



# RESOURCES for CHURCH LEADERS

Leadership in the church is a multi-faceted topic. Whether we are talking about basic issues of faith formation and transformation or about management, the following resources may be especially useful for church leaders and congregation councils. I have attempted to categorize these video resources by topic: TRANSITIONS, REFLECTION and NURTURE, LEADERSHIP FORMATION, MANAGING DISAGREEMENTS, BREAKING NEW GROUND, and VISIONING. Many additional print resources also are timely and important. Whichever leadership issues you may be facing, you will find here topics for monthly meetings, for faith formation and growth, new models for ministry, challenges to the way things may have been done in the past. Much food for thought! If you'd like more information, call the Resource Center.

Julie K. Aageson,  
Director of the Resource Center

## TRANSITIONS

**First Call** (25 min.) helps newly called pastors as well as first-call pastors address issues of transition.

**The In-Between Times: A Time of Pastoral Transition** (21 min.) addresses pastoral transition and the role of interim ministry.

**To Call a Pastor—Helping Call Committees to Serve Effectively** (16 min.) describes the process and issues surrounding the calling of a pastor.

**The Opening Door—Calling a Woman as Pastor** (20 min.) dramatizes some of the issues which may surface when a congregation considers calling a woman for the first time.

**Changing the Rhythm of Parish Ministry** (14 min.) describes the biblical background for sabbatical rest and sabbatical leave. Three pastors share their experiences of sabbatical transition.

# REFLECTION and NURTURE

**The Rabbi's Gift** (7 min.) is a compelling meditation and discussion starter about Christian community and what it means to be the Body of Christ.

**The Overwhelming Love of God** (39 min.) offers a transforming witness of God's love. The beginning story about Shel Silverstein and his image of Christ as portrayed in his book, *The Giving Tree*, is a good beginning session with the remainder of the film shown later.

**The Goose Story** (4 min.) invites viewers to learn five lessons from geese about caring for one another.

**The Hardest Job—Leading a Congregation to Live From Its Liturgy** (19 min.) shows how the Sunday liturgy—worship—is the center of congregational life. Two parishes share their excitement about making worship the heart of their identity.

**How Do We Help? The Goal of Christian Ministry** (24 min.) is an insightful look at what Christian ministry means in all its forms. This inspiring and challenging video will move viewers to think about why we do what we do in the church.

**Taking Stock—the Shape of Faith Among American Protestants** (26 min.) defines and describes faith maturity and its critical role in a vital and growing congregation.



# BREAKING NEW GROUND



The Joel Barker series on changing models or paradigms is especially helpful for parishes seeking change.

**The Business of Paradigms** (48 min.) shows how dependent we are on “the way things have been done.” It offers helpful insights about resistance to change.

**Paradigm Pioneers** (31 min.) focuses on leaders whose views of the future help make change easier.

**The Church in a Changing Culture** deals with strategic ministry, leadership, vision, and outreach. This video seminar by George Barna includes reproducible resources.

# VISIONING



**Choices–New Concepts for Ministry in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century** (70 min.) helps congregations think about change and new concepts of ministry in a workshop format.

**The Power of Vision** (38 min.) explains how a powerful, positive vision of the future can empower individuals and groups.

**A Call to Visionary Leadership** (70 min.) provides a six-session format to help congregations identify and develop a clear mission and vision. Video segments accompany each session.

**The Abilene Paradox** (28 min.) shows the need for clear, open communication about plans and ideas in order to reach desired outcomes.

**Fish!** (17 min.) helps viewers imagine a workplace where everyone chooses to bring passion, energy, and a positive attitude to engage and inspire people in more meaningful, satisfying work.

**Fish! Sticks** (17 min.) shows how an organization keeps sight of its vision. It takes viewers to a workplace where every employee assumes personal responsibility for maintaining vision and focus.

**Congregational Planning Series** is a three-part series for leaders making long-range plans and exploring the future. Titles include: *Understanding Congregational Change* (30 min.); *Planning Around Your Congregation's Life Cycle* (30 min.); and *Resources for Congregational Planning* (30 min.).

# LEADERSHIP FORMATION

**Leadership and the New Science** (25 min.) explores simpler ways to manage complex organizations.

Dr. Margaret Wheatley describes vital clues from nature as models for better management.

**Leadership for the Congregation** is a series of videos on topics like mission statements, worship, and lay leadership.

**A Peacock in the Land of Penguins** (11 min.) describes in a modern day fable the perils and possibilities of being different and how to manage diversity and difference.

**Running Good Meetings** (12 min.) includes pre-planning, timing, agendas, dealing with nay-sayers, and basic guidelines for leading effective meetings.

**Reinventing Leadership** (42 min.) illustrates new models of leadership. Edwin Friedman's perspective on the ability to lead being more related to *the nature of our presence* than to technique or know-how is central.

**Leadership for a Church in Mission** (45 min.) is a presentation by Dr. David Tiede to GIFTS, the lay ministry program for the Eastern North Dakota Synod.



# MANAGING DISAGREEMENTS

**Riding the Wave: Strategies for Change** (17 min.) uses mini-dramas to show how trying to control the uncontrollable leaves us feeling powerless and overwhelmed. Viewers will learn the advantages that come when we shift from security-seeking behaviors to a mind set that helps us see problems as opportunities for expanding our potential.

**The Balancing Act—the Congregation as Emotional System** (90 min.) is a basic introduction to the congregation as a system. Peter Steinke empowers viewers to take responsibility for their own functioning in relationships.

**Groupthink** (25 min.) discusses the tendency to achieve agreement for the sake of group unity.

**Dealing with Conflict** (20 min.) teaches people how to control conflict before it takes control of them. Three scenarios illustrate a healthier and more productive work environment.

**Congregation As Emotional System and How Your Church Family Works** are presentations to local congregations by Peter Steinke based on his work defining congregations as family systems.

**Talking 9 to 5—Women and Men in the Workplace** (29 min.) addresses gender differences in communications and in leadership styles.

**Conflict in the Church** (40 min.) helps congregations address inevitable conflict and offers insights in turning conflict to strength.

**The Asoh Defense—Managing Blame and Forgiveness** (13 min.) focuses on breaking the blame cycle when human errors happen. It will help viewers learn how truth and acceptance of responsibility increase creativity and productivity.



The Resource Center

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