
Congregational Transformation web catalog

Title 1	Title 2	Author	Publisher	Media	Summary
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40 DAYS & 40 BYTES

MAKING COMPUTERS WORK FOR YOUR CONGREGATION

		Spiegel, Aaron; Armstrong, Nancy & Brent, Bill	The Alban Institute, 2004		BOOK
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There's no question your congregation is going to use computer technology. The only question is, "How?" 40 Days and 40 Bytes will help you design technology that fits your ministry and mission. 40 Days and 40 Bytes will help your congregation explore technology so you can decide, from a ministry and culture standpoint, what you need to do. The goal: godly service; not technological glitz.

AUTHENTIC CONGREGATIONS

		Hopper, Jr., William H.	Geneva Press, 2000		BOOK
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At a time in which our congregations are entering the strange new world of the 21st century, this book is "just what the doctor ordered". It is an exciting account of Christian faithfulness in local congregations and a challenge to Presbyterians to renew their congregations for a new century and a new millennium.

BEING CHURCH, BECOMING COMMUNITY

		Buchanan, John M.	Westminster/John Knox Press		BOOK
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To the author, the 1996-97 Moderator of the General Assembly and the pastor of a Chicago church, mainline churches have an obligation to "be in the world," and their effectiveness requires that they not abandon their traditions. He vigorously affirms the Reformed tradition's unique strengths and heritage, as well as its ongoing relevance in today's world.

BEYOND THE ORDINARY: 10 STRENGTHS OF U.S. CONGREGATIONS

		Woolever, Cynthia; Bruce, Deborah	Westminster John Knox Press		BOOK
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Results from the U.S. Congregational Life Survey, the largest project of its type ever conducted in the United States, have prompted this second book from Westminster John Knox Press authors/researchers Cynthia Woolever and Deborah Bruce. This new book describes the qualities that are evident in strong congregations and develops congregational applications from those findings.

CHURCH OF THE LAST STOP: THE STORY OF BIDWELL

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

		Cootsma, Gregory S.	Geneva Press, 2007		PAMPHLET
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CHURCH OF THE LAST STOP: THE STORY OF BIDWELL

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

		Cootsma, Gregory S.	Geneva Press, 2007		PAMPHLET
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Vol. 9 of The Price H. Gwynn III Church Leadership Series. The author, an associate pastor at the Bidwell Presbyterian Church in Chico, CA writes about experiences in three churches he has served. The mainline church which was thought to be "dying" may actually be able to turn around and become a vibrant presence in its community and even experience real growth.

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CHURCH TURNED INSIDE OUT

Bergquist, Linda & Allan Karr

Jossey-Bass, 2010

BOOK

Church Turned Inside Out offers church leaders a new way to think about how their churches are run. Taking cues from the world of business and offering a multi-disciplined and leading-edge approach, the authors stress the importance of incorporating the design process when establishing a new church or planning the ongoing future of an established church. This groundbreaking book also includes ideas for becoming a more effective church leader. A practical, creative guide for planting or redesigning a church and developing leaders.

CONGREGATIONAL MEGATRENDS

Woods, C. Jeff

Alban Institute

BOOK

Copy 3

CREATING THE FUTURE TOGETHER

METHODS TO INSPIRE YOUR WHOLE CHURCH FAMILY

Mead, Loren B. & Billie T. Alban

Alban Institute, 2008

BOOK

Congregations today face a multitude of challenges in trying to adapt to a quickly changing world. Balancing new concerns with core values is a complicated process that can leave too many members feeling that their voices and needs are not being met. The authors have developed this resource to share their knowledge of how congregations can use large group methods to navigate these new waters.

DISCOVER YOUR SPIRITUAL TYPE: A GUIDE TO INDIVIDUAL AND CONGREGATIONAL GROWTH

Ware, Corinne

Alban Institute

BOOK

How to recognize, appreciate, and build upon different types of spirituality. People whose spiritual styles are not recognized within traditional religious institutions withdraw from them. Here is a tool for strengthening congregations for effective evangelism and for greater appreciation of others' religious beliefs and personal spiritual growth.

DOOR SET OPEN: GROUNDING CHANGE IN MISSION AND HOPE

Steinke, Peter L.

The Alban Institute, 2010

BOOK

We resist change less when we associate it with mission and fortify it with hope. So argues longtime congregational consultant Peter Steinke in his fourth book, A Door Set Open, as he explores the relationship between the challenges of change and our own responses to new ideas and experiences.

ENTERING THE WORLD OF THE SMALL CHURCH

Pappas, Anthony G.

