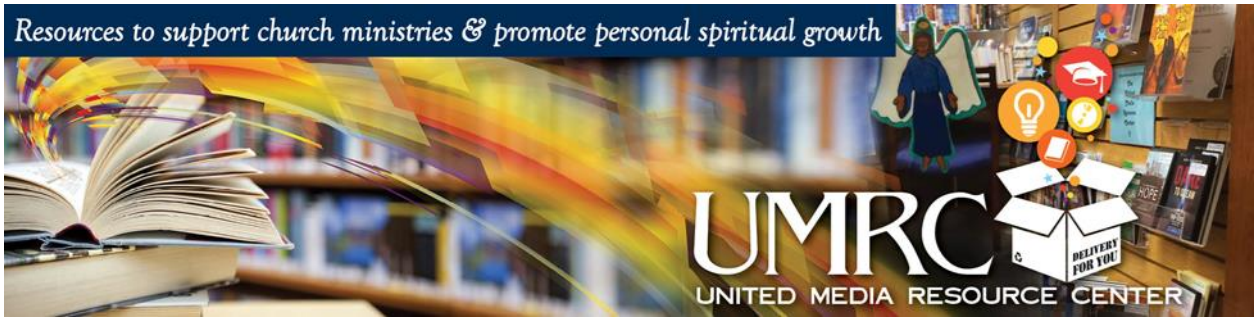
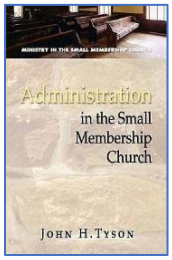


Books for Small Membership Churches!

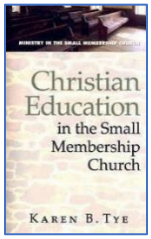
available to borrow from the **United Media Resource Center** http://www.igrc.org/umrc
Contact us by e-mail at umrc@igrc.org
or search for and request items using the online catalog



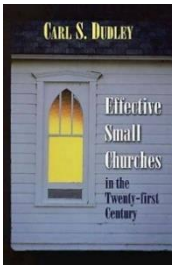
ADMINISTRATION IN THE SMALL MEMBERSHIP CHURCH (807182) Author: Tyson, John H. Chapter titles: But I hate church administration!; Managing your time, appointments, and records; Managing and leading worship planning; Mapping the congregation's vision for ministry; Leading and managing volunteers; Managing your building and safety systems; Managing your financial and reporting systems; United Methodist denominational concerns. 102 Pages.



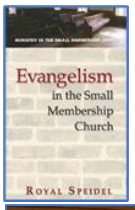
BIG GOSPEL IN SMALL PLACES: WHY MINISTRY IN FORGOTTEN COMMUNITIES MATTERS (820003) Author: Witmer, Stephen. Chapters: Taking a fresh look at small places; Why small places are better than we think; Why small places are worse than we think; The source and goal of small-place ministry; Strategic isn't always what we think; Small is usually better than we think; Slow is often wiser than we think; Fruitful small-place ministry - the circle and the arrow; Battling joy killers in small-place ministry; Good and bad reasons not to do small-place ministry; Good and bad reasons to do small-place ministry; Common reasons to prioritize big-place ministry; Pray big, trust God, work hard. 204 Pages.



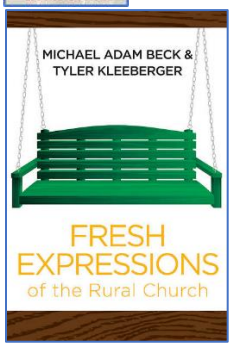
CHRISTIAN EDUCATION IN THE SMALL MEMBERSHIP CHURCH (808040) Author: Tye, Karen. Chapter titles: The lay of the land; Who--it's all about people; Where and when--Sunday school and beyond; How--clues to education in the small membership church; Resources; Guiding principles. Appendixes: Selected bibliography; Self-evaluation questionnaire for curriculum selection; Curriculum materials evaluation checklist; Selected bibliography of curriculum resources; Selected bibliography of children's literature. 110 Pages.



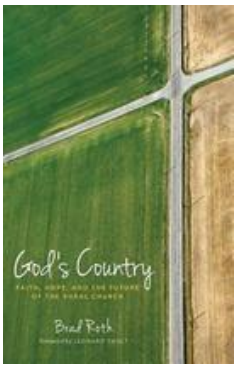
EFFECTIVE SMALL CHURCHES IN THE TWENTY-FIRST CENTURY (804085) Author: Dudley, Carl S. The author explores the key components that contribute to a small congregation's sense of unity and that motivate its members to more faithfully live out their faith. He maintains that the human bonds of community, physical space, and memory define relationships within the small church, and these relationships in turn sustain small churches through the increasing challenges that confront them. Part I: Caring. Part II: Belonging. Part III: Sharing. 219 Pages.



