



Books on social action – selected titles

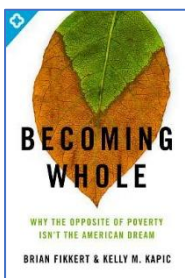
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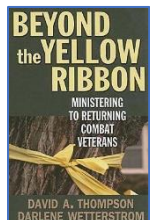
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BECOMING A JUST CHURCH: CULTIVATING COMMUNITIES OF GOD'S SHALOM (819038) Author: Gustine, Adam. Chapters: Justice isn't an outreach strategy - a way of life for the people of God; Exiles in the promised land - the church as prophetic alternative; Demonstrating manana - the church as a parable of God's intent; Gardeners of shalom - the church for flourishing and transformation; Low-ground church - discerning vision in a high-ground world; Recovering kinship - hospitality as resistance; Finding common kingdom ground - discipling people into shalom community; Worship - questions that drive how we gather; Power - a conversation about the linchpin of justice with Juliet Liu and Brandon Green; Epilogue - commence justice. 209 Pages.



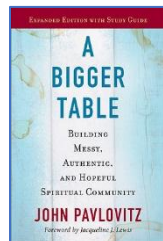
BECOMING WHOLE: WHY THE OPPOSITE OF POVERTY ISN'T THE AMERICAN DREAM (819045) Author: Fikkert, Brian and Kapic, Kelly. This book looks at the true sources of brokenness and poverty and uncovers the surprising pathways to human flourishing for poor and non-poor alike. Exposing the misconceptions of both Western civilization and the Western church about the nature of God, human beings, and the world, the authors fundamentally reframe success and the path forward. Chapters: Love really does make the world go 'round; How do human beings and cultures change?; You can become a consuming robot; You can be a harp-playing ghost forever; Escaping flatland; Reconsidering creation - the key to understanding human flourishing; Reconsidering the fall - more than just a legal problem; Reconsidering redemption - fully embodied hope; The new creation dawns; Living into the story. 297 Pages.



BEYOND THE YELLOW RIBBON: MINISTERING TO RETURNING COMBAT VETERANS (811088) Author: Thompson, David and Wetterstrom, Darlene. Chapter titles: Soldiers and their families -- who are these people?; The soldier's life -- why is it so hard to come home from war?; Military family challenges -- living in a warrior culture; The wounds of war -- unique challenges for wounded war veterans and their families; Comforting those who mourn -- ministering to families of military casualties; Onward Christian soldiers -- moral and spiritual issues facing soldiers and their families; Putting feet to our faith -- creating a military family-friendly church. 119 Pages.



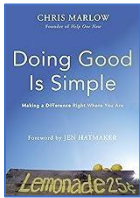
BEYOND WELCOME: CENTERING IMMIGRANTS IN OUR CHRISTIAN RESPONSE TO IMMIGRATION (823001) Author: Gonzalez, Karen. Chapters: Strangers in a strange land – the myth of assimilation; The scarlet cord and the myth of the good immigrant; Russian for beginners – words matter; Reading the Bible – interpretations have consequences; Mi casa es su casa – the hospitality of Jesus; The land before (western) time – a theology of belonging; Departures – people on the move; Ethical storytelling – disrupting the narrative; The kin-dom where everyone belongs. 160 Pages.



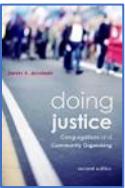
BIGGER TABLE: BUILDING MESSY, AUTHENTIC, AND HOPEFUL SPIRITUAL COMMUNITY (820185) Author: Pavlovitz, John. Expanded Edition with Study Guide. John Pavlovitz invites readers to envision a church that is big enough for everyone, by holding up a mirror to the modern church and speaking clearly on issues at the heart of the Christian community: LGBT inclusion, gender equality, racial tensions, global concerns, and theological shifts. He shares moving personal stories, his careful observations as a pastor, and his understanding of the ancient stories of Jesus to set the table for a new, positive, more loving conversation on these and other important matters of faith. Includes a small-group study guide for a seven-session study and ideas for exploring the topics in a congregation-wide sermon series. 211 Pages.