The Alban Institute, Inc., 1988

BOOK

The author offers a road map into the world of the small church. He is especially helpful in motivating change and growth by mobilizing the natural strengths of small churches.

EXTERNALLY FOCUSED QUEST: BECOMING THE BEST CHURCH FOR THE COMMUNITY

Swanson, Eric & Rick Rusaw

Jossey-Bass, 2010

BOOK

The Externally Focused Quest: Becoming the Best Church for the Community is designed for church leaders who want to transform their churches to become less internally focused and more oriented to the world around them. The book includes the clear guidelines on the ten changes congregations must adopt to become truly outwardly focused. This book is not about getting all churches to have an annual day of community service as a tactic but changing the core of who they are and how they see themselves as a part of their community.

Title 1	Title 2	Author	Publisher	Media	Summary
FEEDING THE FLOCK: RESTAURANTS AND CHURCHES YOU'D STAND IN LINE FOR					
	Chandler, Russell		Alban Institute		BOOK
	Stories of why people choose to visit, and revisit, certain restaurants rather than others. It also finds significant points in these stories to apply to congregational health and growth. A book for congregations concerned about being welcoming, hospitable communities.				
FIELD GUIDE TO U.S. CONGREGATIONS WHO'S GOING WHERE AND WHY					
	Woolever, Cynthia & Deborah Bruce		Westminster John Knox Press, 2002		BOOK
	Copy 2				
FIVE CHALLENGES FOR THE ONCE AND FUTURE CHURCH					
	Mead, Loren B.		Alban Institute, 1996		BOOK
	The author presents five key challenges facing today's church--and how they represent opportunities for the evolutionary, transformative changes he believes must take place in congregations if the church is to remain a viable institution into the 21st century.				
FLY IN THE OINTMENT					
	Crabtree, J. Russell		Church Publishing, 2008		BOOK
	Why denominations aren't helping their congregations...and how they can. The author offers an important resource for churches and church leaders as they explore how to transform themselves into vital, flourishing organizations.				
FROM NOMADS TO PILGRIMS					
STORIES FROM PRACTICING CONGREGATIONS					
	Bass, Diana Butler and Joseph Steward-Sicking, e		The Alban Institute, 2005		BOOK
	This book tells the extended stories of a dozen congregations that have been on a pilgrimage to vitality -retrieving and reworking Christian practice, tradition, and narrative. A follow up to The Practicing Congregation: Imagining a New Old Church by Diana Butler Bass. Both books offer a hopeful view of a new and often overlooked renaissance occurring in mainline Protestant congregations.				
GOD'S TAPESTRY					
UNDERSTANDING AND CELEBRATING DIFFERENCES					
	Kondrath, William M.		Alban Institute, 2008		BOOK
	Our differences are our greatest blessings and our greatest challenges, maintains William Kondrath, Episcopal priest and seminary professor. Theologically and ecologically, differences foster life and growth, but discord within denominations and congregations frequently have to do with the inability of individuals and groups to deeply understand and value differences.				
GRACE FOR THE JOURNEY: PRACTICES AND POSSIBILITIES					
FOR IN-BETWEEN TIMES					
	Thompson, Beverly A. and George B. Thompson, J		The Alban Institute, 2011		BOOK
	The authors invite congregations to open themselves to the grace-filled possibilities that accompany these in-between periods. Drawing on biblical examples and contemporary experience, the authors invite the community of faith to see transitional times as an opportunity to develop deeper spiritual awareness of God's call on its communal life—a call that open up fresh potential even as it calls us to consider what familiar things may need to change.				

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HOW YOUR CHURCH FAMILY WORKS

UNDERSTANDING CONGREGATIONS AS EMOTIONAL SYSTEMS

Steinke, Peter L.

The Alban Institute, Inc., 1993

BOOK

The author suggests that congregations are like family systems and explains how to deal in new and effective ways with such issues as the roots of church conflict, the role of leadership, dealing with change in the congregation, the encouragement of responsible behavior and the significance of family of origin in current relationships.

IMAGINING CHURCH:

SEEING HOPE IN A WORLD OF CHANGE

Shockley, Gary & Kim

The Alban Institute, 2009

BOOK

The Shockleys outline how we in the church are now laborers in a new kind of vineyard—one that requires a new way of thinking and acting in our postmodern world. They invite readers to step into the flow of God’s activity and, using the gifts God has given us, cooperate in the work of ministry and mission. Rather than suggesting one model or process for church effectiveness (“do it this way and grow”), *Imagining Church* helps congregational leaders to think more imaginatively about how God is at work in our present ministry contexts.

