

## Recommended Books - Other Publishers

The following books have recently caught the attention of Covenant leaders, as well as individuals from local Covenant churches. Unless otherwise noted, items are available for purchase from Covenant Bookstore (1-800-621-1290; [info@covenantbookstore.com](mailto:info@covenantbookstore.com); [www.covenantbookstore.com](http://www.covenantbookstore.com)). Items not in stock may be special ordered. Do you have additional questions regarding these resources? Are you looking for suggested books within other subject categories? Do you have a recommendation to share? Contact the Covenant Resource Center for additional assistance (1-800-338-IDEA; [resource.center@covchurch.org](mailto:resource.center@covchurch.org)). This listing will be updated on a quarterly basis, and we value your input!

### ***Adult Ministry***

Becoming Adult, Becoming Christian, by James Fowler (Jossey-Bass, 2000) ISBN 0-7879-5134X

In this updated, reissue of a 1984 classic, the author applies his groundbreaking research on the development of faith to Christianity. Readers are challenged to explore what it means to find and claim vocation: a purpose for one's life that is part of the purposes of God.

Christian Educator's Handbook of Adult Education, edited by Kenneth O. Gangel and J.C. Wilhoit (Baker Books, 1993) ISBN 0-8010-2168-5

Professionals from across the evangelical spectrum survey and evaluate the state of adult education in the church today.

Ministering to Today's Adults, by Kenn Gangel (Word, 1999) ISBN 0-8499-1361-6

The author addresses a variety of topics: specific advice based on ages, genders, and circumstances peculiar to certain ministries; curriculum models; contemporary solutions to the most common problems we encounter in ministering to today's adults.

### ***Children's Ministry***

The Child in Our Hands Leadership Manual: Congregations and Families as Partners in Nurturing the Faith, by David W. Anderson (Youth & Family Institute of Augsburg College, 1998). Order from Youth & Family Institute of Augsburg College (1-877-239-2492; [www.augsburg.edu/ayfi](http://www.augsburg.edu/ayfi))

This manual is designed to help congregations more fully understand a vision and ministry model based on the vital partnership between the home and congregation. Through the use of leadership strategies, assessment tools for congregational decision-making and reproducible articles for congregational study, lay and clergy are given a vision of the Church that is biblically grounded and responsive to the needs of today's children, youth, and adults.

Making God Real to Your Children, by Sally Lemman Chall (Baker Books, 1991) ISBN 0800786300

Believing that children learn most of their values and attitudes about life and eternity by example, this practical book is filled with ideas to help you exemplify enthusiasm for God and His Word.

### ***Christian Education - General***

Christian Educator's Handbook on Spiritual Formation, edited by Kenneth O. Gangel and James C. Wilhoit (Baker, 1998) ISBN 0-8010-2167-7

Some of the day's leading writers on spirituality are marshaled together in an encyclopedia of the spiritual life.

How to Have a Great Sunday School, by Wes and Sheryl Haystead (Gospel Light, 1999) ISBN 08307-18265

Ideas, advice, forms, sample job descriptions, and guidelines to help you set up and run an effective and exciting Sunday school.

Learning Styles, by Marlene LeFever (David C. Cook, 1995) ISBN 0-7814-5117-5

A look at the different ways people learn, this book reveals how to identify learning styles, appreciate them, and teach to them.

The Nuts and Bolts of Christian Education: Practical Wisdom for Teachers and Leaders, by Delia Halverson (Abingdon, 2000) ISBN 0-687-07116-X

This book combines teaching tips, reproducible charts and handouts, and a topical index in a practical guidebook that leads church educators through the challenging task of teaching Christian learners.

### ***Christian Formation***

Invitation to a Journey, by M. Robert Mullholland, Jr. (InterVarsity, 1993) ISBN 0-8308-1386-1

The author fleshes out a carefully worded definition of spiritual formation that encompasses the dynamics of a vital Christian life and counters our culture's tendency to trivialize, methodize, and privatize spirituality.

Soul Feast, by Marjorie J. Thompson (The Upper Room, 1995) ISBN 0664255485

The author offers a framework for understanding the spiritual disciplines, as well as instruction in developing and nurturing those practices. Discussions on topics such as prayer, spiritual reading, worship, fasting, self-examination, and hospitality are practical and inspirational—and are suitable for individual or group study.

