

Congregational Transformation

"Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your minds, so that you may discern what is the will of God — what is good and acceptable and perfect." Romans 12:1-2





Introduction

Congregational Transformation: Directory of Resources is another tool that has been developed by the DHM Congregational Transformation team to assist congregations and regions as together we travel the Good News road of transformation. There are many resources and processes included and as we know, no one single resource or process will fit every congregation. The congregational transformation journey is unique to every congregation and each congregation will need to seek out the resources that fit it best. As a reminder, congregational transformation is a process, not a program, so please don't be disappointed if you can't find a program in this directory that tells a congregation how to get from point A to point B.

There are certainly even more resources than are listed in this directory but these resources were suggested to us by pastors, regional staff and congregations that have already begun the journey. We hope you find this directory a helpful tool and we pray God's richest blessings on you and your congregation as you journey the Good News Road of transformation. God does remarkable things ... we are a resurrection people. Believe it!



Ammerman, Nancy, Jackson Carroll, Carl Dudley, and Bill McKinney. (1998) *Studying Congregations: A New Handbook*. Abingdon Press. This manual presents several “frames” for congregational study, trying to bring the sociological and theological together in a handbook that clergy and congregational leaders could actually use.

Bandy, Thomas. (2001) *Kicking Habits: Welcome Relief for Addicted Churches*. Abingdon Press. Based on the idea that churches are not growing or that are declining are addicted to self-destructive practices. Identifies these habits and provides a phase-by-phase strategy for transformation.

Bandy, Thomas. (1999) *Moving Off the Map: A Field Guide to Changing the Congregation*. Abingdon Press. A step-by-step process by which congregations can engage in making change.

Bandy, Thomas G. *Spirited Leadership: Empowering People to Do What Matters*. Chalice Press. Spirited Leadership identifies the nature of leadership needed to keep organizations flexible, dynamic, and mission-centered. It challenges churches and businesses to unleash the power of their trained leaders in teams focused on the market by having a small management team focused on leader development, not on product or program development. Order from www.ChalicePress.com, www.amazon.com, or 1 (800) 366-3383.

Bohren, H. Benjamin, Sandhya R. Jha and Paula Bishop Pociecta. *And Still We Rise: A Six Part Study on Personal & Congregational Transformation*. Chalice Press. And Still We Rise is a six-week study to help congregations begin to develop a scriptural understanding of transformation. The study moves people through anxieties about change, the need to trust in God’s power, what one has to give up in order to open oneself to God’s transforming plans, and how to become transformers in a congregation and in the community. Order from www.ChalicePress.com, www.amazon.com, or 1 (800) 366-3383.

Bullard, George W. (2005) *Pursuing the Full Kingdom Potential of Your Congregation*. Lake Hickory Resources/Chalice Press. This book describes the approach and steps of the Spiritual, Strategic Journey.

Bullard, George W. Jr. *Every Congregation Needs a Little Conflict (in The Columbia Partnership Series)*. Chalice Press. The direct result of George Bullard’s twenty-five years of work in the area of training congregational and denominational leaders in various strategies to address conflict, this book empowers congregations to use conflict to deal with issues in a healthy and productive manner. Bullard guides church leaders in how to use conflict as a positive force for transition and change, and how to handle unhealthy conflict that might arise. Order from www.ChalicePress.com, www.amazon.com, or 1 (800) 366-3383.

Callahan, Kennon and Tanner, Ian. (1997) *Twelve Keys to an Effective Church*. Jossey-Bass. Identifies the essential characteristics of effective, growing churches and shows how these can be developed in any church. Provides practical ideas and long-range planning tools, plus theological understanding that enables congregations to build on their strengths.

Chandler, John P. *Courageous Church Leadership: Conversations with Effective Practitioners (in The Columbia Partnership Leadership Series)*. Chalice Press. Courageous Church Leadership offers a window into the minds and hearts of some of North America’s top church leaders through a series of interviews with 12 extraordinary pastors. The aim of the book is to help the reader learn about innovative and even daring leadership and ministerial practices in a non-directive way. Includes conversations with: Fred Craddock, Brian McLaren, Erwin McManus, Bob Russell, Leith Anderson, David Chadwick, Mickey Rapier, Michael Slaughter, Lance Watson, Steve Chang, Robert Cupp, and Gary Harrell. Order from www.ChalicePress.com, www.amazon.com, or 1 (800) 366-3383.

