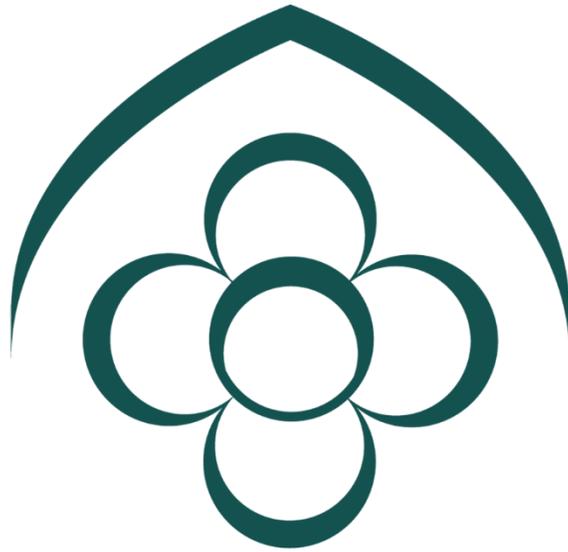


COMMUNITY MINISTRY RESOURCES



Presented by the Center for Congregations 2017

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COMMUNITY MINISTRY RESOURCES

INTRODUCTION

Many congregations are big on community ministries for others. Increasingly, however, leaders are learning that long-term effectiveness comes from mutual ministry – community ministry where congregations build relationships with people in the community, and together they design and build community ministry using assets from both groups.

COMMUNITY MINISTRY RESOURCES, originally created by the Center for Congregations for use by Indiana congregations, is now available to a wider audience.

A “resource” is an article, video, book, consultant, website – any “helper” from outside your congregation. These outside helpers, when combined with your congregations’ gifts and creativity, can help you address your unique ministry challenges and opportunities. All the resources in this document address some aspect of Community Ministry and the skills associated with it.

HOW TO USE THIS GUIDE

These resources can be used at different stages of your work and in a variety of ways. Some will be useful in laying the groundwork for your community ministry. Others will assist you in planning. Many offer guidance or services as you implement your plan. Still others can help you design for long-term impact and sustainability.

To aid your use of this guide, entries have been annotated and assigned to one or more categories. Some of them are so versatile that they appear in multiple categories. Note that some entries have limited use beyond central Indiana.

Finally, there is no “one-size-fits-all” resource. Each congregation must decide what’s right for them.

ASSET-BASED

Everything that is necessary to address the community’s problem is already present in that community. This conviction of abundance and sufficiency is central to asset-based approaches to community ministry. The following resources describe ways in which people of faith can use asset-based ministries to effectively impact their communities.

Articles

Kretzmann, John P. and John L. McKnight, Sarah Dobrowolski, and Deborah Puntenney. “Discovering Community Power: A Guide to Mobilizing Local Assets and Your Organization’s Capacity.” Evanston, IL: *Asset-Based Community Development Institute School of Education and*

Social Policy Northwestern University. Accessed December 12, 2016.

<http://thecrg.org/resources/asset-based-community-development-institute>

Effective community-based programs are successful at connecting the community's assets with the organization's own strengths. This document, from the experts on asset-based community development, provides actionable advice that can help any organization, including congregations, design and implement such projects. Its ultimate goal is to help community service organizations create grant-fundable project proposals that promise to both improve the community and strengthen the applicant organization." Readers will find practical tools such as interview questions for exploring available assets, and resources for going deeper.

Books

Corbett, Steve and Brian Fikkert. *When Helping Hurts: How to Alleviate Poverty Without Hurting the Poor... and Yourself*. Chicago, IL: Moody Publishers, 2014. <http://thecrg.org/resources/when-helping-hurts-how-to-alleviate-poverty-without-hurting-the-poor-and-yourself>

Beyond what is necessary for survival, the way to lasting help for the poor is to begin with the assets they have. The key is to develop those assets through what the authors call "micro-development." This book is filled with helpful insights, suggestions, conversation starters, planning exercises, and additional reading opportunities. For a free, five-part video series to use with small groups, visit <https://www.chalmers.org/media/category/whh-small-group-experience>.

Fowler, Faith. *This Far by Faith: Twenty Years at Cass Community*. Detroit, MI: Front Edge Publishing, LLC, 2014. https://www.amazon.com/This-Far-Faith-Fowler/dp/193988070X/ref=sr_1_1?s=books&ie=UTF8&qid=1479304520&sr=1-1&keywords=faiht+fowler

United Methodist minister and entrepreneur Faith Fowler narrates her remarkable story of two decades as the pastor of an inner city congregation, their asset-based approach to community ministry, and the unconventional souls (homeless, mentally ill, addicted) who are partners in that ministry. A nationally recognized faith leader, Fowler in this memoir offers a glimpse of her all-in approach, grounded in the belief that every life has inestimable worth, and on the quintessentially Wesleyan conviction that the world is her parish.

Harder, Cameron. *Discovering the Other: Asset Based Approaches for Building Community Together*. Lanham, MD: Rowman & Littlefield Publishers, 2013. <http://thecrg.org/resources/discovering-the-other-asset-based-approaches-for-building-community-together> By integrating the tools of Appreciative Inquiry and Asset Mapping, Cam Harder provides a new lens for leaders to recognize the sacred in their midst. Appreciative Inquiry looks at what's going well and Asset Mapping looks at what resources are available. Together these perspectives and processes help congregations come alive to their unclaimed assets and rich potential. Harder shares real-life examples as well as instructions on how to use the two processes for building community.

