

Leadership books (selected titles) – list 1

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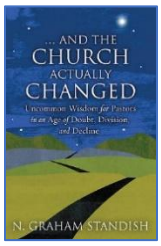
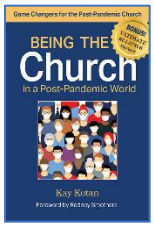
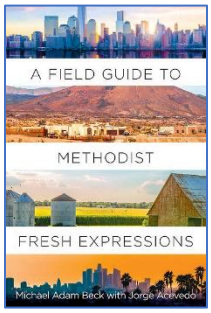


. . . AND THE CHURCH ACTUALLY CHANGED: UNCOMMON WISDOM FOR PASTORS IN AN AGE OF DOUBT, DIVISION, AND DECLINE (820175) Author: Standish, N. Graham. The mainline church is in a drastic decline, and that decline is hitting clergy and churches on all sides of the theological debates. Pastors are struggling, and the ever-changing trends of ministry don't seem to be staunching the decline. This book arises out of N. Graham Standish's work as a spiritual director and coach to clergy of all denominations and traditions, and as the pastor of a healthy, growing, and somewhat alternative church for more than twenty-two years. He has helped pastors become healthier and more effective as they carry out the ministry to which they are uniquely called. This book addresses issues brought up by clergy themselves in his coaching work with them. Using an integrative approach to ministry, Standish draws on insights from counseling, spiritual direction, organizational development, and other fields. The book is written in the form of dialogues between a clergy coach and various clergy clients who are struggling in their ministry. Each chapter addresses a significant clergy leadership issue, yet the dialogue allows coach and pastor to deal with issues pragmatically by exploring both the big picture and the details of leading a healthy church. Chapters: Are we leading from a foundation?; Aare we in harmony with our DNA?; Resisting relationships; Writing the next few chapters; Can we change the system?; God actually is with you!; Transformational preaching and teaching; Leading them from here to there. 207 Pages.

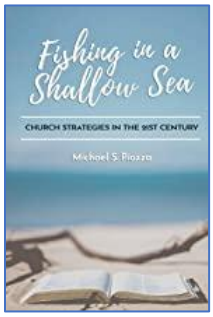


BEING THE CHURCH IN A POST-PANDEMIC WORLD: GAME CHANGERS FOR THE POST-PANDEMIC CHURCH (821045) Author: Kotan, Kay. As the church begins to emerge from the pandemic, our role is changing. It was already changing pre-pandemic, but the change is sure to escalate drastically post-pandemic. This book is designed to serve as a guide to what conversations might be helpful for you and your church's leadership. It is to be used as a tool, not an instrument of judgement or criticism. This resource was created out of a heart full of love for the local church and the hope it will be helpful in finding our next faithful steps to being the vital church in the post-pandemic world. Chapters: The pandemic's arrival; Now what; Flexibility; Relational; Vision; Spiritually grounded; Commitment; Innovative; Resilience; Courage; Next steps; Ultimate relaunch playbook. Includes discussion questions. Larger than average print. 162 Pages.



FIELD GUIDE TO METHODIST FRESH EXPRESSIONS (820073) Author: Beck, Michael Adam and Acevedo, Jorge. Pastors Michael Beck and Jorge Acevedo travel nationwide awakening congregational leaders to a distinctively Wesleyan approach to the Fresh Expressions movement, saying, in fact, that Fresh Expressions is the most "Methodist" thing in the denomination today. In this book, they remind Wesleyans of their roots and show congregations how to bring that tradition into modern day, yet local, contexts. Chapters: A vile movement begins in the fields; Jesus is Lord of neighborhoods and networks; The work of the Holy Spirit in the space of flows; A God-shaped church - one and threeness; New field preachers - pioneer ministry; Masterpiece beneath the mess - a journey of grace; Jesus and the new pantheon; A God of 'withness' in a world of hurt; O give me that book!;

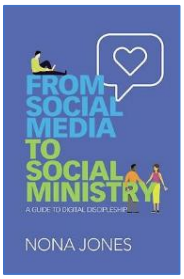
Grace-filled waters and open table; A mission with a church, not a church with a mission; God of the dumpster dive. 192 Pages.