Collins, Jim. (2001) *Good to Great*. Harper Collins. An examination of companies that made a substantial improvement in their performance over time and the traits they had in common. Shows what institutions do to keep from being great and accept what is “good enough.”

Delloff, Linda-Marie. (2002) *Public Offerings: Stories from the Front Lines of Community Ministry*. Alban Institute. Describes how all ministry in, of and beyond the congregation is public ministry.

Dudley, Carl S. and Nancy T. Ammerman. (2002) *Congregations in Transition: A Guide for Analyzing, Assessing and Adapting in Changing Communities*. This handbook takes a user-friendly sociological approach to the congregation and neighborhood in transition. The body of the manual is a step-by-step investigation with congregational exercises to uncover the gifts and challenges before the congregation that wants to transform so that they may decide upon a faithful future.

Friedman, Edwin. *Generation to Generation*. Guilford Press. The classic on leadership, especially how leaders need to be engaged with or connected to the “body” of the believers, yet distinct enough to have independent feelings and thoughts (like the “head” of a body).

Galindo, Israel. (2004) *The Hidden Lives of Congregations: Discerning Church Dynamics*. Alban. Church leaders often fail to understand the underlying dynamics of congregational life. Without that understanding they frequently experience a disconnect between themselves and the congregation. In our time, congregations seem to need pastoral leadership, ordained or lay, who provide vision and connectedness. This book opens the doors to understanding as it lifts up the particular journey of God’s people in our time.

Gladwell, Malcolm. (2002) *The Tipping Point: How Little Things Can Make A Big Difference*. Back Bay Books. A wonder primer on why movements begin and change the society and structures around them. Includes the critical leverage points to consider when looking at promoting movements.

Hadaway, C. Kirk. (2001) *Behold I Do A New Thing: Transforming Communities of Faith*. Cleveland: The Pilgrim Press. In this book the author recognizes the essential and massive work of transformation. He offers a helpful analysis of four congregational types that seem to “work” these days and suggests that all of them can move across the grid to what he calls an “incarnational” congregation.

Hamm, Richard L. *Recreating the Church: Leadership for the Postmodern Age. (in the Columbia Partnership Leadership Series)* “...asks an essential-and deeply faithful-question of the church: Where are we going? Then, through analysis and insight into both past and future, and with an unwavering commitment to the mission of the church, the author points us in the right directions, where God’s Spirit is at work, where lives are being transformed and communities are finding healing and hope. It’s a road map all of us in the mainline church should have... and a journey we all ought to be joining.”

-Wesley Granberg-Michaelson, General Secretary, Reformed Church in America.

Order from www.ChalicePress.com, www.amazon.com, or 1 (800) 366-3383.

Hammett, Edward H. with James R. Pierce. *Reaching People Under 40 While Keeping People Over 60. (in the Columbia Partnership Series)*. Chalice Press. *Reaching People Under 40 While Keeping People Over 60* looks at the church as it seeks to function in a new world. It looks at the differences in the generations and at postmodernism-not just a generational difference but a global change.

“This book should be on the desk of every pastor of an established church for the next two decades.”

- Bill Easum, Easum, Bandy & Associates.

Order from www.ChalicePress.com, www.amazon.com, or 1 (800) 366-3383

Heifetz, Ronald. (1998) *Leadership Without Easy Answers*. Belknap Press. An excellent resource about how leaders can respond to the challenges of today’s world in which competing forces pull them in different ways. Two key concepts that are helpful are “Getting on the Balcony”, the ability to disengage and reflect on a current conflict, and “Technical Change”, changing small things or rearranging furniture on the Titanic, vs. “Adaptive Change”, changing systems or switching boats.

Herrington, Jim, Mike Bonem, and James Furr. (2002) *Leading Congregational Change*. Jossey-Bass Press. A wonderful step-by-step description, in general terms, of the stages of congregational change. Includes scripture and many helpful resources from the business world artfully woven into the narrative of the stages.

Kotter, John. (1996) *Leading Change*. Harvard Business School Press. The classic text of the eight stages that business need to consider as they move through significant, sustained, and systematic change.

Leas, Speed. (1996) *Moving Your Church Through Conflict*. Alban Institute. Spells out appropriate responses when conflict arises and contains easily applicable concepts and practical strategies. This paper is available for download only. You will need Adobe Acrobat Reader in order to read this file.