Law, Eric H. F. *Holy Currencies: 6 Blessings for Sustainable Missional Ministries*. St. Louis, MO: Chalice Press, 2013. <http://thecrg.org/resources/holy-currencies-six-blessings-for-sustainable-missional-ministries>

The Rev. Law discusses six congregational assets or “currencies”: Gracious Leadership, Relationships, Truth, Wellness, Money, and Time/Place. Together they form what he calls a “cycle of blessing.” Similar to other asset-based approaches, *Holy Currencies* points to ways that these assets inform and shape one another for the common good. Included are exercises and guided tasks for use in congregational groups.

Nelson, Mary. *Empowerment*. <https://ccda.org/product/empowerment-a-key-component-of-christian-community-development/>

From the Christian Community Development Association comes this book on helping the poor help themselves. It provides a view into the root causes of poverty and then introduces approaches that foster systemic change by activating the community's own gifts and abilities. Real life examples of each approach, such as Asset-Based Community Development, show how they work and the impact they can have.

Media

Russell, Cormac. “Sustainable Community Development: From What’s Wrong to What’s Strong.” *Abundant Community: Awakening the Power of Families and Neighborhoods*. 2016.

http://www.abundantcommunity.com/home/posts/friends/parms/1/post/20160608_sustainable_community_development_from_whats_wrong_to_whats_strong.html

In this 15-minute TED talk, Russell describes the value of focusing on assets instead of deficiencies when seeking to improve the community. He clearly explains the theory of Asset-Based Community Development, repeating key words and creating vivid word pictures. To illustrate and underscore his points, he tells short, powerful stories of creative turnarounds that resulted when people shifted from tackling what’s wrong to engaging the community’s gifts. This powerful presentation can help congregations struggling to envision a different paradigm of ministry.

Organizations

[Asset-Based Community Development Institute](#)

School of Educational and Social Policy, 1813 Hinman Ave., Evanston, IL 60208; 847/491/8711.

abcd@northwestern.edu. www.abcdinstitute.org

Asset-Based Community Development Institute (ABCD) is home to the growing movement that considers local assets as the primary building blocks of sustainable community development. ABCD staff supports, trains, and partners with community groups (including congregations) to do asset-based community development. Their website provides free, downloadable Institute Workbooks and training manuals with strategies for various aspects of community work. See, for example, “Asset-Based Strategies for Faith Communities” and “Community Transformation: Turning Threats into Opportunities.”

[Indianapolis Neighborhood Resource Center \(INRC\)](#)

708 E. Michigan St., Indianapolis, IN 46202. (317) 920-0330 info@inrc.org www.inrc.org

INRC is an asset-based community development organization dedicated to strengthening Indianapolis neighborhoods by advocating for and training local leadership, fostering community-building activities, and supporting collaboration among the public, private, and non-profit sectors. INRC serves Marion County.

CONGREGATIONAL SUPPORT

Broad congregational buy-in is essential for ministry to succeed. Discover practical tools for good listening, designing behavioral covenants, communicating about change, becoming a compassionate congregation, and more. These tools can help you lay the groundwork for success in your community ministry project.

Articles

Unruh, Heidi, and Philip Olsen. "Getting There from Here: Starting Compassion Ministry in Your Church." *Enrichment Journal* Spring (2004). Accessed November 17, 2016.

http://enrichmentjournal.org/200402/200402_064_startcompmin.cfm

This brief article outlines clear steps a congregation can take to begin new community ministries. It includes links to helpful tools such as "Self-Study Reflection Questions", "Tips for Developing a Vision Statement", and "Obstacles to Ministry Development."

Zingery, Theresa and David Breeden. "Insights into: The Compassionate Congregation." Faith Communities Today 'Insights Into' Series. Hartford CT: *Hartford Seminary*. Accessed 9/19/2016.

<http://thecrg.org/resources/insights-into-the-compassionate-congregation>

Relying on social science research, the authors describe the role of outreach in the formation of "compassionate congregations." They make a number of suggestions on how to cultivate a social justice orientation within the congregation, recognizing that this can take a variety of forms. The ideas emphasize the positive impact that this outward-facing approach can have on a congregation's health and vitality. Additional resource recommendations offer the opportunity for deeper exploration.

Books

Baab, Lynne M. *The Power of Listening: Building Skills for Mission and Ministry*. Lanham, MD: Rowman & Littlefield Publishers, 2014.

https://www.amazon.com/Power-Listening-Building-Mission-Ministry/dp/1566997119/ref=sr_1_1?s=books&ie=UTF8&qid=1480603135&sr=1-1&keywords=the+power+of+listening

Listening well isn't just for pastoral counseling situations. According to pastor and writer, Lynne Baab, and the dozens of ministry leaders she interviewed, listening well is a key skill for any kind of ministry. Through story and insightful commentary, this book makes a compelling case for strengthening all persons' ability to hear deeply and well. Its chapters focus on various aspects of listening such as "Listening for Mission" and "Listening to God through Scripture." They can be read in sequence or as stand-alone segments. Find practical information in the "Listening Toolbox" and in the two chapters that address obstacles to listening. The appendix includes resources for further reading.

Fuder, John. *Neighborhood Mapping: How to Make Your Church Invaluable to the Community*. Chicago, IL: Moody Publishers, 2014. <https://www.amazon.com/Neighborhood-Mapping-Church-Invaluable->

community/dp/0802411347/ref=sr_1_1?s=books&ie=UTF8&qid=1469649680&sr=1-1&keywords=neighborhood+mapping

Dr. Fuder provides practical insights and tools that can help congregations understand and engage with their community. His discussion of the parishioner's learning curve is particularly insightful. It describes a progression from naïve enthusiasm (for community ministry) to hopelessness and discouragement (when things get difficult) to learning the value of being present with the neighbor instead of focusing on outcomes.