### ***Church Growth***

Beyond Church Growth, by Robert E. Logan (Revell, 1989)

The author provides practical strategies for instilling a vision for church planting within a congregation.

An Unstoppable Force: Daring to Become the Church God Had in Mind, by Erwin Raphael McManus (Group Publishing Inc., 2001)

This book will help you determine the uniqueness of your church:

- Challenges you to see God's vision for the mission and purpose of the church.
- Helps you to explore specific changes in the culture that call for immediate change in the church.
- Offers practical ways for your church to find its unique voice and identity to express Christ's love and faith to your culture.
- Presents interactive questions in each chapter to foster discussion about the life of your church, its focus on Christ, and how it can be a richer influence on your culture.

## ***Evangelism***

Building a Contagious Church: Revolutionizing the Way We View and Do Evangelism, by Mark Mittelberg (Zondervan, 2000) ISBN 0-310-22149-8

This book will help you customize an evangelistic strategy that really works—not just for a while, but also for the long haul. The author describes in detail how you can tailor-make: A Contagious Plan, A Contagious Change Process (6-stage process), A Contagious Diversity, and A Contagious Ministry.

Culture Shift, by David W. Henderson (Baker Books, 1998) ISBN 0801090598

While it is not only about evangelism, this book is a helpful resource for those who desire to interact with seekers and nonbelievers. This book is a practical case study, full of facts and figures, stories and illustrations, practical advice and challenge for the Christian subculture as they seek to communicate with the postmodern world.

## ***Family Ministry***

The Family-Friendly Church, by Ben Freudenburg (Group, 1998) ISBN 0-7644-2048-8

How certain programming can often short-circuit your church's ability to truly strengthen families—and what you can do about it. Includes practical ideas and suggestions featuring profiles of real churches. Application worksheets are included.

Passing On the Faith: A Radical New Model for Youth and Family Ministry, by Merton P. Strommen and Richard A. Hardel (Youth and Family Institute of Augsburg College, 2000) ISBN 0-88489-606-4

Partnership between families and their churches is essential in the faith formation of young people. Now is the time to awaken the power of parents to teach and nurture in partnership with the institutions designed to support them in their efforts. The authors share wisdom from their experience, stories from the field, recent research, and practical suggestions to make a compelling case for rethinking the role of congregations and for unleashing the capacity to trigger the faith-building capacity of families.

## ***Leadership***

The Ascent of a Leader: How Ordinary Relationships Develop Extraordinary Character and Influence, by Bill Thrall, et.al. (Jossey-Bass, 1999) ISBN 0-7879-4766-0

You can become a leader that people want to follow by opening yourself to the influences that develop character: enduring relationships with friends, family, and God. This guide leads you through a process by which you can cultivate extraordinary character and influence in your home, your company, your community, and every other arena of your life.

Building Church Leaders Notebook (Christianity Today, 1998). Order from Christianity Today ([www.christianityonline.com](http://www.christianityonline.com)).

Published in a 3-ring binder, this leader development tool includes 12 themes in copy-ready format so that church leaders can fit the learning into their regular meetings. Themes include: Assessing Church Needs, Character of a Leader, Reaching People, Church Health, Spiritual Care, Handling Conflict, Recruiting and Staffing, Finances, Motivating Leaders, Worship, Vision, Building a Team. Note: Volume 2 (2000) is available with 12 additional themes.

In the Name of Jesus: Reflections on Christian Leadership, by Henri J. Nouwen (Crossroad, 1993) ISBN 0-8245-1259-6

The author provides a profile of Christian leadership that is in contrast to worldly values. His ideal leader is a praying leader, a vulnerable leader, a trusting leader, and one who voluntarily chooses a life of downward mobility.

### ***Ministries of Compassion and Justice***

Family Serve: Volunteer Opportunities for Families, by Mary Thoele (Aid Association for Lutherans, 2001) ISBN 1-931380-01-5

This book provides instruction for parents who want to teach their children values by demonstration, not lecture, and who want to enjoy spending time with their children while helping others. Includes guidance on how to plan suitable volunteer activities, locate a worthwhile project, and get the most out of helping others.