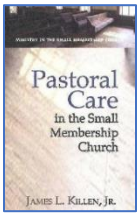
EVANGELISM IN THE SMALL MEMBERSHIP CHURCH (807132) Author: Speidel, Royal. Chapter titles: Evangelism; Vision; Worship; Relationships; Witness; Passion; Prayer; Time management; Leadership recruitment; Choices; Hospitality; Small groups; Leadership skills; Growth challenges. 126 Pages.



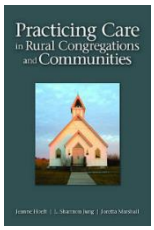
FRESH EXPRESSIONS OF THE RURAL CHURCH (822016) Authors: Beck, Michael Adam and Kleeberger, Tyler. Can rural congregations flourish again? Can new Christian communities succeed in rural areas? Could healthy rural churches catalyze a better future for their declining communities? Collecting stories from the diversity of rural contexts across the US, this book lays out a fresh theology for rural life and offers principles for harnessing the potential of what some consider the forgotten spaces. Each chapter includes a Field Exercise with questions for discussion and suggested actions for leadership teams to work through together and a Field Story illustrating how the chapter's main ideas can work in a real church setting. Chapters: Start digging here; The state of rural places – welcome to the wilderness; The hope of the rural church – on being thornbushes; Rethinking the parish – barns and bodies; Learning to die somewhere – the necessity of belonging in rural churches; Circles that heal – recovering the art of neighborliness; Preaching non-downloadable content; Cultivating the kingdom of God – place economy; Field cred – key ingredients to rural church leadership; Somewhereness and somebodiness; Koinonia liturgy. Includes bibliography. 147 Pages.



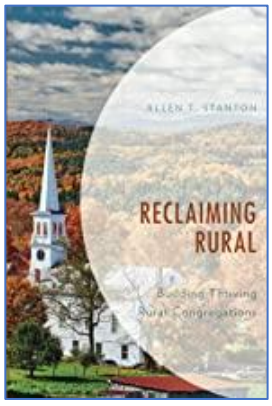
GOD'S COUNTRY: FAITH, HOPE, AND THE FUTURE OF THE RURAL CHURCH (817270) Author: Roth, Brad. With the poetic force of Kathleen Norris and the pastoral warmth of Eugene Peterson, Kansas pastor Brad Roth sets forth a vision for vibrant rural churches, for ministry in congregations that bear a profound sense of both loss and possibility, and for harvesting fruits of transformation and renewal. Rooted in stories from Scripture, his own ministry, and interviews with rural church leaders, he offers a sturdy theological and practical alternative to church-growth strategies that rely on success stories and flashy metrics. Rediscover the stunning abundance of God's presence in rural communities. Name the ways that the rural church testifies to God's glory and goodness. Learn to live and love and minister right where you are, no matter how small or unassuming it may seem. Chapters: Gather up the fragments - reclaiming a kingdom vision for the rural church; Praise in place - God is somewhere; Abide - becoming the dust of the earth; Watch - Vida painted on an adobe wall; Pray - learning to pray with chickens; Grow - weirding the axes; Work the edges - stepping across the barbed wire; Learn to die - congregational Ars Moriendi; Befriend - on not being useful; Dream - Zion on the migrash. 219 Pages.



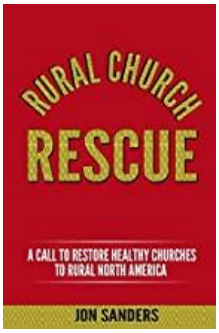
PASTORAL CARE IN THE SMALL MEMBERSHIP CHURCH (805110) Author: Killen, James L. Chapter titles: An opportunity for excellence; Moving into relationship; Learning the art of pastoral conversation; Making get-acquainted visits; Visiting shut-ins; Ministering to the sick; Ministering to the terminally ill; Ministering to people who are grieving; Holding a funeral; Weddings, baptisms, confirmations, and other occasions; Pastoral counseling; Helping with a crisis; Dealing with conflict in the church; Maintaining integrity; Providing for the needs of the pastor and the pastor's family; Involving laypeople in pastoral care. 103 Pages.