Rendle, Gil. *Behavioral Covenants in Congregations: A Handbook for Honoring Differences*. Lanham, MD: Rowman and Littlefield Publishers, 1998 <http://thecrg.org/resources/behavioral-covenants-in-congregations-a-handbook-for-honoring-differences>

This brief, easy-to-read text addresses congregational disagreement and the problem of uncivil behavior. Rendle provides outlines for congregational retreats or meetings that uncover norms and create behavioral covenants. The appendices include an article on 'spiritual politeness', examples of unhealthy congregational norms, and sample covenants for governing boards, staff, and troubled congregations.

DECISION MAKING

Creating a new community ministry requires lots of important decisions. The way you make those decisions can impact their quality and, in turn, the strength of your project. Every congregation has tried-and-true decision making processes. Often those processes are embedded in the congregation's organizational structure and/or denominational culture. The resources offered here provide approaches that may be new to your congregation. They foster inclusive and often open-ended ways of thinking that may be a benefit as you design your community ministry project.

Books

Baldwin, Christina and Ann Linnea. *The Circle Way: A Leader in Every Chair*. San Francisco, CA: Berrett-Koehler Publishers, 2010. <http://thecrg.org/resources/the-circle-way-a-leader-in-every-chair>

The circle of conversation is an ancient group practice that produces "collaborative teachers" and "empowered learners." The authors explore the circle's history and its role as an archetype. They offer detailed instructions for using The Circle Way, such as preparation, the roles of participants, and the boundaries or "structure" for the conversation itself.

Kaner, Sam. *Facilitator's Guide to Participatory Decision Making* 3rd edition. San Francisco, CA: Jossey-Bass, 2014.

<http://thecrg.org/resources/facilitator-s-guide-to-participatory-decision-making>

Teachings in this comprehensive resource are organized in four parts: basic values related to group decision-making, essential ideas and behaviors for facilitators, helping groups reach "sustainable agreements," and achieving a conclusion. Chapter contents include communication, brainstorming, group and facilitator difficulties, setting agendas with results in

mind, and consensus. Many ideas and hints are illuminated in easy-to-use charts, graphs, and illustrations. Facilitators will learn specific skills, such as how to teach a group to reframe an issue or how to develop closer group relationships.

EDUCATING YOUR CONGREGATION

Effective education goes a long way to build the congregation's capacity for community ministry. What most of these resources have in common is a focus on "ministry with" the community rather than "to" or "for" - also known as "mutual ministry." Discover practices and insights from a multitude of perspectives that can inform and enrich your journey toward fully engaging and loving your neighbor.

Articles

"Community Engagement: A Simple Guide." Oxford, England: *The Anglican Diocese*. Accessed 9/19/2016. <http://www.oxford.anglican.org/wp-content/uploads/2013/04/Community-Engagement-A-Simple-Guide.pdf>

What is community engagement and what does it have to do with congregations? This free pdf download offers a five-point framework for action and reflection that includes practical suggestions and inspirational quotes. Note that the resources recommended for further exploration are UK-related, with some that are explicitly Anglican. The resource is brief, visually pleasing and highly accessible.

Unruh, Heidi. "Building the Church's Readiness for a Transformational Ministry Journey." Accessed 9/19/2016. <http://www.baylor.edu/content/services/document.php/145530.pdf>

"What makes the difference between churches that place mission at the heart of their existence and those that are motivated primarily by self-maintenance?" This research-based roadmap to congregational transformation details seven key components which include a healthy foundation, compelling vision, planning, and transformational leadership skills. The free, 5-page article concludes with resource recommendations and discussion questions.

Unruh, Heidi. "Love Your Neighbors." Unpublished. unruhheidi@gmail.com.

Keys to loving your neighbor are summarized through 5 "Travelers' Principles." *Relationships* are the engine of this ministry, *Witness* is the headlight, *Prayer* is the fuel, *Prudence* is the seatbelt and *Patience* is the speedometer. Unruh unpacks each principle with biblical wisdom and practical insights. This brief, conversation-friendly essay is a companion piece to Unruh's "Love Your Neighbors: Everyday Ministry Resource Guide." Readers will encounter more than 120 ways to be "salt and light" where they live, work, worship, and play. Related to each life-arena are suggestions that involve intercessory prayer, building relationships, and service. A handful of real-life stories and an extensive list of further resources completes this practical guide. Email the author for access to these two articles..

Unruh, Heidi "Unruh Action Guide. Love Your Neighbors: Everyday Ministry Guide"
Unpublished. unruhheidi@gmail.com

Unruh provides a brief action-reflection guide for planning and executing a new ministry. The process consists of a four-phase cycle: Prepare, Move, Assess, and Grow. For each phase there is a description and a selection of action ideas. Email the author directly to access the article.

Unruh, Heidi, and Philip Olsen. "Getting There from Here: Starting Compassion Ministry in Your Church." *Enrichment Journal* Spring (2004). Accessed November 17, 2016.

http://enrichmentjournal.ag.org/200402/200402_064_startcompmin.cfm

This brief article outlines clear steps a congregation can take to begin new community ministries. It includes links to helpful tools such as "Self-Study Reflection Questions", "Tips for Developing a Vision Statement", and "Obstacles to Ministry Development."

Zingery, Theresa and David Breeden. "Insights into: The Compassionate Congregation." Faith Communities Today 'Insights Into' Series. Hartford CT: *Hartford Seminary*. Accessed 9/19/2016.

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Relying on social science research, the authors describe the role of outreach in the formation of "compassionate congregations." They make a number of suggestions on how to cultivate a social justice orientation within the congregation, recognizing that this can take a variety of forms. The ideas emphasize the positive impact that this outward-facing approach can have on a congregation's health and vitality. Additional resource recommendations offer the opportunity for deeper exploration.