FISHING IN A SHALLOW SEA: CHURCH STRATEGIES IN THE 21ST CENTURY (820148) Author: Piazza, Michael. The current setting in which mainline churches find themselves is called a 'shallow sea' in this work. This is a descriptor for trends like decreasing frequency of attendance, declining generosity, and the rise of the 'nones' who do not identify with any denomination or tradition. The 'sea' analogy also reflects the perils of rapid, continuous, and exponential change that creates a great challenge in anticipating and planning any institution's future, and that requires ever increasing adaptability and agility. For the church to exercise these characteristics, it will need to develop new skills, particularly around technology. While it is likely true that declining participation in traditional churches will continue, this book attempts to offer alternatives that might slow or, given adequate effort, even reverse this decline. Chapters: The challenge we face; A shallow sea congregation; A Bible, a hymnal, and a database; New metrics for vitality; Worship with a capital 'w;' A rudder for sailing in a shallow sea; Leading congregations on a whitewater sea; Congregating on a shallow sea; Conclusions in an unfinished tale; Shallow sea consultation; Comprehensive health check; Micah project overview; Final reflections. Includes bibliography. 136 Pages.



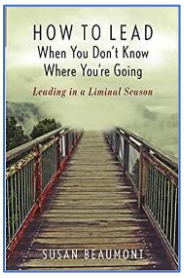
FRESH EXPRESSIONS OF PEOPLE OVER PROPERTY (820072) Author: Warren, Audrey and Carter, Kenneth. Scripture, Stories, and Strategies to Help People of Faith Reimaging Their Space. Authors Audrey Warren and Kenneth Carter Jr. explore how to rethink the way we utilize the space we inhabit, helping leaders reimagine their community spaces so that the church reflects this truth: God's people value each other and the community more than property. Includes discussion questions. 121 Pages.



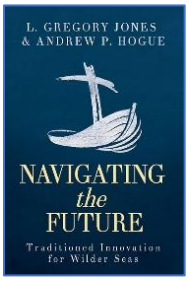
FROM SOCIAL MEDIA TO SOCIAL MINISTRY: A GUIDE TO DIGITAL DISCIPLESHIP (820116) Author: Jones, Nona. Nona Jones, a globally acclaimed thought leader on leveraging technology for ministry, has been leading a movement and sounding the alarm for several years to make digital discipleship a central part of every church's ministry approach. In this book, she outlines her digital discipleship principles and provides practical instruction for how to do it no matter how big or small a local church may be. There are plenty of books to help churches build a social media strategy, but this is the first book of its kind that goes beyond digital marketing to digital ministry. Chapters: The moment everything changed; Numbers don't lie; Returning to discipleship; Social media primer; Why Facebook?; Anatomy of a Facebook campus; Planning your Facebook campus; Building your Facebook campus; Launching your Facebook campus; Leading your Facebook campus; Growing your Facebook campus; For the kingdom – final thoughts. 154 Pages.



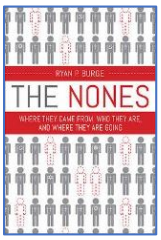
GET OUT OF THAT BOX! (820096) Author: Bosarge, Anne. Realizing Personal Potential and Enhancing Team Collaboration to Move Ministry Forward. In this book, you'll unpack common myths about creativity, learn how to overcome roadblocks that keep you trapped, and explore practical suggestions that will help you create an environment for creativity to thrive. In addition to informative tips and theories, you'll find dozens of "Practice This" exercises that will help you lead and inspire your team to think more creatively and work more collaboratively. Chapters: Myth – only some people are creative; Myth – creative people are 'artsy;' Myth – creativity just happens by accident; Myth – Creativity and tradition are in competition; Myth – Creativity is for visual arts, music ministry and children's ministry; Fear; Negativity; Limitations; Assumptions; Planting seeds that produce change; Harness the power of frustration; Embrace diversity; Harness habits; Prioritize play; Define the problem; Get curious; Release the need to take credit; The power of pause; Uncovering blind spots; Physical environments for creativity; Encourage collaboration; Inspire others, create hope. Includes index. 171 Pages.