Linn, Jan. (1998) *Reclaiming Evangelism: A Practical Guide for Mainline Congregations*. Chalice Press. Based on the belief that evangelism flows from spirituality and is the intentional witness to Jesus Christ in everything the church does. Outlines eleven steps for congregation transformation.

Lott, David. (2001) *Conflict Management in Congregations*. Alban Institute. An anthology series of twenty classic Alban Institute works on congregational conflict. Includes the writings of Speed Leas, George Parsons, Margaret Bruehl, Gil Rendle, Alice Mann, and Roy Pneumann. Covers the dynamics of conflict, conflict management techniques, and dealing with conflict in specific contexts.

McConnell, William T. (in The Columbia Partnership Leadership Series). *Renew Your Congregation: Healing the Sick, Raising the Dead*. Chalice Press. Using examples and testimonies from pastors of various denominations across the country, McConnell shows both the dangers and the delights of leading a church transformation. He explains the necessity of spiritual and organizational changes and the pain endured in making them. Order from www.ChalicePress.com, www.amazon.com, or 1 (800) 366-3383.

Mann, Alice. (1999) *Can Our Church Live? Redeveloping Congregations in Decline*. Bethesda: Alban. This book asks and responds to the frank questions of congregations that are just recognizing their decline and are concerned about their future. Using the lifecycle theory, Kotter's change theory, and other helpful tools of analysis, Mann helps congregational leaders where they are and how to take advantage of this stage in order to choose new life.

Mead, Loren B. (1993) *More Than Numbers: The Ways Churches Grow*. Alban Institute. Explores what church growth and evangelism really mean in a time when it is mathematically impossible for every congregation to achieve significant numerical growth. Argues that spiritual, organizational, and missional growth are just as important as numerical growth.

Mead, Loren B. (2001) *The Once and Future Church*. Bethesda: The Alban Institute. This edition collects Alban Institute founder Loren B. Mead's best selling books *The Once and Future Church*, *Transforming Congregations for the Future*, and *Five Challenges for the Once and Future Church* in a single volume. *The Once and Future Church* explains how the church meets the world in the lives of the laity, rather than in far off missions and how the church must re-invent its mission. *Transforming Congregations for the Future* focuses on the task and calling of the church to live and breathe the good news promise of spiritual transformation for all to see and explores how we need to change as institutions and as individuals within the institutions. *Five Challenges for the Once and Future Church* presents five key challenges facing today's churches and how they represent opportunities for the evolutionary, transformative changes that need to take place if the church is to remain a viable institution in the 21st century.

Meyer, Richard. (1990-2002) *One Anothering*. Available through Amazon.com. This 3-volume set includes: "Volume I: Biblical Building Blocks for Small Groups, Volume II: Building Spiritual Community in Small Groups, and Volume III: Creating Significant Spiritual Community."

Oswald, Roy M. and Robert E. Friedrich. (1996) *Discerning Your Congregations Future*. Alban. This book approaches the planning process from a perspective of strategic planning with a spiritual grounding as the starting point. The authors outline a specific step-by-step process for involving the congregation in a discernment of what they believe God is calling them to be and do.

Payne, Bishop Claude E. and Hamilton Beazley. (2000) *Reclaiming the Great Commission: A Practical Model for Transforming Denominations and Congregations*. Jossey-Bass. Describes a biblically-based model that can guide the members of a congregation into deeper and broader evangelism, an enhanced experience of community, and a renewed hope of personal and spiritual transformation.

Peterson, Eugene. — Books Especially for Pastors. If pastors are going to lead their congregations in transformation, the work begins with the pastor and other leaders. The first part of the work is often internal and not immediately visible. Pastors need to be spiritually grounded and able to help others on their journey. Pastors have the task of helping congregations catch a vision of where the church is being called and the importance of being connected with God and each other.

(1992) *Five Smooth Stones for Pastoral Work*. Scripture offers a solid foundation for much of the work pastors do and invites them into a fresh look at the place of scripture. 1. The pastoral work of prayer-directing: Song of Songs; 2. The pastoral work of story-making: Ruth; 3. The pastoral work of pain-sharing: Lamentations; 4. The pastoral work of nay-saying: Ecclesiastes; 5. The pastoral work of community-building: Esther

(1993) *The Contemplative Pastor: Returning to the Art of Spiritual Direction*. Pastors are called to become "spiritual directors" for a congregation, helping people see the active presence of God in their midst, teaching them with ways of prayer and faith, and helping them become more than a business organization or club as they seek to become the body of Christ.