Books

Annan Kent. *Slow Kingdom Coming: Practices for Doing Justice, Loving Mercy and Walking Humbly in the World*. Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press, 2016. https://www.amazon.com/Slow-Kingdom-Coming-Practices-Justice/dp/0830844554/ref=sr_1_1?s=books&ie=UTF8&qid=1466174307&sr=1-1&keywords=slow+kingdom

https://www.amazon.com/Slow-Kingdom-Coming-Practices-Justice/dp/0830844554/ref=sr_1_1?s=books&ie=UTF8&qid=1466174307&sr=1-1&keywords=slow+kingdom

This book discusses five practices for awakening and sustaining a congregational focus on social justice: Attention – Awakening to Justice; Confession - The Posture for Engaging; Respect – The Golden Rule for Helping; Partnering – With Not For; Truthing – Hard Thinking and Feet on the Ground. A congregation or ministry team can work through the book together as they grapple with how to engage in their community and the world beyond.

Corbett, Steve and Brian Fikkert. *When Helping Hurts: How to Alleviate Poverty Without Hurting the Poor... and Yourself*. Chicago, IL: Moody Publishers, 2014. <http://thecrg.org/resources/when-helping-hurts-how-to-alleviate-poverty-without-hurting-the-poor-and-yourself>

Beyond what is necessary for survival, the way to lasting help for the poor is to begin with the assets they have. The key is to develop those assets through what the authors call "micro-development." This book is filled with helpful insights, suggestions, conversation starters, planning exercises, and additional reading opportunities. For a free, five-part video series to use with small groups, visit <https://www.chalmers.org/media/category/whh-small-group-experience>.

Castellanos, Noel. *Where the Cross Meets the Street: What Happens to the Neighborhood When God Is at the Center*. Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press, 2015. https://www.amazon.com/Where-Cross-Meets-Street-Neighborhood/dp/0830836918/ref=sr_1_1?ie=UTF8&qid=1478818872&sr=8-1&keywords=where+the+cross+meets+the+street BOOK

Author and Christian Community Development (CCD) veteran, Noel Castellanos, has spent a lifetime navigating between his Tex-Mex heritage and the larger Anglo culture, experiencing first-hand the impact of poverty and powerlessness on communities of color in America. In this compelling address to evangelical Christians, he argues for a practice of evangelism that is about more than saving souls - an understanding he considers inadequate to the call of One who "came to love the lost and the broken." Both autobiographical and practical, the book structures an approach to evangelism that is "wholistic", as Castellanos calls it, for it concerns itself with the flourishing of all human communities, here and now.

Daniels, Joe. *Walking with Nehemiah: Your Community is Your Congregation*. Nashville, TN: Abingdon Press, 2014. <http://thecrg.org/resources/walking-with-nehemiah-your-community-is-your-congregation>

Based on his experience leading congregational revitalization and insights from the biblical story of Nehemiah's rebuilding of the Jerusalem wall, Daniels offers a practical guide for creating a congregational culture of community engagement. Such engagement is based on doing ministry in partnership with others rather than "to" or "for" them. Each chapter includes a reflection guide and action suggestions.

Fuder, John. *Neighborhood Mapping: How to Make Your Church Invaluable to the Community*. Chicago, IL: Moody Publishers, 2014. https://www.amazon.com/Neighborhood-Mapping-Church-Invaluable-Community/dp/0802411347/ref=sr_1_1?s=books&ie=UTF8&qid=1469649680&sr=1-1&keywords=neighborhood+mapping

Dr. Fuder provides practical insights and tools that can help congregations understand and engage with their community. His discussion of the parishioner's learning curve is particularly insightful. It describes a progression from naïve enthusiasm (for community ministry) to hopelessness and discouragement (when things get difficult) to learning the value of being present with the neighbor instead of focusing on outcomes.

Law, Eric H. F. *Holy Currency Exchange: 101 Stories, Songs, Actions and Visions of Missional and Sustainable Ministries*. St. Louis, MO: Chalice Press, 2015. <http://thecrg.org/resources/holy-currency-exchange-101-stories-songs-actions-and-visions-of-missional-and-sustainable-ministries>

Reflections in this second book by Eric Law are organized around the stewardship of the six "holy currencies" laid out in his first book, *Holy Currencies: 6 Blessings for Sustainable Missional Ministries*. They are: Gracious Leadership, Relationships, Truth, Wellness, Money, and Time/Place. Law uses story, song and poetry to help the reader explore more deeply the currencies named in the earlier book. Throughout, there are questions and suggestions for

dialogue. Scan the Table of Contents to find the 10 pledge cards for a quick overview of the model's congregational applications.

Lupton, Robert. *Charity Detox: What Charity Would Look Like if We Cared About Results*. New York, NY: HarperOne, 2016. <http://thecrg.org/resources/charity-detox-what-charity-would-look-like-if-we-cared-about-results>

Roughly 90% of U.S. adults give to or work to help those in need. The result can make things worse rather than better by creating dependency and destroying personal initiative. *Charity Detox* advocates approaches to poverty relief that effect systemic change, with samples of working models that illustrate each approach. Along the way, readers will find clues to wise giving, and recommendations for getting started.

Nelson, Mary. *Empowerment*. https://www.amazon.com/Empowerment-Component-Christian-Community-Development/dp/1440185328/ref=sr_1_1?ie=UTF8&qid=1492138117&sr=8-1&keywords=empowerment+mary+nelson

From the Christian Community Development Association comes this book on helping the poor help themselves. It provides a view into the root causes of poverty and then introduces approaches that foster systemic change by activating the community's own gifts and abilities. Real life examples of each approach, such as Asset-Based Community Development, show how they work and the impact they can have.

