

CONGREGATIONAL DEVELOPMENT CURRENT SELECTED BIBLIOGRAPHY

Ben Helmer
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Ammerman, Nancy T., et. al. 1998. *Studying Congregations*. Nashville: Abingdon

A handbook that includes chapters in assessment, discernment and leadership for congregational developers and churches. Extensive bibliography. Useful tool with a parish profile inventory and demographic and religious involvement variables.

Bandy, Thomas. 2001. *Facing Reality: A Tool for Congregational Mission Assessment*. Nashville: Abingdon.

Contains a complete assessment tool (with CD ROM) for Mission Assessment, a guide to demographic research, profile development, a leadership readiness test and other resources, probably more suitable for larger congregations with staff in addition to a rector.

Bandy, Thomas. 2001. *Christian Chaos*. Nashville: Abingdon.

A challenging treatment of why congregations get bogged down systemically and how to free them to do mission. Excellent discussion of the role of leadership enabling mission rather than controlling it. Somewhat technical, probably best used by leaders in congregational development.

Dudley, Carl S. and Ammerman, Nancy T. 2002. *Congregations in Transition, a Guide for Analyzing and Adapting in Changing Communities*. San Francisco: Jossey-Bass.

Addresses ways to survey the community for mission opportunities and suggestions for how to move to a new community that is more diverse and looks like your grocery store rather than the country club. Better for larger urban and suburban communities that are experiencing rapid demographic change.

Easum, Bill. 2001. *Unfreezing Moves, Following Jesus into the Mission Field*. Nashville: Abingdon.

This author is noted as a colleague of Tom Bandy. Together they have produced some of the most provocative literature on church growth and vitality in the decade. This book addresses the systemic ways churches avoid growth and helps leaders learn how to become permission giving and develop communities of vibrant faith.

Hadaway, C. Kirk. 2002. *A Report on the Episcopal Churches in the United States*. New York: Episcopal Church Office of Congregational Development

A well-done report on who we are as Episcopalians across the U.S. Includes colorful graphs and charts, our strong points and how we might move forward in growth and vitality. Excellent resource for evangelism and church growth committees in dioceses and churches.

Hadaway, C. Kirk. 2001. *Behold I Do a New Thing: Transforming Communities of Faith*. Cleveland: Pilgrim Press.

Well-written text that invites pastors and lay leaders to "begin a journey that will create the capacity for renewal and revitalization" in the church. Includes a helpful portrayal of various models and systems that result in static or declining congregations, and challenging models that lead to a new perspective and move the church to an incarnational community. Hadaway was recently hired as a full-time researcher in the Congregational Development Office at the Episcopal Church Center.

Hamilton, Adam. 2001. *Leading Beyond the Walls: Developing Congregations with a Heart for the Unchurched*. Nashville: Abingdon.

Adam Hamilton is pastor of the United Methodist Church of the Resurrection in Leawood, Kansas - a congregation that grew from several hundred to over six thousand members in ten years. Hamilton presents his principles of mission orientation and leadership development in a highly readable and concise way. This book makes growth seem possible based less on charismatic leaders and more on understanding what it means to be an incarnational community.

Rothauge, Arlin J., PhD. 1996. *The Life Cycle in Congregations*. Congregational Vitality Series, Congregational Ministries Office, Episcopal Church Center. (limited copies available)

Rothauge describes stages, faith journey and leadership models in terms of the life cycle of congregations, including decline and trail, death and resurrection. Also contains an interesting life cycle of urban settlement. This monograph is being re-written along with other material for re-publication in 2003.

Sample, Tex 1998. *The Spectacle of Worship in a Wired World* Nashville: Abingdon.

The author is well-known for his brilliant and intelligent treatment of culture and religion. This book offers insight and suggestions about making worship relevant and complimentary to the music of the culture we live in. Useful for larger congregations but also should be considered by small churches.

VIDEO

20/20 An overview of the 20/20 initiative with remarks by the Presiding Bishop - a good introduction for people who don't know anything about 20/20 and are afraid to ask! Produced by the Communications Office at the Episcopal Church Center.