(1994) *Under the Predictable Plant: An Exploration in Vocational Holiness*. With the book of Jonah as a mariner's chart, Eugene Peterson sets sail across the deep sea of his own ministry. And like Jonah, he finds in his pastoral vocation seasons of fleeing from Tarshish, churning in the raging storm, praying in the lonely belly of the fish, and finding his way to Nineveh, the place of mission. This book provides refreshment for all who, fearfully or gladly, reluctantly or eagerly, sense the lure of God's calling

Poling-Goldeen, David and Shannon L. Jung. (2001) *Discovering Hope: Building Vitality in Rural Congregations*. Augsburg Fortress. Gives stories of what 26 effective rural congregations have to say about God's activity in and through them and models best practices for vital ministry and action steps for other congregations.

Reese, Martha Grace with Afterword by Brian McLaren. *Unbinding the Gospel: Real Life Evangelism (Red Ribbon). Church Leader's Study*. Chalice Press. This book is among the top-selling evangelism books on Amazon.com. Thousands of congregations now use it across a dozen or more mainline Protestant denominations. Order from www.ChalicePress.com, www.amazon.com, or 1 (800) 366-3383.

Reese, Martha Grace with Dawn Darwin Weak and Catherine Riddle Caffey, foreword by George Hunter, III. *Unbinding Your Church: Pastor's Guide (Green Ribbon)*. Chalice Press. This collection of fully integrated resources will help your church work and pray through the Unbinding the Gospel process. Included are step-by-step planning tools as well as worship resources to allow you-the pastor-to spend time on prayer, teaching, and working directly with others in your church. The planning tools include calendars, checklists for church staff, weekly scripture tie-ins, sample church newsletter campaigns, diagrams, simple to elaborate E-vent planning suggestions, Web site ideas, specific lesson plans, and much more. Worship resources include sermons, prayers, and forms that have been placed on the Web for FREE and easy access and download. Order from www.ChalicePress.com, www.amazon.com, or 1 (800) 366-3383.

Reese, Martha Grace. *Unbinding Your Heart: 40 Days of Prayer & Faith Sharing (Purple Ribbon)*. Unbinding Your Heart is a six-week individual and small-group study for your entire congregation. Church leaders should first study Unbinding the Gospel (the church leaders' study) that was selected by The Christian Century magazine as a featured "Take and Read" book in its 2007 Book Issue. Then use Unbinding Your Heart as a study and devotional for the whole congregation. Order from www.ChalicePress.com, www.amazon.com, or 1 (800) 366-3383.

Rendel, Gilbert. (1999) *Behavioral Covenants in Congregations: A Handbook for Honoring Differences*. Alban Institute. Explains how to live creatively together despite differences of age, race, culture, opinion, gender, theological or political position. Describes a method of establishing behavioral covenants that includes leadership instruction, training tools, resources, small group exercises, and plans for meetings and retreats.

Rendel, Gilbert R. and Alice Mann. (2003) *Holy Conversations*. Alban. Gil Rendel and Alice Mann have put together an excellent resource book for any church that wants to seek the answers to three basic questions: Who are we? What has God called us to do or be? and Who is our neighbor? The resources are very practical and represent the best processes and tools used by many of the consultants of the Alban Institute. Purchasers of the book can download reproducible versions of many of the book's resources and handouts from the Alban web site.

Rendel, Gilbert R. (1997) *Leading Change in the Congregation: Spiritual and Organizational Tools for Leaders*. Alban Institute. Pulls together theory, research, and his work with churches facing change to provide leaders with practical diagnostic models and tools. Helps leaders “lead change” in a spiritual and healthy way.

Roberts, Denton and Robert Hill. (2003) *Empowering Congregations: Successful Strategies for 21st Century Leadership*. Hope Publishing House. Provides assessment tools, development session plans and examples of evaluation forms to help congregations discuss and do God’s will by empowering relationships with both the Creator and the created.