Media

Brene Brown. *Brene Brown on Empathy*.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1Evwgu369Jw>

This 3-minute animated video is a wise and funny conversation starter for small groups ranging in age from older children to adults. It is narrated by Brown, who is a Social Work scholar and teacher. "Empathy" is one of several free videos from Brown on topics related to feelings and communication.

Focused Community Strategies. *Seeking Shalom: How Reimagining Charity Can Transform Lives and Restore Communities*. <http://thecrg.org/resources/seeking-shalom-how-reimagining-charity-can-transform-lives-and-restore-communities>

"What if we went beyond meeting needs to seeking shalom?" This 6-session interactive video curriculum brings together the voices of biblical scholars, community leaders, seasoned practitioners and those who experience poverty to "transform the charity paradigm." From Robert Lupton's (Toxic Charity) organization, this material addresses such questions as *What is Poverty? Why isn't Charity Working?* and *How Do We Seek Shalom?*

Organization

The Chalmers Center

Michael Briggs, Executive Director, 507 McFarland Rd. Suite B, Lookout Mountain, GA 30750 706-956-4119; info@calmers.org; www.chalmers.org

The Chalmers Center trains local church leaders in empowering the poor to overcome cycles of poverty. A centerpiece of its method is a curriculum called *When Helping Hurts*. The book and small group guide teach church leaders how to alleviate poverty by addressing its root causes.

Another training resource for local churches is *Faith and Finances*, a biblically integrated financial education curriculum designed specifically for low-income people.

Web Resources

The Indiana Institute for Working Families. “Self-Sufficiency Standard.” Indianapolis, IN: *The Indiana Community Action Association*. Accessed 9/23/2016. www.selfsufficiencystandard.org

The Self-Sufficiency Standard is a statewide and county-by-county report on financial conditions for families and individuals in Indiana. It is also a web-based calculator that determines how much income is needed for families of a particular makeup (adult and one pre-school child, for example) and locale to adequately meet their basic needs. The Standard is an alternative to the Federal Poverty Level measure in that it identifies financial sufficiency based on “real-world” costs. For example, expenses for housing, food, transportation and other necessities vary within the state of Indiana so that it costs almost twice as much to meet basic needs in Hamilton County (Carmel) as it does in Lawrence County (Bedford). Congregations can consult the latest report at

<http://selfsufficiencystandard.org/sites/default/files/selfsuff/docs/IN2016.pdf>. Use the Self Sufficiency Calculator <http://www.indianaselfsufficiencystandard.org/calculator> to determine income adequacy vs. actual expenses of specific households. The Self-Sufficiency report and Calculator offer a clear understanding of what it takes to pay the bills in a given household, in a particular community. For congregations wishing to assess community needs, the Self-Sufficiency standard is a go-to measurement of financial wellbeing.

“Ministry With* the Poor.” Atlanta, GA: *The United Methodist Board of Global Ministries*. Accessed 9/20/2016. <http://thecrg.org/resources/ministry-with-the-poor>

The asterisk on the word With* signifies the emphasis that this resource places on “...mutuality of relationship with, by, and of the poor.” The website is an interactive hub of resource-sharing, networking, story-telling and education around the theme of Ministry With*. There are blog posts, tools for mobilizing, and Bible study and training materials. All resources are free of charge.

EQUIPPING CONGREGATIONAL LEADERS

Strong leaders are characterized in part by an ability to recognize and learn what they don’t know. Here you will find practical tools on facilitation, decision-making, spiritual practices, teamwork and more.

Articles

“The Community Tool Box.” Lawrence, KS: *University of Kansas Work Group for Community Health and Development*. Accessed 9/21/2016. <http://thecrg.org/resources/community-tool-box>
This free, online resource teaches the skills needed for building healthier communities. The 46 chapters address topics such as leadership, finance, and communication. Each chapter is divided into sections which include a thorough description of the skill, a checklist, a practice guide, and a PowerPoint presentation summarizing the section’s content. Not only is the

“Community Tool Box” an invaluable tool for teaching skills for community building, these skills are useful in other contexts. For example, the chapter entitled “Conducting Effective Meetings” includes sections on facilitation skills, capturing what people say, and techniques for leading group discussions. All of the resources are well-organized and user-friendly.

Unruh, Heidi “Unruh Action Guide. Love Your Neighbors: Everyday Ministry Guide” Unpublished. unruhheidi@gmail.com

Unruh provides a brief action-reflection guide for planning and executing a new ministry. The process consists of a four-phase cycle: Prepare, Move, Assess, and Grow. For each phase there is a description and a selection of action ideas. Email the author directly to access the article.

Books

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Listening well isn’t just for pastoral counseling situations. According to pastor and writer, Lynne Baab, and the dozens of ministry leaders she interviewed, listening well is a key skill for any kind of ministry. Through story and insightful commentary, this book makes a compelling case for strengthening all persons’ ability to hear deeply and well. Its chapters, which focus on various aspects of listening such as “Listening for Mission” and “Listening to God through Scripture”, can be read in sequence or as stand-alone segments. Find practical information in the “Listening Toolbox” and in the two chapters that address obstacles to listening. The appendix includes resources for further reading.

Baldwin, Christina and Ann Linnea. *The Circle Way: A Leader in Every Chair*. San Francisco, CA: Berrett-Koehler Publishers, 2010. <http://thecrg.org/resources/the-circle-way-a-leader-in-every-chair>

The circle of conversation is an ancient group practice that produces “collaborative teachers” and “empowered learners.” The authors explore the circle’s history and its role as an archetype. They offer detailed instructions for using The Circle Way, including preparation, the roles of participants, and the boundaries or “structure” for the conversation itself.