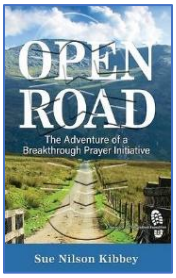
HOW TO LEAD WHEN YOU DON'T KNOW WHERE YOU'RE GOING: LEADING IN A LIMINAL SEASON (821016) Author: Beaumont, Susan. How do you lead an organization stuck between an ending and a new beginning—when the old way of doing things no longer works but a way forward is not yet clear? Author Susan Beaumont calls such in-between times liminal seasons—threshold times when the continuity of tradition disintegrates and uncertainty about the future fuels doubt and chaos. In a liminal season it simply is not helpful to pretend we understand what needs to happen next. But leaders can still lead. Chapters: An introduction to liminality – neither here nor there; Leading with presence - holding steady; Tending the soul of the institution – finding soul in place; Deepening group discernment – seeing what God is up to; Shaping institutional memory – tell me our story; Clarifying purpose – who do we choose to be?; Engaging emergence - are we there yet? Includes bibliography and index. 171 Pages.



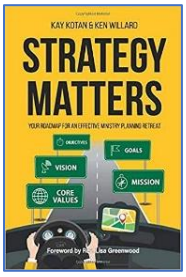
NAVIGATING THE FUTURE: TRADITIONED INNOVATION FOR WILDER SEAS (821019) Author: Jones, L. Gregory and Hogue, Andrew. Traditioned innovation is a way of thinking and living that holds the past and future together in creative tension. It is a habit of being and living that cultivates a certain kind of moral imagination shaped by storytelling and expressed in creative, transformational action. Moral imagination is about character, which depends on ongoing formation that takes place in friendships and communities that embody traditions and that are sustained by institutions. There is no quick-fix or set of techniques that will create a mindset of traditioned innovation. But the author believes we can learn to cultivate it by becoming immersed in an imaginative engagement with the story of God told through Scripture; learning from exemplary institutions, communities, and people practicing traditioned innovation; and from discovering new skills for integrating character formation and dense networks of friendships, communities and institutions into your leadership and life. This book explores stories and tips for cultivating traditioned innovation that will stimulate your thinking and inspire your imagination for more faithful and fruitful living along with the cultivation of more vibrant, life-giving institutions. Chapters: Introduction; Navigating; Purpose; Bewilderment; Imagining; Traditioning; Collaborating; Improvising and sustaining. 228 Pages.



NONES: WHERE THEY CAME FROM, WHO THEY ARE, AND WHERE THEY ARE GOING (821044) Author: Burge, Ryan. This book gives readers a nuanced, accurate, and meaningful picture of the growing number of Americans who say they have no religious affiliation. Author Ryan Burge explains how this rise happened, who the nones are, and what they mean for the future of American religion. Chapters: What does the American religious landscape look like?; A social scientist tries to explain religious disaffiliation; The demographics of disaffiliation; Nones are not all created equal; What we can change and what we cannot. Includes bibliography. Larger than average print. 145 Pages.

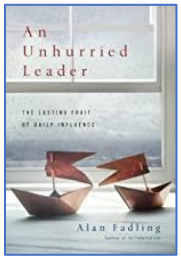


OPEN ROAD: THE ADVENTURE OF A BREAKTHROUGH PRAYER INITIATIVE (821035) Author: Kibbey, Sue Nilson. What's gone wrong in a perfectly good faith-filled, well-intentioned, settled-in congregation that's instead become plateaued or even started into decline? In this book, Sue Nilson Kibbey seeks to help readers embrace and deploy the missing ingredient anew in their own personal lives and in the life of your church, a churchwide prayer initiative. The author's intent is to inspire you about what is Divinely possible, provide you a practical path of steps you can take with ideas you could deploy to add this ingredient and recount a few of the many stories from your sister churches that may add to your inspiration. Chapters: Start here; Church of the open road; Open road - removing roadblocks; Breakthrough prayer initiative wayfinder; Breakthrough prayer initiative – a guide to help you with implementation; Open road survival equipment – specialty breakthrough practices. Includes discussion questions. 108 Pages.