Robinson, Anthony. (2003) *Transforming Congregational Culture*. Grand Rapids: Erdman Publishing. Robinson argues that what is necessary to meet the call of God today in congregations is not only church growth techniques but a profound change at the level of congregational culture. Extremely helpful is Robinson’s development of the multiple cultural shifts congregations need to address.

Roxburgh, Alan. *Crossing the Bridge: Leadership in a Time of Change*. Online version available from Percept. We are not only living in a time of enormous change, we are living in a time of transition from a world that was and the world that will be.

Roxburgh, Alan. (2006) *Missional Leader: Equipping Your Church to Reach a Changing World*. Roxburgh highlights the character required, the skills required, and the process required of pastors seeking to innovate toward the missionally-engaged congregation.

Roxburgh, Alan. (2006) *The Sky is Falling!?! Leaders Lost in Transition*. If we need new kinds of churches, we cannot develop them with old kinds of leaders. This book is a proposal for leadership communities to take new risks for God.

Schwarz, Christian A. (1996) *Natural Church Development: A Guide to Eight Essential Qualities of Healthy Churches*. Church Smart Resources. Presents the results of an international study of over 1,000 churches in 32 countries to discover how eight essential qualities impact the growth of a local church. Also available is a small booklet that conveys the key concepts of this book. “The ABC’s of Natural Church Development.” (1998).

Sellon, Mary K., Daniel P. Smith and Gail F. Grossman. (2002) *Redeveloping the Congregation*. Alban. This book is especially useful for congregations that have been on a decline for several years and offers a specific model for helping to reverse that decline and “begin the redevelopment process.” The authors suggest that the redevelopment process is one that may take as long as seven years and is not for those who want a “quick fix.” They offer these three critical questions for the congregation: Who are we? Who is our neighbor? Why are we here?

Slaughter, Mike and Warren Bird. (1999). *Real Followers: Beyond Virtual Christianity*. This book challenges any believer to go deeper and will teach you how to think God’s thoughts as the key to discerning God’s will. Study questions at the end of each chapter make this a great choice for use in your personal devotion time or with a small group.

Snow, Luther K. (2004) *The Power of Asset Mapping*. Alban. Asset mapping is a way of thinking together as a church community about what their gifts are that God has given them for ministry and mission. The book can be used to help congregations begin their transformation efforts by discovery of the amazing resources God has granted them. This book also provides a step-by-step process outline that is easy to use with small or large groups.

Southerland, Dan. (2002) *Transitioning: Leading Your Church Through Change*. Zondervan. Drawing principles from the book of Nehemiah, this book maps out an eight-step strategy for moving from a typical, program-driven church to a purpose-driven church.

Steinke, Peter L. (1996) *Healthy Congregations: A Systems Approach*. Alban. This is a basic book for anyone wanting to understand congregations and how to affect change. Systems thinking is essential if churches are to see beyond the immediate. At a time when churches are often clergy focused instead of mission focused this book can help open the doors to a different future, one to which God is calling the church at the beginning of this 21st century.

Straub, Gary and Judy G. Turner. *Your Calling as a Leader*. Chalice Press. Filled with real-life illustrations to help groups and individuals to seek and find God's direction and God's design for the church even through the most difficult situations. Using principles of spiritual leadership, *Your Calling as a Leader* provides concrete applications that show congregations how to reach spiritual agreement and intentionally train spiritual leaders. Order from www.ChalicePress.com, www.amazon.com, or 1 (800) 366-3383

Warren, Rick. (1995) *The Purpose Drive Church*. Zondervan. Explains that when churches think first about their health, growth is sure to follow. Offers a people-building process involving worship, community, discipleship, ministry, and evangelism.

Weems, Lovett H. Jr. (2003) *Take the Next Step, Leading Lasting Change in the Church*. Nashville: Abingdon Press. This work gives much needed permission to congregations to discern their own process of transformation, and, when it is impossible to see the future clearly enough to develop a plan to achieve it, to just take the next step.

Wheatley, Margaret J. (2002) *Turning to One Another: Simple Conversations to Restore Hope to the Future*. San Francisco: Berrett-Koehler Publishers, Inc. Wheatley is immersed in the relationship between the "new science," community building and spirituality. She has hope for the future as people and groups practice the art of purposeful conversation.

Williamsen, Thomas. (1997) "Attending Parishioners' Spiritual Growth". Alban Institute. Offers practical steps for developing 'parishioners' intimate and experiential knowledge of God. Describes methods for enhancing the spiritual development of individuals and groups through Sunday School, worship, small groups, devotions, studies, retreats, and vigils.

