

## Bibliography of Healthy Church Resources

*The ABC's of Natural Church Development.* Christian A. Schwarz. Church Smart Resources, 1998. ISBN 1-889638-04-8. In just 20 minutes you can discover the most important principles of church development as they relate to every Christian and every church. This group has several excellent resources in this area.

*The Church Transition Workbook: Getting the Church in Gear.* Bill Kemp. Discipleship Resources, 2004. ISBN: 0-88177-422-7. Kemp describes a process to help church that are going through a crisis, whether the loss of pastor or decline of membership or a change in community circumstances.

*Churchworks A Well-Body Book for Congregations.* Anne Odin Heller. Skinner House Books, 1999. ISBN 1-55896-378-2. Using the human body as a metaphor for the congregation, this accessible and ingenious handbook provides essential advice for growing and sustaining a healthy church, including help for diagnosing and treating the chronic ailments of church life. Covers vital congregational concerns – spiritual development, covenants and mission statements, growth and new membership, conflict resolution, lay and professional ministry, congregational structure and more.

*Creating a Healthier Church.* Ronald W. Richardson. Fortress Press, 1996. ISBN 0-8006-2955-8. Rev. Richardson has written a practical guide for applying Family System Theory to the local church setting. Addressing the basics – anxiety, closeness and distance, reactivity, triangles, and birth order – Richardson offers practical tools to assess a congregation's emotional health.

*Cultivating Christian Community.* Thomas R. Hawkins. Discipleship resources, 2001. ISBN: 0-88177-327-1. Hawkins identifies six qualities of Christian community. He helps leaders incorporate these six qualities into the variety of groups within a congregation.

*Equipped for Every Good Work: Building a Gifts-Based Church.* Dan Dick and Barbara miller Dick. Discipleship Resources, 2001. ISBN: 0-88177-352-2. Here is a four-tool process that encompasses spirituality types, interaction styles, and working preferences. The authors shift congregational focus from *what we do* to *who we are* as a called, gifted, and empowered people of God.

*Healthy Congregations: A Systems Approach.* Peter L. Steinke. Alban Institute, 1996. ISBN 1-5669-9173-0. Using multiple graphics and stories, Steinke describes the disruptive issues that fracture a congregation, and he offers possible routes of travel to restore the broken bonds. Steinke builds on Ed Friedman's work, but adds the dimensions of brain structure, brain chemistry, and brain-based behavior to assist one's understanding.

*How Your Church Family Works: Understanding Congregations as Emotional Systems.* Peter L. Steinke. Alban Institute, 1993. ISBN 1-5669-9110-2. In this his first book, Steinke relies upon Family System Theory as a foundation of his analysis of the relational dynamics of a congregation. In very assessable language, Steinke describes congregations that many would recognize. This book is useful for analysis of what is happening. It offers new remedies.

*Natural Church Development: A Guide to Eight Essential Qualities of Healthy Churches.* Christian A. Schwarz. Church Smart Resources, 1996. ISBN 1-889638-00-5. In this book, Schwarz presents the practical conclusions drawn from the most comprehensive study ever conducted on the causes of church growth – more than 1000 churches in 32 countries on all six continents took part in this project.

*Ordering the Life of the Congregation: Developing a Strategy for Spiritual Development and Faith Formation.* Dan Dick. General Board of Discipleship, 2001. Available through [ddick@gbod.org](mailto:ddick@gbod.org). For a twelve month period, Dan interviewed and surveyed over 400 UM congregations who were, or had recently been, engaged in a planning and/or visioning process. In addition to interview/survey work, this study draws information from 71 books, 127 articles, 37 websites, and 18 video programs on planning, leadership, and visioning.

*Practicing Right Relationship: Skills for Deepening Purpose, Finding Fulfillment, and Increasing Effectiveness in Your Congregation.* Mary K. Sellon and Daniel P. Smith. The Alban Institute, 2005. ISBN1-56699-314-8. This book combines profound research on relationships with practical examples, taking the reader on a developmental journey from right relationship with self, to other, and finally with the Spirit. It is a step by step guide on how to love one's neighbor.

*Spiritual Preparation for Christian Leadership.* E. Glenn Hinson. Upper Room Books, 1999. ISBN 0-8358-0888-2. This book offers a strong and comprehensive presentation of spiritual disciplines as they impact pastoral leadership of the church. Hinson describes the demanding and sometimes stressful dimensions of the pastoral calling and how these demands can be met only in and through the strength of God's resources. By emphasizing the need for balance in a healthy Christian spirituality, the book offers new ways to sustain a growing and vital relationship with God and new ways to share the journey with the congregation in order to enhance its health.

*Studying Congregations A New Handbook.* Nancy T. Ammerman, Jackson W. Carroll, Carl S. Dudley, and William McKinney. Abingdon Press, 1996. ISBN 0-687-00651-1. Ammerman, Carroll, Dudley, McKinney, and other contributors show readers how to analyze the congregation sociologically, anthropologically, and demographically. The volume concludes with an important discussion of the applications of congregational study and presents an appendix of research instruments.

*To Walk in Integrity: Spiritual Leadership in Times of Crisis.* Steve Doughty. Upper Room Books, 2004. ISBN 0-8358-9885-7. This book provides a model for faithful living as a church leader in times of severe crisis, both personal and societal. The author examines the rich Biblical version of "integrity" and there finds a manner of life that will both comfort and stretch today's church leaders. Healthy qualities in the lives of persons of integrity include mystery, humility, simplicity, capacities for lamentation and joy, endurance, honesty, and prophetic living. Each chapter concludes with questions for personal meditation and group reflection.

*Twelve Keys to an Effective Church.* Kennon L. Callahan. Harper & Row, 1983. ISBN 0-06-061297-5. In this book Dr. Callahan identifies and details the twelve most essential characteristics of effective, growing churches and shows how these can be developed in any church.