



Indianapolis Center for Congregations

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Resources for: Transforming Congregational Culture

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 *Transforming Congregational Culture* workshop sponsored by the Center and led by Anthony Robinson, pastor, author, congregational consultant and president of Columbia Leadership Network. Robinson recommends the following resources:

Bass, Diana Butler. *The Practicing Congregation: Imagining a New Old Church*. Herndon, VA: The Alban Institute, 2004.

Bass, who teaches at Virginia Theological Seminary, points a way beyond the tired liberal-conservative polarity, one that involves reclaiming spiritual practices and "intentional church-going."

Foss, Michael W. *Power Surge: Six Marks of Discipleship for a Changing Church*. Minneapolis, MN: Augsburg/Fortress Press, 2000.

Lutheran pastor, Michael Foss outlines the shift from "a culture of membership" to a "culture of discipleship" as the basis for congregational renewal.

Guder, Darrell L. *The Continuing Conversion of the Church*. Grand Rapids, MI: Wm. B. Eerdmans Publishing, 2000.

Guder, does an excellent job of unpacking the implications of Christendom and the opportunities and challenges occasioned by the demise of Christendom in western culture.

Heifetz, Ronald A. and Martin Linsky. *Leadership on the Line: Staying Alive Through the Dangers of Leading*. Boston, MA: Harvard Business School Press, 2002.

A briefer and more popular version of the material in Heifetz's seminal work, *Leadership without Easy Answers*. Heifetz, of Harvard's Kennedy School of Government, does not write explicitly of churches, but his insights are transferable for leaders in many settings.

Standish, Graham N. *Becoming a Blessed Church: Forming a Church of Spiritual Purpose, Presence and Power*. Herndon, VA: Alban Institute, 2005.

Standish, provides experience based cues to forming a congregation where listening to God sets the course and shapes lives.

Weems, Lovett H. Jr. *Take the Next Step: Leading Lasting Change in the Church*. Nashville, TN: Abingdon Press, 2003.

Weems lays out the basics of congregational leadership and a step-by-step approach to developing and implementing vision.