Resource Guide

Our mission is to assist Indiana 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 workshop, Beyond the Ordinary, sponsored by the Center and led by Cynthia Woolever and Deborah Bruce of the U.S. Congregational Life Survey and co-authors of the book Beyond the Ordinary. Woolever and Bruce recommend these resources.

This book gives the first portrait of congregational life in the United States in the new century and is based on the results of the U.S. Congregational Life Survey of more than 2,000 congregations and more than 300,000 worshipers from across many denominations. Complete with charts, graphs, and cartoons, the book highlights survey results to provide a closer look at congregational vitality, to help congregations renew and enrich their missions, and to describe the American religious landscape in the new millennium.

This book reveals an intricate look at vitality and health in congregations. The authors detail ten strengths that are key to vital congregations. Results demonstrate that every congregation has strengths, and that by building on its strengths, the congregation can transform its future.

This book challenges church leaders to reframe their thinking about whether location determines the vitality of congregations. Based on many ways in which location can be defined, it demonstrates that every congregation can achieve strength and effectiveness in its present location. The book dispels myths about the role that context plays in congregational vitality and offers insight on the strengths of various locations.

U.S. Congregations web site: www.USCongregations.org
The web site offers additional findings from the U.S. Congregational Life Survey on topics such as evangelism and church growth, worshiper profiles, and strategies for congregational leaders. The site also gives details for congregational leaders interested in identifying their congregation’s strengths by taking the Congregational Life Survey.

Visit www.congregationalresources.org to find more resources on this and many other topics of interest to congregations.