

REFERENCES FROM THE BOOK TABLE:

* most descriptions are from Amazon.com and books.google.ca

A Praying Congregation: the art of teaching spiritual practice, by Jane E. Vennard. Pastors and others who want to develop their skills as teachers of prayer and spiritual practices will find in this book not only wisdom for themselves but easily accessible lesson plans, enabling them to share Vennard's insights with others while infusing the activities with their own spirit and creative ideas. Through this book, readers' hearts are made ready to explore the wonder of strengthening their relationship with God through prayer. (The Alban Institute, 2005)

Attentive to God: spirituality in the church committee, by Karen Marie Yust. Attending to the unique needs and missions of church committees, Yust proposes a theology of church committee work and explores ways to maintain a spiritual focus. Included are devotional resources for use in seven committees. (Chalice Press, 2001)

Being Church. Doing Life: creating gospel communities where life happens, by Michael Moynagh. Christians worldwide are learning new ways to connect their faith to everyday life. Gospel communities are popping up everywhere; in cafes, gyms, tattoo parlours, laundromats. This movement, called Fresh Expressions, is attracting thousands and growing rapidly. With over 120 real-life examples, Michael Moynagh describes easy ways for ordinary Christians to embrace this highly effective approach to local mission. Anyone can do it! (Monarch Books/Lion Hudson, 2014)

Contemplative Bible Reading: Experiencing God Through Scripture, by Richard Peace. Contemplative Bible reading (or lectio divina, as it is often called) is an ancient method of approaching Scripture. Consisting of four parts, this method begins with the selected biblical passage and moves to meditating, praying, and contemplating what God is revealing through the Bible. Many of us tend to think of meditation as something done individually, but reflecting on Scripture in a small group invites us to act and encourages us to share with others how God is calling us to respond. This book invites you to approach the Scripture in a new and challenging way. (NavPress, 1999)

Going Missional: Conversations With 13 Canadian Churches Who Have Embraced Missional Life, by Karen Stiller. Going Missional tells the story of 13 diverse Canadian churches and their journey to become missional. With journalistic insight and candor, this unique book shares the challenges, successes, the setbacks and victories of these churches and their leaders from across Canada as they attempt to more fully serve their communities, locally and globally. Going Missional is ultimately a book about the hope, commitment and courage it takes for ordinary churches to do extraordinary things in a difficult time. (Word Alive Press, 2010)

Green Shoots Out of Dry Ground, by John P. Bowen. All over Canada, from coast to coast, there is new life in the Christian church. In spite of declining numbers, every Christian tradition has stories to tell of new ministries, fledgling Christian communities, and fresh expressions of church springing up, sometimes in unlikely places. Here, seventeen authors with experience in areas such as church revitalization, innovative ministry, evangelism, and church planting, reflect on what they are seeing and how the lessons they have learned can guide us into ways of health and vitality. (Wipf & Stock Publishers, 2013)

How to Pioneer: even if you haven't a clue, by David Male. Small new Christian communities created by pioneer ministers, both lay and ordained, are popping up everywhere - on housing estates, in community centres, schools, cafes, among different age groups and in numerous other contexts beyond the local church. This practical book is for all who are engaged in this form of ministry and it begins by identifying some basic principles from a wide variety of creative examples of pioneer ministry. (Church House Publishing, UK, 2016)

Listening Hearts: Discerning Call in Community, by Suzanne G. Farnham, Joseph P. Gill, Susan M. Ward, R. Taylor McLean. Written to make the often elusive and usually clergy-centered spiritual practice of discernment accessible to all people, *Listening Hearts* features simple reflections and exercises drawn from scripture and from Quaker and Ignatian traditions. This book has been a beloved resource for tens of thousands of individual readers, retreat participants, small groups and church leaders, listening for and responding to God's call in their lives. (Morehouse Publishing, 2011)

Listening Hearts: Manuel for Discussion Leaders, by Suzanne G. Farnham, R. Taylor McLean, Louise Miller, Richard D. Weis & others. This step-by-step guide tells how to prepare for and conduct discussion sessions based on the ground breaking book, *Listening Hearts*. Inquirers, confirmation candidates and anyone who seeks God's call through group reflection will find the *Listening Hearts* experience invaluable for spiritual growth. (Morehouse Publishing, 1993)

Grounded in God: Listening Hearts Discernment for Group Deliberations (revised), by Suzanne G. Farnham, Stephanie A. Hull, R. Taylor McLean. This powerful, prayerful, and practical guide teaches groups a whole new way of conducting meetings and reaching consensus. Whether your group, committee or board is secular or religious, its members can now move beyond parliamentary procedure to a higher level using the model described here. Rooted in scripture, *Grounded in God* energizes and inspires. Learn how to incorporate creative silence, imagination, intuition, attentive listening, scripture, and prayer into routine meetings, decision making, or working retreats. By opening up to new perspectives, discover that the first order of business is to become attuned to God's presence within those assembled. (Morehouse Publishing, 1999)