IN DYING WE ARE BORN: THE CHALLENGE AND THE HOPE FOR CONGREGATIONS

Bush, Peter

Alban Institute, 2008

BOOK

The author offers a powerful challenge to the belief that there is a solution to every problem. He argues that for new life, energy, and passion to arise in congregations, they must die --- die to one way of being church in order that a new way may rise.

IN DYING WE ARE BORN: THE CHALLENGE AND THE HOPE FOR CONGREGATIONS

Bush, Peter

Alban Institute, 2008

BOOK

Deeply ingrained in Western culture, and in the minds of most church leaders, is the belief that there is a solution to every problem. Peter Bush offers a powerful challenge to this approach, arguing that for new life, energy, and passion to arise in congregations, they must die - die to one way of being the church in order that a new way may rise.

INSIDE THE LARGE CONGREGATION

Beaumont, Susan

The Alban Institute, 2011

BOOK

The author, an Alban Institute consultant, has identified five basic leadership systems that need to stay in alignment for the large church to function well for its size: clergy leadership roles, staff team design and function, governance and board function, acculturation and the role of laity, and forming and executing strategy.

LEADING CHANGE IN THE CONGREGATION: SPIRITUAL AND ORGANIZATIONAL TOOLS FOR LEADERS

Rendle, Gilbert R.

Alban Institute, Inc.

BOOK

This volume contains ideas for helping congregational leaders face or initiate change. The book presents ideas in useful bite-sized increments with which leaders can help their congregations to be more adaptive to the world changing around them.

LETTING GO: TRANSFORMING CONGREGATIONS FOR MINISTRY

Phillips, Roy D.

Alban Institute

BOOK

This book offers a new and exciting approach to ministry and to the life of a congregation--a shared ministry that, if implemented, will renew the church, energize ministers, and fulfill seeking laity.

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LIVING THE VISION: CONGREGATIONAL TRANSFORMATION

Boots, Steven		PCUSA			PAMPHLET
<p>To redevelop a congregation is to redirect its ministry in response to significant changes that have taken place among its membership and/or in the larger community it serves.</p>					

LIVING THE VISION: CONGREGATIONAL TRANSFORMATION

Boots, Steven		PCUSA			PAMPHLET
<p>Copy 2</p>					

**MANAGING POLARITIES IN CONGREGATIONS
EIGHT KEYS FOR THRIVING FAITH COMMUNITIES**

Oswald, Roy M. and Barry Johnson		The Alban Institute, 2010			BOOK
<p>Congregations often find themselves in power struggles over two opposing views. People on both sides believe strongly that they are right. No matter what it is called, the research is clear: leaders and organizations that manage polarities well outperform those who don't.</p>					

**MEMORIES, HOPES, AND CONVERSATIONS
APPRECIATIVE INQUIRY AND CONGREGATIONAL CHANGE**

Branson, Mark Lau		Alban Institute			BOOK
<p>When First Presbyterian Church in Altadena, California, was asked to provide a mission study report for its pastor nominating committee, the congregation was afraid they would find themselves engaging in busy work and producing a report that would wind up in a file gathering dust. They then asked professor Mark Lau Branson to consult with them on writing this report. He invited them to join in a process of Appreciative Inquiry--a transformational organization change process--which resulted in a major shift in congregational conversations.</p>					

**NEXT STEPS IN COMMUNITY MINISTRY: HANDS-ON
LEADERSHIP**

Dudley, Carl S.		The Alban Institute, 1996			BOOK
<p>What 24 congregations learned in the five years since the Church and Community Project's completion--how reality shattered the myths and expectations of funding, leadership, church/society partnership; how frustration and exhaustion led to being uplifted and sustained; how action made the poor and homeless real and not statistics. SUITABLE FOR RETREATS</p>					

**OPEN SOURCE CHURCH:
MAKING ROOM FOR THE WISDOM OF ALL**

Whitsitt, Landon		The Alban Institute, 2011			BOOK
<p>In Open Source Church: Making Room for the Wisdom of All, Landon Whitsitt argues that Wikipedia, the encyclopedia that anyone can see and edit, might be the most instructive model available to help congregations develop leaders and structures that can meet the challenges presented by our changing world. Its success depends, he demonstrates, not on the views of select experts but on the collective wisdom of crowds. Then, turning to the work of James Surowiecki in The Wisdom of Crowds, he explores the idea that the body of Christ itself--when it is intentionally diverse, encourages independence of thought, values decentralization, and effectively captures and aggregates the group's collective wisdom--is an open source church.</p>					