Williamson, Clark M. and Ronald J. Allen. (1998) *The Vital Church: Teaching, Worship, Community, Service*. Chalice Press. This book is about the why of congregational transformation. It offers a way for the church to look at itself that is easily understandable and then opens the doors to finding practical solutions. Vital congregations have a balanced mix of teaching, worship, community, and service. Most declining churches have neglected parts of the whole ministry, often ignoring the importance of education or putting a lot of energy into service or community and neglected worship.



For books published by Alban, see contact information in organization section. All others can be found through www.ChalicePress.com, Amazon.com and/or Cokesbury.com.



Organizations

Allelon

Alan Roxburgh
PO Box 639
Eagle, ID 83616
(604) 762-6354
Fax: (208) 947-1610
www.allelon.org

Allelon is a 501(C)3 non-profit foundation located in Eagle, Idaho. They are a multi-generational network of missional church leaders, schools and parachurch organizations which envisions, inspires, engages, resources, trains and educates leaders for the church and its mission in our culture. Said simply, together we are a movement of missional leaders.

The Alban Institute

2121 Cooperative Way, Ste. 100
Herndon, VA 20171
(800) 486-1318
www.alban.org
www.congregationalresources.org

The Alban Institute is an ecumenical, interfaith organization which supports congregations through consulting services, research, book publishing and educational seminars. They are a not-for-profit organization supported by program fees and contributions.

Bullard's Tutorial for Redevelopment

Spiritual, Strategic Journey
www.congregationalresources.org/bullard.asp

George Bullard is the Director of the Hollifield Leadership Center and Lake Hickory Learning Communities. He has established a web-based tutorial for the use of congregations wishing to work on redevelopment.

Columbia Partnership

Dick Hamm
www.thecolumbiapartnership.org

The Columbia Partnership is a community of Christian leaders seeking to transform the capacity of Christ-followers in churches and denominations to pursue and sustain vital Christ-centered ministry. They provide coaching, consulting, speaking, presenting of seminars/learning experiences, future

planning, publications, networking and brokering of knowledge and services. They seek to develop the capacities of leaders and organizations for learning, change and transformation.

Barna Research Group

5528 Everglades St.
Ventura, CA 93003
(805) 658-8885
Fax: (805) 658-7298
www.barna.org

A full-service marketing research company located in Ventura, California, who provides information and analysis regarding cultural trends and the Christian Church. Their vision is to provide organizations with current, accurate and reliable information in bite-sized pieces and at affordable prices, to help facilitate effective and strategic decision-making.

Global Mission Church

Division of Overseas Ministries
P O Box 1986
Indianapolis, IN 46206
(317) 713-2575
dom@disciples.org
www.globalministries.org

Many congregations actively pursue a global mission ministry through education, advocacy and stewardship. For others, the Global Mission Church initiative provides a springboard for trying something new. Wherever your congregation fits, this program can challenge you to stretch toward a new level of interest in, and commitment to, God's world. Challenge yourself to grow as a Global Mission Church. Whether your next step is to find a world map, study globalization or plan a mission exposure trip, "Go global!" as you live out your vision and mission.

The "Be A Global Mission Church" booklet is available which includes steps to take, ideas for action and a mission evaluation tool. This initiative is sponsored by **GLOBAL MINISTRIES**, a common witness of the Division of Overseas Ministries, Christian Church (Disciples of Christ), and Wider Church Ministries, United Church of Christ, 700 Prospect Avenue, 7th Floor, Cleveland, OH 44115-1100, (216) 736-3209, wcm@ucc.org

**Church Extension
Building Planning Workbook
P.O. Box 7030
Indianapolis, IN 46207
(800) 274-1883
invest@churchextension.org**

Once a congregation has identified or confirmed its ministry focus, Church Extension provides a workbook and consulting services that can be helpful as a building planning group discerns space needed for a congregation's ministry. It is important that some form of ministry planning occur prior to using this workbook. "Claiming God's Vision (revised)" is a suggested ministry planning guide, and is available from Church Extension or Disciples Home Missions.

To request the Building Planning Workbook contact church extension.