Handbook for Urban Church Ministries, and All Who Reach Out With Their Neighbors, by Phil Tom and Sally Johnson (Metro Mission, 1996)

This workbook leads a planning committee through issues and processes needed for establishing a strong, effective community ministry program.

Teaching Kids to Care and Share: 300+ Mission and Service Ideas for Children, by Jolene L. Roehlkepartain (Abingdon, 2000) ISBN 0-687-08428-8

This book features 325 lively, age-appropriate projects and activities that involve 3-to 5-year olds, 6- to 12-year olds, 6- to 9-year olds, and 10- to 12-year olds in service to one another, their churches and local communities, and the world. Reproducible pages are included, as well as Scripture and topical index.

### ***Mission***

Changing the Mind of Missions: Where Have We Gone Wrong? By James F. Engel and William A. Dyrness (InterVarsity, 1998) ISBN 0-8308-2239-9

The authors offer a sympathetic yet courageous analysis of the challenges that North American and other Western Christian missions face—and propose a practical reframing of missions organizations to help meet the new realities of worldwide ministry.

Walking with the Poor: Principles and Practices of Transformational Development, by Bryant L. Myers (Orbis Books, 1999) ISBN 1-57075-275-3

Key concepts of this book include holistic Christian development theory, theology, and Christian organizational practice. The author's purpose is to describe a proposal for understanding the principles and practice of transformational development from a Christian perspective—and to bring together the basic streams of thinking and experience. The author explores Christian views of poverty, its causes, and how it is experienced differently in different cultures. Includes a series of charts that can be made into overheads, as well as a bibliography and scriptural index.

### ***Multiple Staff Ministry***

How To Thrive in Associate Staff Ministry, by Kevin E. Lawson (Alban Institute, 2000) ISBN 1-56699-227-3

Associate staff ministry is a calling with its own identity, integrity and exciting possibilities. The author demonstrates the communication and self-care skills that people in these often highly specialized positions can utilize to grow beyond mere survival into dynamic ministry.

Staff Your Church for Growth: Building Team Ministry in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century, by Gary L. McIntosh (Thomas Nelson, 1998) ISBN 0-8010-9095-4

Changing times make multiple-staff churches more necessary. Here is the how, why, who, and when to add staff in a way that encourages growth.

### ***Older Adult Ministry***

Designing an Older Adult Ministry, by Richard Gentzler, Jr. (Discipleship Resources, 1999) ISBN 0-88177-269-0

The author gives new ways to develop and strengthen ministries with older adults, providing: information about the needs and life issues of older adults; tools to help congregations evaluate their current situation; models for ministry with older adults; and suggested resources.

Forward Together: A New Vision for Senior Adult Ministry, by John G. "Jay" Johnston (Lifeway Press, 1998) ISBN 0-7673-3115-X

This resource gives direction on how to provide a comprehensive senior adult ministry program to meet the spiritual, mental, emotional, and physical needs of the fastest growing segment of the U.S. population. The chapters are on various phases of senior adult programming including: Bible Teaching-Reaching, Discipleship, Music, Missions, Financial Planning, Through-the-Week-Ministries and Recreation.

### ***Prayer***

Contemplative Bible Reading, by Richard Peace (NavPress, 2000) ISBN 1576831086

This guide is an introduction to an ancient method of approaching Scripture, often called lectio divina. 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. This guide can be used individually or within a small group setting.

The Praying Church Sourcebook, by Alvin J. VanderGriend (CRC Publications, 1997) ISBN 1-56212-258-4

This practical guide for churches includes ideas and helps regarding prayer strategies (e.g., concerts of prayer, houses of prayer, prayer walking, and other effective techniques), as well as how to develop prayer retreats, organize evangelism prayer groups, start a prayer telephone ministry, and enrich family prayer. It also includes a reading list of classic and contemporary books on prayer.

### ***Racial Righteousness***

Building Bridges: A Handbook for Cross-Cultural Ministry, by Kathryn Choy-Wong (Judson Press, 1998)

This handbook is a beginning point for persons in local churches who desire to relate to one another cross-culturally within a congregation, among sister congregations, or in the larger community of diverse peoples. This book is a valuable resource for developing multicultural ministries and provides tools for increasing mutual understanding.