Calhoun, Adele Ahlberg. *Spiritual Disciplines Handbook: Practices that Transform Us*. Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press, 2015. Revised Edition. <http://thecrg.org/resources/spiritual-disciplines-handbook-practices-that-transform-us>

This book is divided into seven parts with headings like “Worship” and “Incarnate the Love of Christ.” Included within each part are short chapters about specific spiritual practices related to that topic, with creative exercises and applications to practice the discipline. The appendices offer practical tools and a sermon series guide.

Fuder, John. *Neighborhood Mapping: How to Make Your Church Invaluable to the Community*. Chicago, IL: Moody Publishers, 2014. <https://www.amazon.com/Neighborhood-Mapping->

[Church-Invaluable-Community/dp/0802411347/ref=sr_1_1?s=books&ie=UTF8&qid=1469649680&sr=1-1&keywords=neighborhood+mapping](#)

Dr. Fuder provides practical insights and tools that can help congregations understand and engage with their community. His discussion of the parishioner's learning curve is particularly insightful. It describes a progression from naïve enthusiasm (for community ministry) to hopelessness and discouragement (when things get difficult) to learning the value of being present with the neighbor instead of focusing on outcomes.

Law, Eric H. F. *Holy Currencies: 6 Blessings for Sustainable Missional Ministries*. St. Louis, MO: Chalice Press, 2013. <http://thecrg.org/resources/holy-currencies-six-blessings-for-sustainable-missional-ministries>

The Rev. Law discusses six congregational assets or "currencies": Gracious Leadership, Relationships, Truth, Wellness, Money, and Time/Place. Together they form what he calls a "cycle of blessing." Similar to other asset-based approaches, *Holy Currencies* points to ways that these assets inform and shape one another for the common good. Included are exercises and guided tasks for use in congregational groups.

Law, Eric H. F. *Holy Currency Exchange: 101 Stories, Songs, Actions and Visions of Missional and Sustainable Ministries*. St. Louis, MO: Chalice Press, 2015. <http://thecrg.org/resources/holy-currency-exchange-101-stories-songs-actions-and-visions-of-missional-and-sustainable-ministries>

Reflections in this second book by Eric Law are organized around the stewardship of the six "holy currencies" laid out in his first book, *Holy Currencies: 6 Blessings for Sustainable Missional Ministries*. They are: Gracious Leadership, Relationships, Truth, Wellness, Money, and Time/Place. Law uses story, song and poetry to help the reader explore more deeply the currencies named in the earlier book. Throughout, there are questions and suggestions for dialogue. Scan the Table of Contents to find the 10 pledge cards for a quick overview of the model's congregational applications.

Rendle, Gil. *Behavioral Covenants in Congregations: A Handbook for Honoring Differences*. Lanham, MD: Rowman and Littlefield Publishers, 1998. <http://thecrg.org/resources/behavioral-covenants-in-congregations-a-handbook-for-honoring-differences>

This brief, easy-to-read text addresses congregational disagreement and the problem of uncivil behavior. Rendle provides outlines for congregational retreats or meetings that uncover norms and create behavioral covenants. The appendices include an article on 'spiritual politeness', examples of unhealthy congregational norms, and sample covenants for governing boards, staff, and troubled congregations.

Wimberly, John. *Mobilizing Congregations: How Teams Can Motivate Members and Get Things Done*. Lanham, MD: Rowman, Littlefield, 2015. <http://thecrg.org/resources/mobilizing-congregations-how-teams-can-motivate-members-and-get-things-done>

Wimberly discusses why ministry teams work, strengthening his argument with biblical support. He addresses team makeup and training as well as congregational "dysfunctions" that

impede effectiveness, such as lack of trust and accountability. Clear writing makes this brief resource highly accessible.

Organizations

[The Chalmers Center](#)

Michael Briggs, Executive Director, 507 McFarland Rd. Suite B, Lookout Mountain, GA 30750 706-956-4119; info@chalmers.org; www.chalmers.org

The Chalmers Center trains local church leaders in empowering the poor to overcome cycles of poverty. A centerpiece of its method is a curriculum called *When Helping Hurts*. The book and small group guide teach church leaders how to alleviate poverty by addressing its root causes. Another training resource for local churches is *Faith and Finances*, a biblically integrated financial education curriculum designed specifically for low-income people.

[Indiana Youth Institute \(IYI\)](#)

603 East Washington Street, Suite 800, Indianapolis, Indiana 46204-2692; 317-396-2700; 800-343-7060; www.iyi.org

IYI provides training and support for anyone who works with youth, including youth ministers. For example, IYI partners with local leaders throughout the state to offer free peer gatherings that include a meal, networking opportunities, and expert presentations on topics such as suicide and bullying. Through a simple application process, congregations can access low-cost coaching in such areas of strategic planning and board development. In addition, small Continuing Education grants are available to youth workers on a repeating basis.

[Kaleidoscope Institute](#)

Rev. Dr. Eric H.F. Law, Founder and Director, The Cathedral Center of St. Paul, 840 Echo Park Ave., Los Angeles, CA 90026; <http://www.kscopeinstitute.org/>

The Kaleidoscope Institute equips church leaders for ministry “in a diverse, changing world.” Drawing upon its founder’s decades-long experience helping congregations and judicatories create inclusive and sustainable ministries, Kaleidoscope Institute provides workshops on Gracious Leadership, Community Transformation, Intercultural Competency, Holy Currencies, and more. “Holy Currencies” is Law’s model for ministry based on six currencies of blessing (relationship, truth, wellness, leadership, time and place, and money). Visit Law’s “Sustainist Blog” for articles and action guides that promote communication and understanding across cultural divides.