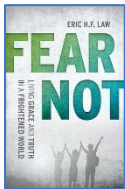
BRAVE CHURCH: TACKLING TOUGH TOPICS TOGETHER (821049) Author: Hagan, Elizabeth. Pastor and author Elizabeth Hagan remembers the congregation of her childhood as a place where parishioners talked a lot about doctrine, church activities, outreach, and stewardship, but she never observed people in her church talking about real life—the bad things that happen as well as the good. In their lives outside of church, people might have a family member in jail, feel lost in the depths of depression, or have suffered a miscarriage, but these were forbidden topics. Our society needs brave churches where people can talk about the real struggles they are experiencing—where they can be honest about their lives without fear of shame or judgment. This book will help congregations begin to talk about controversial topics with sensitivity to those who see the world and have experienced life differently from themselves. While it can be read alone, it is designed to be used as a small-group resource for those committed to meeting with one another for six or seven weeks. Chapters: Let's talk; Let's talk about infertility and miscarriage; Let's talk about mental illness; Let's talk about domestic violence; Let's talk about racism; Let's talk about sexuality; Let's keep talking. Includes a leader's guide for a six- or seven-session study and a bibliography. 143 Pages.



DOING GOOD IS SIMPLE: MAKING A DIFFERENCE RIGHT WHERE YOU ARE (817027) Author: Marlow, Chris. Chapters: Lemonade with a purpose -- how to start small wherever you are; Ordinary is the new radical -- because Jesus doesn't leave justice to the professionals; Despite your fears and failure -- believing you are good enough because God is good; You've got the goods -- the incredible truth that you are already equipped; Not just good on paper -- good is people, not projects; Good and plenty -- everyone has something to give; All great things start small -- how to stage a movement; Better together -- how to find a good organization and partner together. 220 Pages.



DOING JUSTICE: CONGREGATIONS AND COMMUNITY ORGANIZING (817123) Author: Jacobsen, Dennis. Second Edition. Dennis Jacobsen introduces people of faith to congregation-based community organizing rooted in the day-to-day struggles and hopes of urban ministry. Chapters: The world as it is; The world as it should be; Engaging the public arena; Congregation-based community organizing; Power; Self-interest; One-on-ones; Agitation; Metropolitan organizing; Building and sustaining an organization; Community; A spirituality for the long haul. Includes index. 155 Pages.



FEAR NOT: LIVING GRACE AND TRUTH IN A FRIGHTENED WORLD (820031) Author: Law, Eric. Designed for individual or group study, this book explores the role of fear in our individual lives and in our society and world. Chapters: Fear, phobia, sex, and ministry; Fear, marketers, politicians, and symbolic substitutes; Rituals, rules, technologies, and the color-coded threat-level system; Fear-conqueror, fear-bearer, and fear-miner; Fear-exploiter, fear of God, and intimacy with God; Finding intimacy in a world of fear; What are you doing here?; I need your light. Includes reflection/discussion questions and activities. 146 Pages.

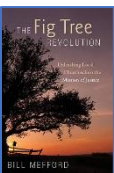
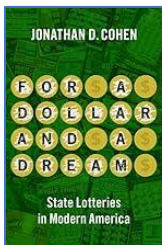
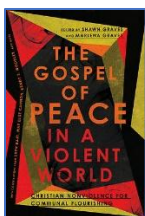


FIG TREE REVOLUTION: UNLEASHING LOCAL CHURCHES INTO THE MISSION OF JUSTICE (819159) Author: Mefford, Bill. This inspirational book has practical steps to mobilize believers in grassroots efforts and help local churches engage in the transformative work of justice. The locus of God's change is through believers immersed in relationships with those impacted by injustice. It is based on the first four chapters of Esther and drawn from real stories of people creating change. 130 Pages.



