



Indianapolis Center for Congregations

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Affiliated with The Alban Institute
Funded by Lilly Endowment Inc.

Resources for: The Externally Focused Church

Our mission is to assist Greater Indianapolis Area congregations in finding and using the very best resources available to address the practical challenges they face. This resource list was developed to supplement *The Externally Focused Church* workshop sponsored by the Center and led by Eric Swanson, director of Leadership Network's Leadership Communities for Externally Focused Churches. Swanson recommends the following resources:

Elliott, Barbara. *Street Saints: Renewing America's Cities*. West Conshohocken, PA: Templeton Foundation Press, 2004.

Elliott's book shines the light on scores of people, churches, programs and strategies that God is using to change lives and transform communities.

Frost, Michael and Alan Hirsch. *The Shaping of Things to Come: Innovation and Mission for the 21st Century Church*. Peabody, MA: Hendrickson Publishers, 2003. A deeply profound book written by two Australians that contrasts the "attractional church" with the "missional church." The authors emphasize that Christology determines missiology which in turn determines our ecclesiology.

Lewis, Robert. *The Church of Irresistible Influence*. Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan, 2003.

Lewis helps believers understand the principles of becoming a bridge-building congregation. This is a must-read seminal book on engaging your community with good deeds and good news.

Rusaw, Rick and Eric Swanson. *The Externally Focused Church*. Loveland, CO: Group Publishing, 2004.

This book is a strategy for faith in action packed with practical examples of how believers can take their faith out of the sanctuary and onto the streets. This book helps churches become salt, light and leaven to their communities.

Visit the Congregational Resource Guide website, www.congregationalresources.org, to find more resources on this and many other topics of interest to congregations.