INSPIRATIONAL STORIES/MODELS

These uplifting resources both show and tell about effective community ministries. Use them to inspire, motivate, and even teach what might be possible in your own neighborhood.

Articles

Montemurri, Patricia. "A Detroit Pastor and Her Church are Building Something Big with Tiny Homes." "Faith and Leadership." Accessed 11/16/2016.

[https://www.faithandleadership.com/detroit-pastor-and-her-church-are-building-something-big-tiny-](https://www.faithandleadership.com/detroit-pastor-and-her-church-are-building-something-big-tiny-homes?utm_source=FL_newsletter&utm_medium=content&utm_campaign=FL_topstory)

[homes?utm_source=FL_newsletter&utm_medium=content&utm_campaign=FL_topstory](https://www.faithandleadership.com/detroit-pastor-and-her-church-are-building-something-big-tiny-homes?utm_source=FL_newsletter&utm_medium=content&utm_campaign=FL_topstory)

Cass United Methodist Church near downtown Detroit has a long history of community engagement. This article highlights just one of the ways the congregation lives out its conviction that all people matter – no exceptions. Their "tiny house" initiative provides safe and decent housing in a community fraught with urban blight and, more important, does it in partnership with those they seek to serve rather than "to" or "for" them. Discussion questions are included.

Shimron, Yonat. "A Small N.C. Church Reaches Out in Big Ways." Accessed 9/19/2016.

<http://thecrg.org/resources/a-small-n-c-church-reaches-out-in-big-ways> ARTICLE

Saint Andrew's Episcopal Church is a small membership congregation with a large community impact that includes tutoring, a community garden and adopt-a-family relationships. This article describes the specific activities that make the congregation a place of largesse. It ends with questions to consider, such as "What makes your church distinctive, not in architecture or design, but in its ministry?"

Books

Delloff, Linda-Marie. *Public Offerings: Stories from the Front Lines of Community Ministry*.

Bethesda, MD: Alban Institute, 2002. http://www.amazon.com/Public-Offerings-Stories-Community-Ministry/dp/1566992680/ref=sr_1_1?s=books&ie=UTF8&qid=1458837404&sr=1-1&keywords=Public+Offerings+stories+from+the+front+lines

Meet congregations whose self-understanding and commitment to their neighbors lead to fruitful action. Catholic, Jewish, Baptist, Lutheran, Episcopalian, and Presbyterian congregations are among the faith families whose stories appear in this inspiring collection.

Fowler, Faith. *This Far by Faith: Twenty Years at Cass Community*. Detroit, MI: Front Edge

Publishing, LLC, 2014. https://www.amazon.com/This-Far-Faith-Fowler/dp/193988070X/ref=sr_1_1?s=books&ie=UTF8&qid=1479304520&sr=1-1&keywords=faith+fowler

United Methodist pastor and entrepreneur Faith Fowler narrates the remarkable story of two decades as the minister of an inner-city congregation. She describes their asset-based approach to community ministry and the unconventional souls (homeless, mentally ill, addicted) who are partners in that ministry. A nationally recognized faith leader, Fowler in this memoir offers a glimpse of her all-in approach, grounded in the belief that every life has inestimable worth and upon the quintessentially Wesleyan conviction that the world is her parish.

Law, Eric H. F. *Holy Currency Exchange: 101 Stories, Songs, Actions and Visions of Missional and Sustainable Ministries*. St. Louis, MO: Chalice Press, 2015. [http://thecrg.org/resources/holy-](http://thecrg.org/resources/holy-currency-exchange-101-stories-songs-actions-and-visions-of-missional-and-sustainable-ministries)

[currency-exchange-101-stories-songs-actions-and-visions-of-missional-and-sustainable-ministries](http://thecrg.org/resources/holy-currency-exchange-101-stories-songs-actions-and-visions-of-missional-and-sustainable-ministries)

Reflections in this second book by Eric Law are organized around the stewardship of the six "holy currencies" laid out in his first book, *Holy Currencies: 6 Blessings for Sustainable Missional Ministries*. They are: Gracious Leadership, Relationships, Truth, Wellness, Money, and Time/Place. Law uses story, song and poetry to help the reader explore more deeply the currencies named in the earlier book. Throughout, there are questions and suggestions for dialogue. Scan the Table of Contents to find the 10 pledge cards for a quick overview of the model's congregational applications.

Perkins, John and Wayne Gordon. *Making Neighborhoods Whole: A Handbook for Christian Community Development*. 2013 <http://thecrg.org/resources/making-neighborhoods-whole-a-handbook-for-christian-community-development>

Learn about a whole-gospel approach to community development which, after 30 years, still sets the bar for how churches, para-churches and non-profit organizations address the needs of their city. This book, by the co-founders of the Christian Community Development Association, unpacks the 8 components of their method, including Reconciliation, Redistribution, Listening, and Empowerment.

Media

Jon Bon Jovi Soul Kitchen. Red Bank, NJ. Accessed 9/19/2016.

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=y_bvhOQC5TE

Featuring the founder and rock star, this three-minute video tells the inspiring story of a community restaurant open to all persons regardless of ability to pay. Those without funds have the option of volunteering in the dining room or kitchen. More than an example of food-accessibility, the Soul Kitchen models an attitude of respect for all people and joy in community.

Kristof, Nicholas. *Mr. Trump, Meet My Family: A Refugee's Journey, A Message of Thanks*. New York, NY: The New York Times, 1/28/2017. Accessed 1/31/2017.