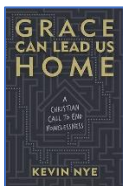
FOR A DOLLAR AND A DREAM: STATE LOTTERIES IN MODERN AMERICA (822022) Author: Cohen, Jonathan. This first comprehensive history of America's lottery obsession explores the spread of state lotteries and how players and policymakers alike got hooked on wishful dreams of an elusive jackpot. The story of lotteries in the United States may seem straightforward: tickets are bought predominately by poor people driven by the wishful belief that they will overcome infinitesimal odds and secure lives of luxury; the reality is more complicated. Jonathan Cohen shows how, in an era of surging inequality and stagnant upward mobility, millions of Americans turned to the lottery as their only chance at achieving the American Dream. Gamblers were not the only ones who bet on betting. As voters revolted against higher taxes in the late twentieth century, states saw legalized gambling as a panacea, a way of generating a new source of revenue without cutting public services or raising taxes. Even as evidence emerged that lotteries only provided a small percentage of state revenue, and even as data mounted about their appeal to the poor, states kept passing them and kept adding new games, desperate for their longshot gamble to pay off. Alongside stories of lottery winners and losers, Jonathan Cohen shows how gamblers have used prayer to help them win a jackpot, how states tried to pay for schools with scratch-off tickets, and how lottery advertising has targeted lower income and nonwhite communities. This book charts the untold history of the nation's lottery system, revealing how players and policymakers alike got hooked on hopes for a gambling windfall. Includes index. 281 Pages.



GOSPEL OF PEACE IN A VIOLENT WORLD: CHRISTIAN NONVIOLENCE FOR COMMUNAL FLOURISHING (822019)

Author: Graves, Shawn and Graves, Marlena, editors. The gospel of Jesus Christ is the good news of peace: peace between God and humanity, peace among humans. And yet it can be difficult to see that peace in our broken, violent world. In this book, Shawn Graves and Marlena Graves have gathered contributions from theologians, pastors, and practitioners on the importance and implementation of Christian nonviolence in today's world. The vision they cast not only responds to the realities of war and conflict but also offers a broader, deeper understanding of peace that addresses topics such as race, gender, disability, immigration, the environment, food

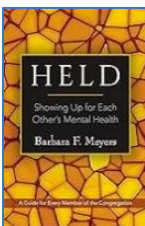
scarcity, and more--a holistic shalom that is evidence of God's presence. Chapters: The Old Testament as a problem for pacifists (and what to do about it); Shalom for all – toward an Old Testament theology of peace; Pride fighter or sacrificial lamb? Discerning the real Jesus in the Book of Revelation; ‘The God of peace will soon crush Satan under your feet’ (Rom. 16:20) – violence in the gospel of peace?; A Pentagon for peace – what America could learn from its oldest enemy; Preachers, prophets, and philosophers – Martin Luther King Jr’s moral reasoning on nonviolence; Listening for peace – nonviolence in William Stafford’s writing and teaching; Living next door to the Bronze Lady; A universal love ethic – nonviolence and human rights advocacy; War, terror, and peace; Christian pacifism and the ‘good war;’ Problematic pacifism – pursuing biblical justice toward effective change; Lights in the darkness – Christian peace practice in the violence of Central America; Shalom and white supremacy; Healing from racial trauma; Faith-rooted reconciliation – organizing for shalom justice; Longing forward – peacemaking and violence toward women and girls; Disability, identity, and the resurrection of the dead – cultural competence as nonviolence; Our food system – the tie to immigration, migrant workers, exploitation, and human trafficking; Immigration and the church – who is my neighbor?; Everything, nothing, something – trading in worldviewing for everyday faithfulness in peacemaking and sustainability; Environmental violence; Practical steps toward communal flourishing. Includes general and Scripture indexes. 416 Pages.



GRACE CAN LEAD US HOME: A CHRISTIAN CALL TO END HOMELESSNESS (822018)

Author: Nye, Kevin. On any given night, more than half a million Americans and Canadians find themselves sleeping on the streets, in shelters, cars, and other places not meant for human habitation. Yet as this crisis continues to grow, it remains one of the least talked about--especially in churches. Even where compassion and empathy exist, the complexities around homelessness can make us feel stuck, overwhelmed, or numb to the existence of unhoused people in our cities and neighborhoods. Reporting back from his work in homeless services, minister and advocate Kevin Nye introduces readers

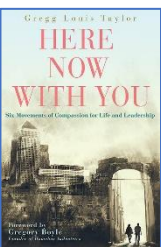
to the Christ he's met in tents, shelters, and drop-in centers. He demystifies homelessness by journeying into complex issues like affordable housing, mental illness, addiction, and more, while reimagining our theological approach to these matters and educating us on how they intersect with homelessness. This thorough and intimate book shows us that from the margins, Jesus has something to teach us all about grace--something that could change the landscape of homelessness entirely if we're ready to hear it. Chapters: Seeing and being seen; Housing; Isolation and connection; Community and solidarity; Mental health; Substance use and overdose; Addiction and recovery; Abundance, beauty, and celebration. 206 Pages.