**Claiming God's Vision (Revised)
Available from Disciples Home Missions or
Church Extension**

"Claiming God's Vision," a guide jointly produced by Disciples Home Missions and Church Extension, is designed to assist congregations as they pray and seek God's guidance for future direction in ministry. Similar to the initial Claiming God's Vision guide, it is a planning process which emphasizes prayer, the use of scripture and the importance of discerning God's will for a congregation.

This strategic ministry planning tool consists of an outline of the process as well as resources which are intended to be reproduced. It helps congregations assess their current ministry situation, determine priorities and goals, and develop a plan of action.

**Congregational Resources
"Congregational Resource Guide"
www.congregationalresources.org**

The Alban Institute and the Indianapolis Center for Congregations, with funding from the Lilly Endowment, Inc., have created the *Congregational Resource Guide* to help congregational leaders connect with resources they need to gain insight into problems and to encourage transformation in their communities of faith. This resource guide is available on the Internet at www.congregationalresources.org and contains resources on congregational administration, congregational vitality, building issues, leadership development, outreach ministries, and specialized ministries according to age or interest, spirituality, and worship.

**Easum, Bandy and Associates
P.O. Box 780
Port Aransas, TX 78373
(361) 749-5800
www.easumbandy.com**

Easum, Bandy & Associates (EBA) trains church leaders and consults with congregations and denominations to equip the church for the post-modern world. They train and consult across the USA and Canada with all Christian groups. EBA prepares congregations and faith-based organizations for mission in the 21st century by training innovative leaders with a passion to grow disciples of Christ, and by providing resources, services and networks to equip faithful and effective Christian ministries.

Growing Disciples: Creating a Climate for Growth in Your Congregation (Cost: \$17)
Disciples Home Missions
P.O. Box 1986
Indianapolis, IN 46206
(888) 346-2631
www.discipleshomemissions.org

“Growing Disciples” is a simple process for congregations to use over the course of one year. It involves calling forth a group of spiritual leaders, called the “Prayer Force,” as well as small group formation. In small groups, participants share spiritual autobiographies and pray with a scripture passage on the nature and purpose of the church. Everyone in the congregation is encouraged to keep a “Daily Appointment With God,” reading and praying with passages from the Gospels, as well as journaling.

When a congregation uses “Growing Disciples,” the following results happen:

- *Clearer sense of purpose for the congregation.
- *Foundation for small group life in the congregation.
- *Development of spiritual leaders.
- *Greater community and Biblical literacy.
- *Creation of a climate for growth.

The Jesus Connection
Jan Linn, Ministry Leader
www.thejesusconnection.com

The Jesus Connection has the goal of assisting mainline congregations in a process of spiritual and structural transformation. The Jesus Connection has developed a systematic process for renewal of mainline churches based on John 15, where Jesus teaches about the vine and the branches. The process is called “A Path to Spiritual and Structural Transformation.” It begins with the senior minister and proceeds through key lay leaders of the congregation. It is a comprehensive program that involves a number of seminar experiences to lead congregational leaders to embark on a “Year of Discovery.” During this time, Spiritual Life Groups are formed within the congregation, as the church begins to reconnect to Jesus Christ in life changing ways. Jan Linn, a Disciples pastor, is the Ministry Leader of The Jesus Connection.

Leadership Network
2501 Cedar Springs
Suite 200
Dallas, TX 75201
(800) 765-5323 or (214) 969-5950
Fax: (214) 969-9392
www.leadnet.org

Leadership Network: Advance Scouts for the Emerging Church. Leadership Network is a private foundation created for the purpose of identifying, networking and providing resources for senior ministers and staff of large congregations in the United States. Their mission is to accelerate the emergence of effective churches to help them develop leadership teams, equip and deploy people for service, understand and engage the culture, build authentic community and achieve missional impact. They have expanded their initial purpose to focus on leaders to effect a wider distribution of change and innovation in lay mobilization and the equipping church, denominational leadership at the middle and regional level, urban churches, community transformation and the next generation of emerging leaders.

Net Results (NEA)
(806) 762-8094, ext. 105
www.netresults.org
netresults@netresults.org

Net Results, Inc., provides practical insights and methods through:

- a journal on church vitality, “Net Results” with readers in more than sixty denominations.
- practical “how to” articles on 42 topics that help church leaders meet their toughest challenges.
- workshops and consultations for congregations and regional structures.
- national events—NEW/NEA Workshops.