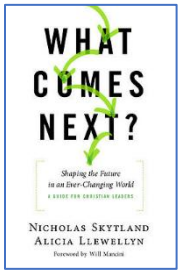


STRATEGY MATTERS: YOUR ROADMAP FOR AN EFFECTIVE MINISTRY PLANNING RETREAT (820097) Author: Kotan, Kay and Willard, Ken. Many churches do a good job at planning activities, but this is often not producing the effective and fruitful ministries churches had hoped for or expected. Instead, churches must go beyond planning activities to intentional and strategic planning for the church to be faithful to its mission. This book provides the step-by-step process for preparing, conducting, and following up for strategic ministry planning retreats that will lead your church into more effective, focused, and fruitful ministry. Chapters: Understanding the five elements of

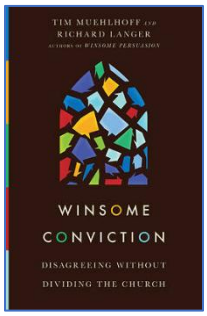
strategic ministry planning (core values, mission, vision, SMARTER goals, objectives); Planning for the retreat; Conducting the strategic planning retreat; Following up after the retreat. 133 Pages.



UNHURRIED LEADER: THE LASTING FRUIT OF DAILY INFLUENCE (817287) Author: Fadling, Alan. Chapters: Becoming an unhurried leader; Leading from abundance; Leading in His presence; Vision of God, vision from God; Questions that unhurry leaders; Unhurried influence; How grace empowers leadership; Unhurrying our thoughts; Prayer as primary influence; Working with God. Includes questions for reflection. 180 Pages.



WHAT COMES NEXT? SHAPING THE FUTURE IN AN EVER-CHANGING WORLD (821031) Author: Skytland, Nicholas and Llewellyn, Alicia. What if, instead of keeping up with change, you could get ahead of it? Our mission as Christians was the same yesterday as it is today and will be tomorrow. The world, however, is changing faster than ever before, and keeping up feels impossible. The realities of human life--from how we develop relationships to how we use technology to have impact --therefore change rapidly too. It's critical that Christian leaders take this into consideration as they plan for their organizations' future. In this book, strategists and innovation experts Nick Skytland and Alicia Llewellyn use the eight elements of their Futures Framework to teach us how to help shape the future, be visionary, and grow our businesses and ministries. Chapters: Introduction – an invitation to join us on an adventure; The future belongs to the curious; Into the unknown; The four forces; The eight intersections; Identify; Relate; Belong; Gather; Design; Collaborate; Scale; Impact; Curiosity in action; Paper rockets; Infinite possibilities. Includes discussion questions. 206 Pages.



WINSOME CONVICTION: DISAGREEING WITHOUT DIVIDING THE CHURCH (821017) Author: Muehlhoff, Tim and Langer, Richard. We generally assume that those sitting around us in church share our beliefs. But when our personal convictions are contested by fellow Christians, everything changes. We feel attacked from behind. When other Christians doubt or deny our convictions, we don't experience it as a mere difference of opinion, but as a violation of an unspoken agreement. Tim Muehlhoff and Rick Langer offer a guide to help Christians navigate disagreements with one another. In today's polarized context, Christians often have committed, biblical rationales for very different positions. How do we discern between core biblical convictions and secondary issues? How do we cultivate better understanding and compassion for those we disagree with? Muehlhoff and Langer provide lessons from conflict theory and church history on how to avoid the dangers of groupthink and how to negotiate differing biblical convictions to avoid church splits and repair interpersonal ruptures. Christian unity is possible. Discover how we can navigate differences by speaking in both truth and love. Chapters: Historical prelude – Roger Williams; Disputable matters – the forgotten middle ground; The conviction spectrum; Does division have to be divisive?; Crosscultural interlude – of tattoos and adultery; How unity is threatened; Perception is reality; Fellowship groups or echo chambers?; Power and civility in a broken society; Healing joint pain in the Body of Christ; Conviction mapping; Guidelines for hard conversations; Historical postlude – convictions in Nazi Germany. Includes index. 214 Pages.