HELD: SHOWING UP FOR EACH OTHER'S MENTAL HEALTH (821006)

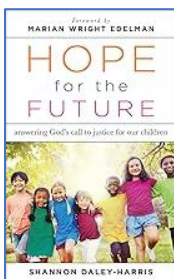
Author: Meyers, Barbara.

Written by a Unitarian Universalist community minister whose ministry focuses on mental health issues, this book is a resource for members of congregations who want to learn how to be more intentionally supportive of people with mental health problems and their loved ones. Chapters: My journey; Spiritual implications of mental illness; One-on-one support; Creating a safer place; Facing the ultimate crisis – suicide; Taking care of people; Beyond the walls. Includes a study guide for group use, communication guidelines, and resource list. 140 Pages.



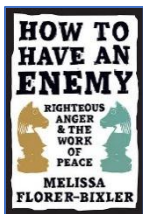
HERE, NOW, WITH YOU: SIX MOVEMENTS OF COMPASSION FOR LIFE AND LEADERSHIP (819040)

Author: Taylor, Gregg Louis. If there is one thing that matters, one thing with the power to connect us all, and one thing most needed in any context, it's compassion. Cultivating compassion in experience and practice breaches barriers that divide us, builds bridges of divine and human connection, and emboldens us to imagine for the sake of ourselves and communities the restoration of the world God so loves. Learn to see and be seen with compassion. This book provides an interactive framework which pastors, leaders in faith communities, organizations, and agencies can use within their respective contexts to facilitate meaningful conversations about compassion imagination and application. 123 Pages.

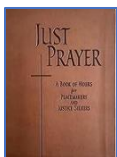


HOPE FOR THE FUTURE: ANSWERING GOD'S CALL TO JUSTICE FOR OUR CHILDREN (816230)

Author: Daley-Harris, Shannon. This book invites us to listen for how God is calling us to love and seek justice for children, offers perspectives on facing the difficulties in the calling of faithful child advocacy, and provides encouragement for perseverance. Chapters: From weeping to work (Jer. 31); Singing a new song (Ps. 33); Stumbling blocks and cornerstones (Isa. 28); Troops, trumpets, and torches (Judg. 7); What's next? (Jonah); Team of rivals (Isa. 11); Certainly now (Acts 16); Confusion in the valley of vision (Isa. 22); Parables of persistence (Lk. 18); Vigilance (Heb. 10); Shepherd for the lost (Mt. 18); Godspeed (Deut. 16). Each chapter includes questions for reflection or discussion. Suggestions are also offered for parents or other caregivers on discussing justice issues with children. 144 Pages.



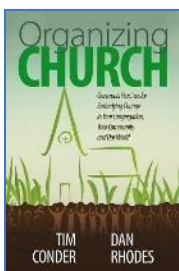
HOW TO HAVE AN ENEMY: RIGHTEOUS ANGER AND THE WORK OF PEACE (821083) Author: Florer-Bixler, Melissa. Jesus called us to love our enemies, but to befriend an enemy we first have to acknowledge their existence, understand who they are, and recognize the ways they are acting in opposition to God's good news. In this book, Melissa Florer-Bixler looks closely at what the Bible says about enemies--who they are, what they do, and how Jesus and his followers responded to them. The result is a theology that allows us to name our enemies as a form of truth-telling about ourselves, our communities, and the histories in which our lives are embedded. Only then can we grapple with the power of the acts of destruction carried out by our enemies, and invite them to lay down their enmity, opening a path for healing, reconciliation, and unity. Jesus named and confronted his enemies as an essential part to loving them. In this provocative book, Florer-Bixler calls us to do the same. Chapters: Gratitude as preface; Who is my enemy?; Making room for enemies; Praying for enemies; Shared anger and forgiveness; Mary's politics; Love your enemies; Undoing family; Know your enemy; Jesus draws the line; Becoming enemies to mammon; Whiteness and the enemy; The end of enemies; A sermonic epilogue. 214 Pages.



