

## Resources From Synod Assembly Speaker, Rebecca Anderson

### To read:

My own [blog](#) entries on:

- "Building a story: getting started"
- "Nitty-gritty story tips"
- How to invite storytellers to prepare for your event or service
- Prompts

On the psychology and benefits of storytelling: Dan P. McAdams *The Stories We Live By* and others.

On the craft of stories: *Long Story Short* by Margot Leitman

On how short stories work and what they do (big overlap with storytelling and preaching, if some necessary divergence): *A Swim in a Pond in the Rain* by George Saunders. I found this to be life-changing. Hugely helpful articulations.

### To listen:

To more stories. Listen to [The Moth](#) on the radio or podcast

To learn about this kind of storytelling: [Speak Up](#), a podcast I find very irritating but useful.

Matthew Dicks is a (sometimes irritating) master. Maybe try his books instead? (note to self)

"Story forensics" episodes are the most useful to me.

### To do:

Google "storytelling" in your area and go listen. Go tell a story. I mean it. Take your business cards with you, so when people come up to you afterward and say, "Did you say you're a pastor?" you can give them one.

Reach out to me at [EarshotStories@gmail.com](mailto:EarshotStories@gmail.com) to talk about kicking something off in your own area/town/congregation.

Look into the generous [vital worship grants](#) from the Calvin Institute of Christian Worship. They require a long process but underwrite robust, year-long programs of congregations of all sizes. (I have experience serving as a storytelling artist-in-residence for a consortium of 4 churches.)

### Exercises

"I secretly love..." or "I secretly hate..."

Follow-up questions: "From whom is it a secret, and why?" #Stakes

"If you already knew me well, you'd know that I..."

Offer categories like

Food, Music, Friends, Family, Home

Remember to model both high-stakes and low-stakes responses ("hate pizza", "was food insecure when I was young")