Natural Church Development **www.naturalchurchdevelopment.org**

Natural Church Development's process includes a diagnostic survey, a church profile, and a consultant. Using the diagnostic survey a congregation determines which of its eight quality characteristics is least developed. Once the congregation has determined its "minimum factor", the church is ready to use Schwarz's biotic principles to grow. These principles include: interdependence, multiplication, energy transformation, multi-usage, symbiosis, and functionality.

Natural Church Development: A Guide to Eight Essential Qualities of Healthy Churches. Church Smart Resources. Presents the results of an international study of over 1,000 churches in 32 countries to discover how eight essential qualities impact the growth of a local church. Also available is a small booklet that conveys the key concepts of this book—*The ABC's of Natural Church Development.* (1998).

Those key concepts are:

<i>Empowering leadership</i>	<i>Gift-oriented ministry</i>
<i>Passionate spirituality</i>	<i>Functional structures</i>
<i>Inspiring worship service</i>	<i>Holistic small groups</i>
<i>Need-oriented evangelism</i>	

Percept and Link2Lead.com

Percept is a company that can provide a complete and detailed community demographic package for your congregation including key ministry themes for your community.

Link2Lead is a website for local church pastors and lay leaders. It is brought to you by Percept. It provides the latest information about your community, hands-on tools to better understand and develop your own capabilities, a variety of additional resources to help you in leading your congregation into the new world of opportunities awaiting us in the 21st century. Contact your regional office for more information on Percept and Link2Lead.

**"Waking Up A Sleeping Congregation:
Ways to Jump Start the Spiritual Heart"**
Disciples Home Missions
P.O. Box 1986
Indianapolis, IN 46206
(888) 346-2631
www.discipleshomemissions.org

Healthy, growing congregations are spiritually alive, have a clear sense of purpose, are actively involved in the mission of Jesus Christ, and are making new disciples. Does this describe your congregation? If not...this packet of materials is designed especially for you. This packet contains simple ideas for people who care about congregations that are stagnant or declining in membership, where morale is low, where it is hard to get anyone to do anything, and where members seem spiritually asleep. This is not a program. This packet describes six ways of helping individual Christians and the congregation as a whole wake up to the living Christ, who can make all the difference. Contact R. Wayne Calhoun for more information.
realhoun@dhm.disciples.org



Web Sites

Alban Institute — www.alban.org

Allelon — www.allelon.org

Center for Congregations — www.centerforcongregations.org

Center for Parish Development — www.missionalchurch.org

Columbia Partnership — www.thecolumbiapartnership.org

Church Extension — www.churchextension.org

Developing Consensus Points. Help to guide readers through resources. <http://www.discipleshomemissions.org/files/Trans-DevelopingConsensus.pdf>

Disciples Churches Transformation List-Serve (correspond with others about and listen in to a ongoing conversation about local church transformation): groups.yahoo.com/group/transformingcongregations/

Disciples Home Missions — <http://www.discipleshomemissions.org/pages/Transformation>

Easum, Bandy and Associates — www.easumbandy.com

Global Ministries — www.globalministries.org

Healthy Congregations — Healthy Congregations, Inc. exists to develop resources, train leaders, and educate and consult with congregations committed to the development of healthy emotional processes. www.hcongreations.net

Lazarus Project — The Lazarus Project is a network of congregations using some simple principles to promote renewed vitality in churches which had been declining, dormant or dying. www.lazarusproject.org

Leadership Network — www.leadnet.org

Link2Lead — www.link2lead.com

Natural Church Development — www.ncd-international.org/

Net Results — www.netresults.org

Percept — www.perceptgroup.com

The Jesus Connection — www.thejesusconnection.com

Valparaiso Project — The Valparaiso Project's purpose is to develop resources to help contemporary people live in the Christian Faith with vitality and integrity in changing times. www.practicingourfaith.org

Regions with Congregational Transformation Web Sites

Northern California—www.ccncn.org

Capital Area—www.cccadisciples.org

Central Rocky Mountain —
www.centralrockymountainindisciples.org

Georgia — www.gadisciples.org

Kansas — www.kansasdisciples.org

Kentucky — www.ccinky.net

North Carolina — www.ncdisciples.org

Northwest—www.disciplesnw.org

Ohio—www.ccinoh.org

Pacific Southwest — www.DisciplesPSWR.org