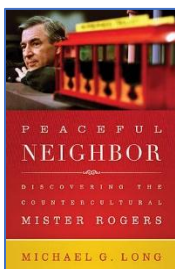
JUST PRAYER: A BOOK OF HOURS FOR PEACEMAKERS AND JUSTICE SEEKERS (818144) Author: Benders, Alison. Four weeks of daily morning and evening prayers on the following themes: Justice Ordained/Recognizing God's command to live justly; Injustice Lamented/Standing with those who suffer injustice; Justice Practiced/Claiming our responsibility to establish justice; Justice Celebrated/Celebrating God's justice and the promise of peace. Includes bibliography. 190 Pages.



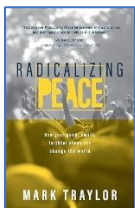
LOVE BIG: THE POWER OF REVOLUTIONARY RELATIONSHIPS TO HEAL THE WORLD (819082) Author: White, Rozella Haydee. In this book, leadership coach Rozella Haydee White introduces readers to the power of revolutionary relationships. Modeled after the image of God as a lover, these relationships can heal the brokenness of our lives by crossing over the dividing lines of race, gender, religion, orientation, ability, identity, and class to provide relief and inspiration. Chapters: Faith in God as a lover; It all begins with self-love; Rouse your mind; Repair your heart; Reform your body; Restore your soul; Revolutionary relationships defined; Love big, heal the world. Larger than average print. 148 Pages.



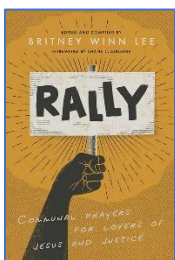
ORGANIZING CHURCH (817135) Author: Conder, Tim and Rhodes, Dan. Grassroots Practices for Embodying Change in Your Congregation, Your Community, and Our World. This book blends proven principles of community organizing and research on socially active congregations into an essential field guide that will revitalize and empower churches as change agents. Pastors and community activists Tim Conder and Dan Rhodes will help pastors and other church leaders build healthier congregations and create a deep culture of discipleship and engagement in their community. 125 Pages.



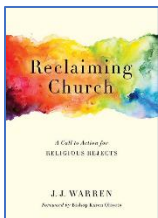
PEACEFUL NEIGHBOR: DISCOVERING THE COUNTERCULTURAL MISTER ROGERS (816029) Author: Long, Michael. Author Michael Long discusses Fred Roger's convictions and their expression through his children's program "Mister Rogers' Neighborhood." Chapters: "Isn't Peace Wonderful?": against the Vietnam War, for Gandhi; 2) "War Isn't Nice": against the arms race, for peaceful imagination; 3) "I Like You": against the Cold War, for puppet detente; 4) "Just the Way You Are": a theology of peace; 5) "It's Okay to Be Angry": a psychology of peace; 6) "A Gross Form of Abuse": from the Persian Gulf War to the war on terror; 7) "A Black Brother": race and diversity; 8) "Food for the World": tears for hungry children; 9) "I'm Tired of Being a Lady": tough girls, sensitive boys; 10) "He Understood": homosexuality and gay friends; 11) "I Love Tofu Burgers and Beets": animals and mothers; 12) "Take Care of This Wonderful World": peace on earth. Includes index. 203 Pages.



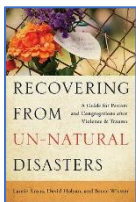
RADICALIZING PEACE: HOW YOUR GOOD, SMALL, FAITHFUL STEPS CAN CHANGE THE WORLD (817066) Author: Traylor, Mark. Chapter titles: How your good, small, faithful steps can change the world; Humility -- the prerequisite for peace; In defense of kindness; No forgiveness, no peace; Peacemaking is risky business; Why being a prophet for peace will be unpopular; The other side of the road -- racial attitudes and peacemaking; Making it happen -- practical steps toward radicalizing peace. 118 Pages.



