worship planning.</p>

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<p>How to get along with your church and Church on the Edge of Somewhere</p>	<p>Two study guides by George B. Thompson addressing congregation understanding of culture and marginality</p>	<p>The central thesis is that ministers must develop "cultural capital." In order to lead, a minister must deeply understand her or his congregation--its traditions, values, informal structures, etc. A minister must also be attentive to the slow process through which a community (i.e. the church) adopts a newcomer (i.e. the minister) into its fold. Only through such cultural processes can a minister earn the capacity to lead. Thompson describes leadership as a form of cultural change and provides advice for the conflicts such change can evoke</p> <p>Thompson envisions a deeper, more prophetic call for congregations to explore the meaning of being in the world but not of it--a church on the "edge of somewhere."</p> <p>Thompson sees a church that is deeply engaged in ministering to the community while calling on others to commit to doing the same. By analyzing the interaction between a congregation's focus of identity and their stance with the world, Thompson has created a helpful grid for congregations to place themselves on today's cultural map.</p>

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<p>Finding our Story – Narrative Leadership and Congregational Change</p>	<p>Larry Golemon, Editor</p>	<p>Helping a community of faith 're-vision' its personal and collective narratives is one of the greatest leadership challenges of the age. In Finding Our Story, Larry Golemon, lead researcher of the Alban Institute's Narrative Leadership in Ministry project, has assembled essays by congregational consultants who use the power of story to help congregations heal, strengthen, and reinvent themselves. These consultants describe how narrative therapy works, explore its promise and its challenges, and share the practical wisdom of their own experiences along with their favorite models of narrative change to show how congregations can be transformed by re-authoring the operative stories they live by</p>
<p>Community Demographics Study</p>	<p>A study tool used to identify community diversity, trends, and indigenous culture as compared to the current congregation</p>	<p>Serving your community begins with understanding your community.</p> <p>Easy-to-use map based data analytics tools have established MissionInsite as the preferred choice for current community information.</p> <p>The PeopleView System™ is a GIS (Geo-demographic System) that provides community</p>

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		<p>information using state of the art spatial query technology. Community information is available for any custom geography anywhere in the United States.</p> <p>1) Determine Best Ministry Opportunities – Discovery of Ministry Opportunities using MissionInsite’s PeopleView System™ tools built on Google Maps. 2) Answer Strategic Ministry Questions by Neighborhood – Where are the Families in Our Ministry Area? What Neighborhoods Are Growing? What is The Stewardship Potential in Your Ministry Area?</p>
Shift	A study guide by Phil Maynard	<p>An exploration of 5 key shifts congregations must make to become vital, effective, and fruitful: 1. From Fellowship to Hospitality, 2. From Worship as an Event to Worship as a Lifestyle, 3. From Membership to Discipleship, 4. From 'Serve Us' to Service, and 5. From 'Survival Mentality' to Generosity.</p> <p>Based on years of research, coaching, and consulting with local congregations this book</p>

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		<p>provides helpful, practical methods for developing effective ministry.</p> <p>Most twenty-first century churches are neither missional nor effective in reaching people with the gospel. That's just the truth of the matter. Most of our churches are stuck, declining, aging and struggling in various ways. SHIFT is written most explicitly for the church that thought they had ministry figured out 30 years ago, but where nothing today is working as well as it used to work. If this is the case in the place that you call church this book may get your church's leaders thinking through the key movements for effective ministry.</p>
<b>VITALITY BUILDING RESOURCES</b>		
<p>Take the Next Step</p>	<p>A two day, eight hour workshop based upon the book by Dr. Lovett Weems</p>	<p>A discernment and ministry planning tool for those congregations who do not know what to do nor how to go about vitality building. This includes answering four questions: What is our identity? What is our purpose? Who is our neighbor? and What is our likely next step?</p>
<p>Vision Quest</p>	<p>A custom design series of workshops</p>	<p>A series of customized workshops for those congregations who have a</p>

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	building upon the existing congregation vitality work	vision for God’s preferred future but do not know how to transform that vision into action for aligning all current ministries toward that preferred future.
Partnersteps Parish Scenario Development	A proven guide for developing of cooperative ministries by Julia Kuhn Wallace	A guide for two or more congregations to enter into a potential mutual ministry experience for building each congregations gifts and talents
Coaching	Many resources can be drawn upon to establish district coaching resources	The team can provide coaching and facilitation assistance in their self determined vitality building initiative.
Evangelism Tool	Catch – a book and study guide by Debi Nixon with Adam Hamilton	<p><i>Catch</i> is a comprehensive program for invitational evangelism developed by the United Methodist Church of the Resurrection, one of the fastest-growing churches in the U.S. This newly revised and updated resource shows you how to attract visitors to your church, connect them with your faith community, and help them learn to know, love, and serve God.</p> <p>The guide describes the four parts of the Catch program:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Attracting People in Your Community (Marketing)</li> <li>2. Making Visitors Feel Welcome (Hospitality)</li> <li>3. Connecting and Following Up with Visitors (Connection)</li> <li>4. Inviting Others to Grow in</li> </ol>

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		Faith (Membership)
Evangelism Tool	Go Fish – a study guide by Andy Stanley	In this six-session companion study guide to the <i>Go Fish</i> DVD, Andy Stanley explores the motivation behind sharing our faith. Discover God’s heart for those who don’t know Him and the role that we can play in introducing others to Him. Along the way you will be equipped with tools that will help you make sharing your faith a natural part of your life.