Divided by Faith, by Michael O. Emerson and Christian Smith (Oxford University Press, 2000) ISBN 0-19514707-3

Based on their own research, the authors argue that evangelicals have a theological worldview that makes it difficult for them to perceive systematic injustices in society. As a result, many well-meaning strategies for healing racial divisions (such as cross-cultural friendships) carry within them the seeds of their own defeat. The book also includes a concise history of evangelical thought about race from colonial times to the civil rights movement.

Embracing Diversity: Leadership in Multicultural Congregations, by Charles R. Foster (Alban Institute, 1997) ISBN 1-56699-181-1

Explore a variety of approaches congregations have taken to embrace differences; identify leadership issues diversity creates in congregations; and discover programmatic suggestions drawn from the experience of multicultural congregations.

### ***Singles Ministry***

Giving the Ministry Away, by Terry Hershey, Karen Butler and Rich Hurst (Cook Communications, 1993) ISBN 0-8714-5040-3

This book focuses on leadership for single adult ministry. Includes proven growth strategies, leadership training ideas, recruiting tools, and more.

Singles at the Crossroads, by Albert Y. Hsu (InterVarsity, 1997) ISBN 0-8308-1353-5

The author provides a balanced, biblical understanding of Christian singleness that debunks the myth of the “gift of singleness” and honors singleness as a status equal to marriage. Includes an interview with John Stott.

### ***Small Group Ministry***

Companions in Christ (The Upper Room, 2001)

This 28-week curriculum for small groups focuses on spiritual habits meant to deepen one’s faith. This study demands a fairly high commitment level, as there are daily practices to do through the week. Includes: Getting Started Guide, Leader’s Guide, Participant’s Book, and a Journal. For further information, contact the Covenant Resource Center.

Gathering the Seekers, by James Newby (Alban Institute, 1995). Order directly from: The Trueblood Yokefellow Academy, 4126 Ingersoll Avenue, Des Moines, IA 50312; 515-255-3149, ext. 28; [jnewby2915@aol.com](mailto:jnewby2915@aol.com).

Instead of starting with Christian “information,” then trying to connect this information with life experiences, the NET Groups program (an acronym for Nurturing Experience Theologically) begins with *experiences* and leads people into biblical and theological reflection. The NET Groups process unfolds from a base point in *experience*, drawn out of one’s work life, personal life, life of spiritual growth, family life, social relationships, and life in the community of faith. Theological reflection connects these personal experiences with the larger Christian story. This connection/reflection sparks a new understanding of personal ministry, which empowers people spiritually.

The Small Church Small Group Guide, by David Stark, Patrick Keifert, and Judy Stack Nelson (Church Innovations, 1998) ISBN 1-890676-20-9

Small membership churches will find this combined manager’s guide and leader’s guide helpful. It contains a pull-out leader’s guide that lets you keep at your fingertips the key principles of leading groups.

### ***Special Needs***

Practical Teaching Methods for Bringing the Gospel to Special Needs Students, by Linda Kay Zessin (Department of Christian Formation, ECC). Purchase from the Covenant Resource Center, 1-800-338-IDEA; [resource.center@covchurch.org](mailto:resource.center@covchurch.org).

This resource outlines content, methods, and experiences in ministry for special needs students. Includes many practical ideas.

That All May Worship: An Interfaith Welcome To People With Disabilities (National Organization on Disability). Order directly from NOD, 202-293-5960 (TDD is 202-293-5968), [www.nod.org](http://www.nod.org).

This 56-page practical resource assists congregations in welcoming people of all disabilities. The appendix includes a helpful “Audit of Barriers,” including those pertaining to attitudes, communications, and architecture.

In Their Own Way: Accepting Your Children for Who They Are, by Karen Johnson Zurheide and Jeffrey R. Zurheide (Augsburg Fortress, 2000) ISBN 0-8066-3957-1  
This book offers practical and spiritual help for parents who are raising children who are not “perfect” due to health problems, handicaps, or behavioral problems. With God’s grace, parents can learn to accept their children and create new dreams for their children. Ultimately, parents can extend grace to others—in their families, their churches, and their communities.