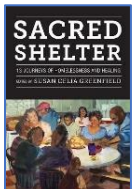
RALLY: COMMUNAL PRAYERS FOR LOVERS OF JESUS AND JUSTICE (820093) Author: Lee, Britney Winn. Using a call-and-response format, the 53 litanies in this book were created to unite us in prayer and common mission. It provides words for concerned Christians who yearn to lift their voices to God with their community to confront injustice in its many forms: racism; the abuse of power and privilege; mistreatment of migrants and refugees; lives tragically lost; our violent society; white supremacy; and people being marginalized because of their gender, ethnic identity, sexual orientation, or economic status. 191 Pages.



RECLAIMING CHURCH: A CALL TO ACTION FOR RELIGIOUS REJECTS (820029) Author: Warren, J. J. After meeting LGBTQ+ young people who “didn’t know God could love them because their churches said God didn’t,” J. J. Warren realized the church has got some work to do. In this small book, the author continues his call to reaffirm the church as a people who welcome all. He especially speaks to those who are young and progressive, asking you to stay within the church and work to renew the call to ministry and giving you practical and positive steps on how to join voices, to be heard, to build bridges, and to work together to show that the church is for everyone. Foreword by Bishop Karen Oliveto. 110 Pages.



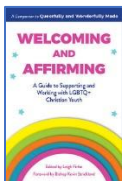
RECOVERING FROM UN-NATURAL DISASTERS (817075) Author: Kraus, Laurie; Holyan, David; Wismer, Bruce. A Guide for Pastors and Congregations after Violence and Trauma. In this handbook, church leaders explore each of the four phases of a human-caused disaster -- devastation and heroism, disillusionment, reforming, and wisdom. Step-by-step suggestions on how to handle an un-natural disaster from the minute it occurs are included, along with sample worship resources, such as prayers and music and sermon suggestions that are appropriate to use during periods of trauma and recovery. Includes bibliography. 146 Pages.



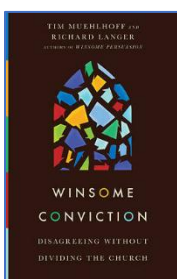
SACRED SHELTER: 13 JOURNEYS OF HOMELESSNESS AND HEALING (819011) Author: Greenfield, Susan Celia, editor. Through frank, honest interviews, this book follows the lives of thirteen people who experienced homelessness and graduated from an interfaith life skills empowerment program in New York City. They share traumas from their youth, the devastation of homelessness, and the healing they discovered through community and faith. Interspersed among their stories are reflections from directors and volunteers involved in the life skills program. A reader's guide is available at <https://fordham.bepress.com/soc/3/> 317 Pages.



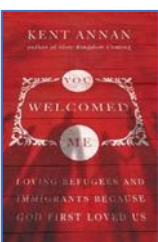
SPEAK YOUR PEACE: WHAT THE BIBLE SAYS ABOUT LOVING OUR ENEMIES (820067) Author: Sider, Ronald J. Chapters: The central questions; The setting for Jesus' radical teaching; Living in Jesus' dawning kingdom; Further claims of Jesus and how Christians evade them; Does the rest of the New Testament reflect what Jesus taught?; But what about . . . ?; Jesus and killing in the Old Testament; Foundational theological issues; Problems with pacifism; Problems with just war thinking; What if most (or all) Christians became pacifists?; Nonviolence and the atonement; Christians and killing in church history; If Jesus is Lord. Includes discussion questions. 197 Pages.



WELCOMING AND AFFIRMING: A GUIDE TO SUPPORTING AND WORKING WITH LGBTQ+ CHRISTIAN YOUTH (820094) Author: Finke, Leigh, editor. A handbook for pastors, youth workers, church leaders, educators, and other adults in Christian settings, the book provides answers to the most pressing questions about sexuality, gender, mental health, safe sex, and more. Written by a team of LGBTQ+ adults, this book features first-hand, personal testimonials from queer young adults who have experienced the joys and hardships of being queer and Christian. Includes glossary and bibliography. 215 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.



YOU WELCOMED ME: LOVING REFUGEES AND IMMIGRANTS BECAUSE GOD FIRST LOVED US (819033) Author: Annan, Kent. Chapters: Are we for or against?; That could be me; Real concerns; This is our story; Getting practical; Form a human chain; Here is life; References. Includes questions and practices for personal or group use. 122 Pages.