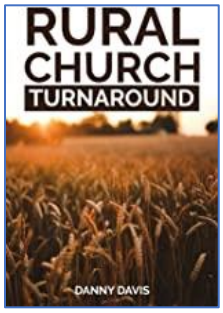
PRACTICING CARE IN RURAL CONGREGATIONS AND COMMUNITIES (814022) Author: Hoeft, Jung, Marshall. Over half of all churches in the United States are in small towns and rural areas. The people who live and worship there hold a particular wisdom and face unique challenges. The authors discuss how to provide care and support to persons in these diverse communities. Includes index. 189 Pages.



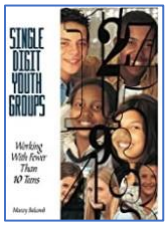
RECLAIMING RURAL: BUILDING THRIVING RURAL CONGREGATIONS (821077) Author: Stanton, Allen. As rural America continues to undergo massive economic and demographic shifts, rural churches are uniquely positioned to provide community leadership. Leading a rural congregation requires a deeper understanding of the challenges and opportunities facing these communities, as well as a strong theological and community-focused identity. Allen T. Stanton describes how in establishing this identity, rural leaders build a meaningful and vital ministry. This book explores the myths and realities of rural places, and how those common narratives impact the leadership of rural churches. Arguing for a practice of evangelism imbued with this mission of vitality, the author promotes the church as a leader in economic and community development, modeled upon a Wesleyan theology of grace. Acknowledging the many challenges facing rural churches, this book is an energetic and encouraging guide to overcoming social and economic obstacles to build a thriving congregation. Chapters: Reclaiming the narrative; Reclaiming vitality; Reclaiming evangelism; Reclaiming our theological goals; Reclaiming practice; Reclaiming a future. Includes bibliography and index. 120 Pages.



RURAL CHURCH RESCUE: A CALL TO RESTORE HEALTHY CHURCHES TO RURAL NORTH AMERICA (820049) Author: Sanders, Jon. Speaking from his experience as both a rural church pastor and firefighter, Jon Sanders presents a unique perspective on common problems facing the rural church. Using a metaphor drawn from the world of the fire service, he outlines six principles necessary for rural churches to be healthy and reclaim the vital role God has called them to in their communities. Chapters: Dream job; Do what?; If God can speak through a jackass; Recognize the mission; Execute strong leadership; Speak a compelling vision; Cover the community; Unleash the volunteers; Embrace the future but honor the past. Appendix: Can multi-site work in a rural context? 120 Pages.



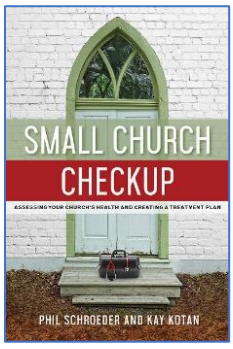
RURAL CHURCH TURNAROUND: REAL LIFE EXPERIENCES OF RURAL PASTORS AND LAY-LEADERS (820124) Author: Davis, Danny. Declining or plateauing rural churches do not have to die; they can live and become an influence for good in their communities. Unfortunately, many rural churches will close after decades of faithful service. Revitalizing a declining or plateauing rural church requires visionary pastoral leadership and the cooperative work of lay leaders. In this book, Davis explores real-life experiences of rural pastors and lay-leaders who have led their congregations to a turnaround. He provides an honest and sometimes painful glimpse into the realities of leading a declining rural church, including his own, back to life. Through these experiences, you will learn to navigate a myriad of cultural and changes needed to revitalize your dying or plateauing rural congregation. The journey to rural church turnaround is hard, but Davis lays out the leadership characteristics and actions essential to making it happen. Chapters: The decline of the rural church; Life Point Church; Transformational leadership and the rural church; New Life Church – Barnett; Licking Assembly of God; New Life Church – Farmington; Communication and conflict; Facing challenges head on; The pattern within the turnaround experience; The language of the turnaround experience; The realities of the turnaround experience; Revitalizing small rural churches. Incudes bibliography. 147 Pages.



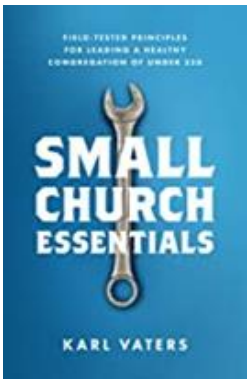
SINGLE-DIGIT YOUTH GROUPS: WORKING WITH FEWER THAN 10 TEENS (804383) Author: Balcolb, Marcey. Chapter titles: Single-digit youth groups: founded in Scripture; Benefits of a single-digit youth group; Adult leaders; Starting or restarting a single-digit youth group; Cooperative youth ministry; Safety issues; 42 great activities for single-digit youth groups; Reproducible descriptions and forms. 112 Pages.