### ***Stewardship***

The Great Stewardship Adventure for Kids, by P. Moorhead and David Jobe (Gospel Light, 2000) ISBN 0830725067

This is a 13-session reproducible curriculum for kids in grades 4 to 6 which introduces the concepts of whole-life stewardship, all things come from God, and we are trusted to manage all faithfully. Reproducible take-home papers reinforce each lesson. Can be used in Sunday school, midweek programs, small groups, etc.

### ***Town and Country***

Dynamics of Small Town Ministry, by Lawrence W. Farris (Alban Institute, 2000) ISBN 1-56699-228-1

A very readable book that gives a great overview of the role the church plays in a small town. An especially useful resource for a pastor who grew up in urban or suburban settings, but is now servicing a rural congregation.

No Little Places: The Untapped Potential of the Small-Town Church, by Ron Klassen and John Koessler (Baker, 1996) ISBN 0-8010-9014-8

This book reminds the reader that bigger is not always better and that successful ministry should not be measured solely by the number of people in the pews. It also outlines the changing rural landscape and stresses that churches must adjust to these changes. The book closes by highlighting some of the strengths of small churches and challenges the reader to dream big dreams.

Rural Ministry: The Shape of the Renewal to Come, by L. Shannon Jung and Mary A. Agria (Abingdon, 1998) ISBN 0-687-01606-1

A great resource that describes how rural America is changing and suggests the appropriate Christian response to this change. Helpful appendices make this a useful tool for pastors. This book will be of particular interest to a pastor serving a rural congregation for the first time. The authors do a good job of balancing the academic discussion of rural ministry with real world examples.

### ***Women’s Ministry***

Designing Effective Women’s Ministries, by Jill Briscoe, Laurie McIntyre, and Beth Severson (Zondervan, 1995) ISBN 0-310-43191-3

This book discusses the whys, starting points, components, and choices behind effective women's ministries and shows how to develop programs that are specifically tailored to your church and your community.

Women Reaching Women, by Chris Adams (Lifeway Press, 1997) ISBN 0-7673-2593-1  
Equips women to use their spiritual gifts to reach other women and to support the work of the church. Includes practical, biblical help for using and sharing spiritual gifts; developing leaders; mentoring; meeting needs through groups; special events, conferences, and retreats; publicity; and more.

Women's Ministry Handbook, edited by Carol Porter and Mike Hammel (Victor, 1992) ISBN 0-89693-885-9

This book discusses the “whys” of women’s ministry, then thoroughly examines spiritual as well as personal qualities of leadership.

### ***Young Adult Ministry***

Big Questions, Worthy Dreams, by Sharon Daloz Parks (Jossey-Bass, 2000) ISBN 0-7879-4171-9

A smart and compassionate look at the challenges young adults face in their search for a place of belonging, integrity; and contribution. The author re-examines the twenty-something years and shows how critical it is to create mentoring environments that recognize, support, and inspire the promise of young adult lives.

Getting Real: An Interactive Guide to Relationship Ministry, by Ken Baugh and Rich Hurst (NavPress, 2000) ISBN 1-57683-179-5

This book lays the foundation for beginning an effective young adult ministry. It offers an overview of Gen X and the Net Gen, providing valuable insight into how they think and what they need. Along with real life examples, it presents essential principles that often spell the difference between a healthy ministry and a group that never gets off the ground.

### ***Youth Ministry***

Shaping the Spiritual Life of Students, by Richard Dunn (InterVarsity, 2001) ISBN 0-8308-2284-4

Today’s teens are the first generation on a postmodern pilgrimage where pluralism and spiritual experiences are in while Christianity is out. Richard Dunn shows adults how to mentor them by setting the pace—physically, intellectually, emotionally, socially, and spiritually—with sensitivity to the unique issues of adolescent development.

Youth Ministry Management Tools, by Ginny Olson, Diane Elliot and Mike Work (Youth Specialties, 2001) ISBN 0-310-23596-0

This book has easy-to-read guidelines for everything from how to put together a budget, interview questions, release forms, how to plan for a missions trip, and more! The book includes a CD ROM with a record keeping system for students, volunteers, events, small groups, and spiritual gifts. The CD also has templates of all the forms for you to customize to meet your needs.

For questions regarding other ministry areas, contact the Covenant Resource Center:  
[resource.center@covchurch.org](mailto:resource.center@covchurch.org)