

# North Central California Presbytery

# RESOURCE CENTER

## Newsletter

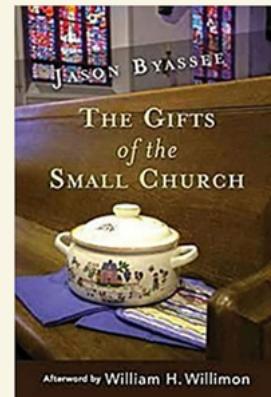
July 2022

Happy 4th of July. I hope your celebration was memorable.

I have some new materials that I would like to share with you regarding small churches. We are aware of the fact that churches of under 250 members is the norm, not the exception, but as you will learn from the following materials, this may be an opportunity not a liability.

### 1. The Gifts of the Small Church by Jason Byassee.

Defying the gloomy sociological predictions about the fate of small churches, the author tells narratives of some “failing” congregations. It is an account of what makes small churches go on, enlivened by remarkably deep theological insights.



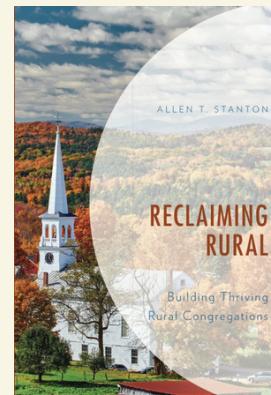
### 2. Small Church Essentials by Karl Vaters.

Small does not mean unhealthy, insular, poorly managed or settling for less. Small churches are often healthy, dynamic, and equipped to minister to their communities in ways that larger churches just can't.



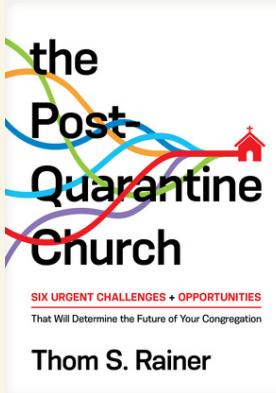
### 3. Reclaiming Rural: Building Thriving Rural Congregations by Allen T. Stanton

When the author writes of rural congregations as anchor institutions, do not take it lightly. Institutions are essential to the ways in which we order our lives. That they can lead whole communities into God's purpose is important.



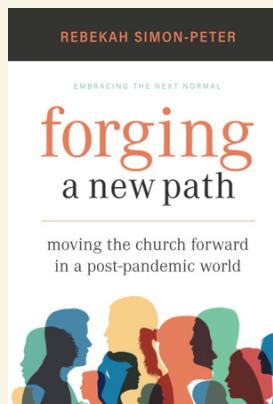


Some materials for these unsettling times:



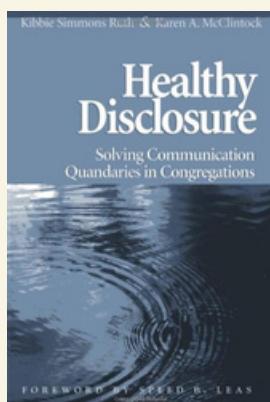
### 1. **The Post Quarantine Church by Thom S. Rainer**

The author presents six urgent challenges plus opportunities that will determine the future of your congregation.



### 2. **Forging a New Path: Embracing the Next Normal by Rebekah Simon-Peter.**

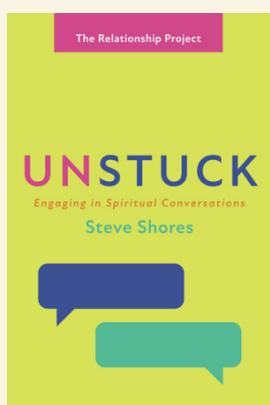
The author presents real-time and relevant strategies and tools to help leaders navigate the uncertain waters of church leadership to lead healthier and more vital churches.



### 3. **Healthy Disclosure: Solving Communication Quandaries in Congregations by Kibbie Simmons Ruth**

Information management is both a technical process and a spiritual undertaking. Leaders need the ability to spiritually discern, not just intellectually decide the solutions to congregational dilemmas.

(The Author will be discussing the book at an upcoming seminar)



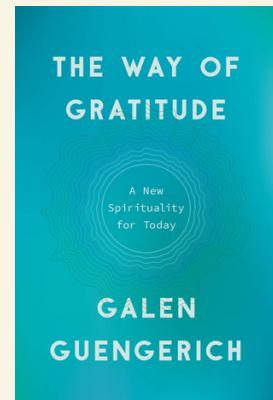
### 4. **Unstuck: Engaging in Spiritual Conversations by Steve Shores**

We live in a vast social wordscape made up almost entirely of chit-chat, or we're being talked at rather than with. It can be hard to a relationship that involves solid words on which to rest our tattered souls.



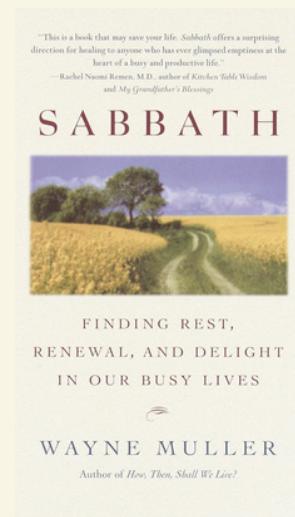
## 5. The Way of Gratitude: A New Spirituality for Today by Galen Guengerich

The author speaks to “spiritual not religious” readers seeking meaning, joy, and transcendence, in this well-reasoned manifesto for a spirituality based on gratitude.



## 6. Sabbath Rest by Wayne Muller

Our relentless emphasis on success and productivity has become a form of violence. Constantly striving, we feel exhausted and deprived in the midst of great abundance, longing for time with friends and family, longing for a moment to ourselves. The author dedicates the book to his friend and teacher, Henri Nouwen.



The Resource Center hours are on Tuesdays and Thursdays or by appointment. We are located on the second floor of Carmichael Presbyterian Church. You can call us at 916-414-2080 for suggestions.

Karen Sturdevant  
Resource Center Coordinator