**PATHWAY TO RENEWAL:
PRACTICAL STEPS FOR CONGREGATIONS**

Smith, Daniel, P. & Mary K. Sellon		The Alban Institute, 2008			BOOK
<p>Pathway to Renewal offers pastors and congregational leaders a framework for understanding and addressing the deep cultural shift facing the people of a congregation during congregational renewal. This book will help leaders make sense of where their congregation could get stuck and guide them in thinking through what needs to be addressed next as a congregation seeks renewal.</p>					

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PLACES OF PROMISE: FINDING STRENGTH IN YOUR CONGREGATION'S LOCATION					
		Woolever, Cynthia and Deborah Bruce	Westminster John Knox Press, 2008	BOOK	The authors challenge church leaders to reframe their thinking about whether location determines the vitality of congregations. They demonstrate that every congregation can achieve strength and effectiveness in its present location if its ministry focus and leadership decisions parallel factors that are important to the community.
POSTINDUSTRIAL PROMISE					
VITAL RELIGIOUS COMMUNITY IN THE 21st CENTURY					
		Healy, Anthony E.	The Alban Institute, 2005	BOOK	This book provides pastors, lay leaders, teachers, scholars, and seminarians with a solid grounding in the basic aspects of the postindustrial transformation and offers direction to help religious leaders develop responsive and viable places of ministry, mission, and program in this time of change.
PRACTICING CONGREGATION					
IMAGINING A NEW OLD CHURCH					
		Bass, Diane Buttler	The Alban Institute, 2004	BOOK	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. Historian and researcher Diana Butler Bass argues that there are signs that mainline Protestant churches are indeed changing, and laying the groundwork for a new type of congregation.
PRACTICING CONGREGATION					
IMAGINING A NEW OLD CHURCH					
		Bass, Diane Buttler	The Alban Institute, 2004	BOOK	Copy 2.
REIGN OF GOD:					
IMPLICATIONS FOR CONGREGATIONAL REVITALIZATION					
		Finne, Maryjane	Maryjane Finne, 2008	BOOK	A thesis submitted to the faculty of the New Brunswick Theological Seminary for a Degree of Master of Arts, May 2008. The study surveys the history of interpretation of the term "Kingdom of God" in Scripture. Focus congregation is the Willow Grove Presbyterian Church in Scotch Plains, NJ.
RETROFUTURE: REDISCOVERING OUR ROOTS, RECHARTING OUR ROUTES					
		Kelly, Gerard	InverVarsity Press, 1999	BOOK	This book explores the complexity of life today and the responses it demands from us. How is the new generation receiving or rejecting the gospel? Mr. Kelly is an insightful observer of postmodern culture and a compelling guide who dares to step forward to embrace the new and emerging opportunities for Christian life and witness.
SCATTERING SEEDS: CULTIVATING CHURCH VITALITY					
		Garner, Stephen Chapin and Jerry Thornell	The Alban Institute, 2011	BOOK	The story the United Church of Christ in Norwell, MA, an average congregation which has approached congregational life in a not-so-average way. Each congregant is seen as a minister, bringing the good news of Christ to the community; the church has moved away from boards and committees, instead utilizing the people to form ministry teams; and they have revitalized the way they approach and practice worship and education.

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UNDERSTANDING YOUR CONGREGATION AS A SYSTEM

Parsons, George and Speed B. Leas	The Alban Institute, Inc.	BOOK
<p>Congregational Systems Inventory series. This resource is a new evaluation tool for congregational leaders. It will enable church leaders to explore seven key areas in evaluating congregational life: strategy, process, pastoral and lay leadership, authority, relatedness, and learning.</p>		

UNIQUE DYNAMICS OF THE SMALL CHURCH

Dudley, Carl S.	The Alban Institute, Inc.	BOOK
<p>A new perspective on the problem of the small economically marginal or submarginal congregation. It carries the past into the future and it will survive.</p>		

VIRTUAL FAITH

THE IRREVERENT SPIRITUAL QUEST OF GENERATION X

Beaudoin, Tom	Jossey-Bass Publishers, 1998	BOOK
<p>Through an investigation of the popular culture of Generation X - music videos, cyberspace, and fashion - Beaudoin shows that this generation is operating according to a theology radically different from that which shaped the church of their elders. This smart and highly original look at theology and GenX opens an important dialogue about the role of God and religion.</p>		

WWW.CONGREGATIONALRESOURCES.ORG

CONGREGATIONAL RESOURCE GUIDE

Bass, Richard, ed.	The Alban Institute, 2004	BOOK
<p>This book is an invaluable resource for congregational leaders. It puts the rich array of important congregational resources into context by examining the key books, organizations, Web sites, and people that will help leaders gain an understanding of important issues facing their faith communities. A companion to an online resource produced by the Alban Institute and the Indianapolis Center for Congregations</p>		