Missional: Joining God in the Neighbourhood, by Alan J. Roxburgh. The burgeoning missional church movement is a sign that believers are increasingly feeling the call to impact their communities, which is a good thing. But, says Alan J. Roxburgh, these conversations still prioritize church success over mission--how can being missional grow my church? But to focus on such questions misses the point. In *Missional*, Roxburgh calls Christians to re-enter their neighborhoods and communities to discover what the Spirit is doing there--to start with God's mission. He then encourages readers to shape their local churches around that mission. With inspiring true stories and a solid biblical base, *Missional* is a book that will change lives and communities as its message is lived out. (Baker Books, 2011)

Pioneering a New Future: a guide to shaping change and changing the shape of church, by Phil Potter. This book offers a map for pioneering a new future for the Church. Writing as a pastor and practitioner, Phil Potter explains ways of shaping all kinds of change in the life of a church, particularly in the context of the many fresh expressions of church emerging. Decisions on what and how and when we change will

inevitably affect growth or decline in a church, and also have a major impact on people. Leaders can end up burnt out by their attempts to bring about change, while congregations are left damaged and disillusioned because they could not catch the vision. This is a book for leaders wanting to guide their Christian communities into a new future, and for church members wanting to be equipped for whatever lies ahead. Also included are over 100 questions for personal and group reflection. (Bible Reading Fellowship, UK, 2015)

Prayer for Parish Groups: preparing and leading prayer for group meetings, by Donal Harrington & Julie Kavanagh. Experience has shown that prayer is at the heart of all that parish groups do. Prayer for Parish Groups offers over 100 prayer services for groups to use in gatherings. In addition to prayers, each prayer service presents words of the Scriptures and a reflection. The book's introductory chapters offer ideas for preparing and leading prayer services. The easily adapted prayer services cover a wide variety of themes, including liturgical seasons, feasts, and the seasons of nature. Indexes of themes and scriptural passages make finding the right prayer service a simple task. (St. Mary's Press, 1998)

Serving God's World: Focusing Ministry Outward – Parish Workbook by Andrew Stephens-Rennie, Diocese of Ottawa. In 2011, the Diocese of Ottawa published this parish workbook. It is a resource designed to help congregations reflect on how they relate to their neighbourhood as a mission field and how they may go about discovering their ministry in that context. With the permission of the Diocese of Ottawa and Andrew Stephens-Rennie, the author, General Synod commends this resource to any communities that are seeking to reach their neighbourhood more effectively.

https://www.anglican.ca/wp-content/uploads/2012/02/SERVING_GODS_WORLD_ONLINE.pdf

Starting Mission-Shaped Churches, by Stuart P. Robinson, National Mission Facilitator of the Anglican General Synod, Church of England. This book is a one-stop shop for those interested in starting new communities of faith. It covers the biblical foundation for church planting, church planter characteristics, different methods and models, recruiting a core team, developing a mission plan, launching the public meeting and planting again. It comes with discussion questions at the end of each chapter, and is full of helpful examples and illustrations. It is an ideal planning tool for church/congregation planting teams, church committees, parish councils and ministry teams. (St. Paul's Chatswood, 2007)

Surprise the World! The Five Habits of Highly Missional People, by Michael Frost. Christianity is a surprising religion. It has changed the world in remarkable ways throughout history simply through Christians living out their faith. More recently, we've become afraid of a habituated Christianity, thinking that routines will rob our faith of its vitality. The net effect is that we've replaced the habits that surprise the world with habits that mimic the world—and both we and the world suffer for it. (NavPress, 2016)

The Practicing Congregation: imagining a new old church, by Diana Butler Bass. The conventional wisdom about mainline Protestantism maintains that it is a dying tradition, irrelevant to a postmodern society, unresponsive to change, and increasingly disconnected from its core faith tenets. In her provocative new book, historian and researcher Diana Butler Bass argues that there are signs that mainline Protestant churches are indeed changing, finding a new vitality intentionally grounded in Christian practices and laying the groundwork for a new type of congregation. The Practicing Congregation tracks these changes by looking at the overall history of American congregations, noting

the cultural trends that have sparked change, and providing evidence of how mainline churches are re-appropriating traditional Christian practices. (The Alban Institute, 2004)

Who is Our Church? Imagining congregational identity, by Janet R. Cawley. After congregations have considered their history, added up all the statistics, and tried to be honest about their core values, the question still remains: "Who are we, really?" The author offers a creative, engaging, and faithful way to answer just that question. Cawley demonstrates how to use a congregation's knowledge of itself to construct a metaphor of the congregation as a person and then draw on that metaphor to generate options for future mission. The book makes the case that congregations with a clear, well-articulated identity - those that know, accept, and love who they are - can be flexible and respond to change and new initiatives from the Holy Spirit with boldness because their basic sense of themselves is affirmed rather than threatened. (The Alban Institute, 2006)