SINGLE-DIGIT YOUTH GROUPS 2: MORE ACTIVITIES, PLUS MISSION IDEAS (812073) Author: Balcolb, Marcey. Chapters: Founded in Scripture; Moments to remember; Spiritual leadership; Service-and-mission training; 50 more great activities for single-digit youth groups; Reproducible forms. 112 Pages.



SMALL CHURCH CHECKUP (818016) Author: Kotan, Kay and Schroeder, Phil. Assessing Your Church's Health and Creating a Treatment Plan. Chapters: The physical; The consultation; Lab and test results; Crucial conversations and field trips; The diagnosis; Treatment plans for not-yet-big churches; Treatment plans for stable, small churches; Treatment plans for smaller churches; Closing best practices; Whole-body health. 142 Pages.



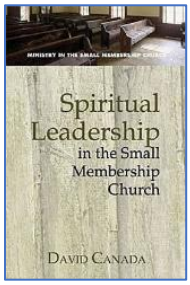
SMALL CHURCH ESSENTIALS: FIELD-TESTED PRINCIPLES FOR LEADING A HEALTHY CONGREGATION OF UNDER 250 (820037) Author: Vaters, Karl. Chapters: Believe it or not, you will pastor a small church; Embracing the small church without settling; Small churches are not a problem, a virtue, or an excuse; Small churches are different and that's okay; Why is my church so weird?; Untold secrets about church health and growth; We need a broader definition of church growth; Is your small church stuck or strategic?; Tackling chronic small church issues and changing for the better; Discover what your church does well, then do it on purpose; Starting, changing, or stopping a ministry; A new way to see small church vision-casting; A more welcoming small church; Mentoring and discipleship in the small church; Planning for small church success; Doing ministry from the church not just in the church; Your church is big enough.



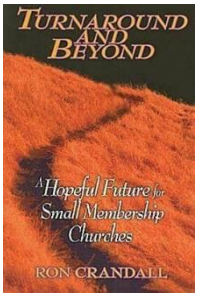
SMALL ON PURPOSE: LIFE IN A SIGNIFICANT CHURCH (817110) Author: Parks, Lewis. Lewis Parks shows how life in a small congregation is profoundly significant and describes the important role these churches play. He includes instructions on how leaders can streamline ministry to maximize the unique and powerful contributions small churches make in their communities. 121 Pages.



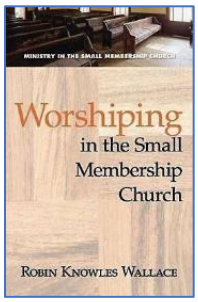
SMALLER CHURCH YOUTH MINISTRY: NO STAFF, NO MONEY, NO PROBLEM (816255) Author: Fiscus, Brad and Caro, Stephanie. Think you can't have a thriving and vital youth ministry in a small church? Think again. This book will help you see the big impact small churches can have on the faith journey of their young people. Chapter titles: The power of small(er); What if . . .?; Building; Leading; It's more than Safe Sanctuaries; Discipleship; Critical mass; 50 quick tips. Each chapter includes discussion questions. 160 Pages.



SPIRITUAL LEADERSHIP IN THE SMALL MEMBERSHIP CHURCH (805271) Author: Canada, David. Chapter titles: What is spiritual leadership?; The pastor as spiritually forming leader; The small membership church as spiritually forming community; Roadblocks to the journey; Moving beyond the roadblocks; Arriving at inclusion. 101 Pages.



TURNAROUND AND BEYOND: A HOPEFUL FUTURE FOR SMALL MEMBERSHIP CHURCHES (818001) Author: Crandall, Ron. Chapters: Pathways to turnaround; Pastors as turnaround leaders; Turning toward the Spirit; Overcoming the obstacles; Turning toward others; Developing true disciples; Turnaround and pastoral transitions; Turnaround and beyond -- abiding. Includes subject and Scripture indexes. 180 Pages.



WORSHIPING IN THE SMALL MEMBERSHIP CHURCH (808060) Author: Wallace, Robin Knowles. Chapter titles: Worship--a convergence or meeting place; Begin where you are--involving the congregation in worship leadership and participation; Our context--the worship space; Getting ready to plan the weekly service; Planning the actual service; Baptism and communion; The arts in worship; Select ideas for congregations up to one hundred. Appendix includes interest survey, bibliography, thoughts on music, and glossary. 118 Pages.