

Basic Library for Fresh Start Facilitators

Bass, Diana Butler. Christianity for the Rest of Us: How the Neighborhood Church is Transforming the Faith. San Francisco, CA, HarperSanFrancisco, 2006 – the third of Bass' books on thriving mainline congregations; contains a reflection guide that will help congregations discuss the potential for change in congregational life and leadership.

Bridges, William; Managing Transitions, 2nd Edition; Cambridge, MA: DaCapo Press, 2003 – describes model of transition vs. change, how transitions effect organizations, and what an effective leader in times of transition should do.

Heifetz, Ronald A. Leadership without Easy Answers. Cambridge, MA: Belknap Press, 1994 – the classic book on leadership in uncertain times by a Harvard Business School professor and physician; makes helpful distinction between technical vs. adaptive problems which relate to the type of leadership needed.

Johnson, David W. and Johnson, Frank P. Joining Together: Group Theory and Group Skills, 10th Edition. Upper Saddle River, NJ, 2009 – a good overview of the research regarding group development, group leadership and group processes (e.g., decision-making) this classic work includes instruments for self-assessment of behaviors and skills as well as exercises to promote group formation.

Leas, Speed B. Moving Your Church Through Conflict. Herndon, VA, The Alban Institute, 2002 -- this paper provides detailed descriptions of Leas' seven levels of conflict model, strategies to use at each, and the impact of church size on conflict; available as a download PDF file from Alban (www.alban.org).

Melander, Rochelle; and Eppley, Harold. The Spiritual Leader's Guide to Self-Care. Herndon, VA, The Alban Institute, 2002 – a year-long set of exercises to be worked through with a partner, with each week covering a different topic in the area of self-care (e.g, time management, setting priorities, life-long learning, spiritual life, health); good for lay or ordained leaders; contains extensive bibliography of resources.

Rendle, Gilbert R. and Mann, Alice. Holy Conversations: Strategic Planning as a Spiritual Practice for Congregations; Herndon, VA; The Alban Institute, 2003 – a comprehensive guide to strategic planning; includes multiple resources for congregational use in the appendix.

Robinson, Anthony B. Transforming Congregational Culture. Grand Rapids, MI, William B. Eerdmans Publishing Company, 2003 -- applies Ronald Heifetz' theory of adaptive leadership to congregational leadership and illustrates the impact of the post-modern world on congregational life.

Steinke, Peter L. Congregational Leadership in Anxious Times: Being Calm and Courageous No Matter What. Herndon, VA, The Alban Institute, 2006 – using family systems theory, Steinke outlines the leader's role given the situations of our times and provides questions for further exploring the situation facing congregational leaders.

Weisbord, Marvin and Janoff, Sandra. Don't Just Do Something, Stand There! Ten Principles for Leading Meetings that Matter. San Francisco, CA, Berrett-Koehler, 2007 – a basic primer on group facilitation; contains interesting examples and practical tips.

Wheatley, Margaret J. Finding Our Way: Leadership for an Uncertain Time. San Francisco, CA, Berrett-Koehler, 2005 – a collection of articles, all previously published elsewhere that cover issues of leadership in this new age.