<https://www.nytimes.com/video/opinion/10000004896041/mr-trump-meet-my-family.html>

In 1948, a young Romanian, a Holocaust survivor, was eking out a living in Paris, where he was banned from having a work permit. There he met an American woman who, upon learning his plight, appealed to her parents' congregation to help him come to America. Four years later, thanks to Christians in Portland, Oregon, he set foot on Ellis Island. In this compelling, 7-minute video, that man's son, author and NY Times columnist, Nicholas Kristof, relates his family's story. It includes moving footage of him thanking that Presbyterian congregation, over half a century later, for making it all possible. The piece is an inspiring first-person account of the positive impact that refugees and their supporters can have on American life.

Web Resource

"Faith and Leadership: Who is my Neighbor?" Chapel Hill, NC: *Duke Divinity School*. Accessed 9/19/2016. <https://www.faithandleadership.com/who-is-my-neighbor>

Learn the story of Westbury United Methodist Church's refugee resettlement ministry and its impact on both the congregation and the neighborhood. Visitors to the website will encounter testimonies, commentary, interviews and a worship resource related to ministry that is rooted in intentional community.

MUTUAL MINISTRY

"Ministry With* not For" is the title of only one of the resources listed here, but the idea permeates them all: effective and sustainable community ministry is based on relationships of mutual trust, service and leadership. Mutual Ministry believes that all persons have gifts to share. It acknowledges that the best ministry is always a two-way street!

Article

Kretzmann, John P., John L. McKnight, Sarah Dobrowolski, and Deborah Puntenney.

"Discovering Community Power: A Guide to Mobilizing Local Assets and Your Organization's Capacity." Evanston, IL: *Asset-Based Community Development Institute School of Education and Social Policy Northwestern University*. Accessed December 12, 2016.

<https://resources.depaul.edu/abcd-institute/publications/publications-by-topic/Documents/kelloggabcd.pdf>

Effective community-based programs are successful at connecting the community's assets with the organization's own strengths. This document, from the experts on asset-based community development, provides actionable advice that can help any organization, including congregations, design and implement such projects. Its ultimate goal is to help community service organizations create grant-fundable project proposals that promise to both improve the community and strengthen the applicant organization." Readers will find practical tools such as interview questions for exploring available assets, and resources for going deeper.

Books

Annan, Kent. *Slow Kingdom Coming: Practices for Doing Justice, Loving Mercy and Walking Humbly in the World*. Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press, 2016. https://www.amazon.com/Slow-Kingdom-Coming-Practices-Justice/dp/0830844554/ref=sr_1_1?s=books&ie=UTF8&qid=1466174307&sr=1-1&keywords=slow+kingdom

https://www.amazon.com/Slow-Kingdom-Coming-Practices-Justice/dp/0830844554/ref=sr_1_1?s=books&ie=UTF8&qid=1466174307&sr=1-1&keywords=slow+kingdom

This book discusses five practices for awakening and sustaining a congregational focus on social justice: Attention – Awakening to Justice; Confession - The Posture for Engaging; Respect – The Golden Rule for Helping; Partnering – With Not For; Truthing – Hard Thinking and Feet on the Ground. A congregation or ministry team can work through the book together as they grapple with how to engage in their community and the world beyond.

Baab, Lynne M. *The Power of Listening: Building Skills for Mission and Ministry*. Lanham, MD: Rowman & Littlefield Publishers, 2014.

https://www.amazon.com/Power-Listening-Building-Mission-Ministry/dp/1566997119/ref=sr_1_1?s=books&ie=UTF8&qid=1480603135&sr=1-1&keywords=the+power+of+listening

Listening well isn't just for pastoral counseling situations. According to pastor and writer, Lynne Baab, and the dozens of ministry leaders she interviewed, listening well is a key skill for any kind of ministry. Through story and insightful commentary, this book makes a compelling case for strengthening all persons' ability to hear deeply and well. Its chapters, which focus on various aspects of listening such as "Listening for Mission" and "Listening to God through Scripture", can be read in sequence or as stand-alone segments. Find practical information in the "Listening Toolbox" and in the two chapters that address obstacles to listening. The appendix includes resources for further reading.

Daniels, Joe. *Walking with Nehemiah: Your Community is Your Congregation*. Nashville, TN: Abingdon Press, 2014. <http://thecrg.org/resources/walking-with-nehemiah-your-community-is-your-congregation>

Based on his experience leading congregational revitalization and insights from the biblical story of Nehemiah's rebuilding of the Jerusalem wall, Daniels offers a practical guide for creating a congregational culture of community engagement. Such engagement is based on doing ministry in partnership with others rather than "to" or "for" them. Each chapter includes a reflection guide and action suggestions.

Huertz, Christopher L. and Christine Pohl. *Friendship at the Margins: Discovering Mutuality in Service and Mission* (Resources for Reconciliation). Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press, 2010. <http://thecrg.org/resources/friendship-at-the-margins-discovering-mutuality-in-service-and-mission>

Speaking of relationship as a form of vocation, *Friendship at the Margins* offers congregations many ways to reflect upon and reconsider how they approach others, in service or mission, and how friendship might be a better model for sharing the love of Christ. With an emphasis on reconciliation across difference, Huertz and Pohl draw upon their own experiences of building relationships across the dividing lines of poverty, race, and privilege.

Sparks, Paul, Tim Sorens and Dwight J. Friesen. *The New Parish: How Neighborhood Churches are Transforming Mission, Discipleship and Community*. Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press, 2014. <http://thecrg.org/resources/the-new-parish-how-neighborhood-churches-are-transforming-mission-discipleship-and-community>

Before automobiles and highways made it possible for a congregation to be centered miles from where its members lived, there was the parish church. It served the people within its geographic community, and the people considered it their own. Fast-forward to the present day, and learn how a renewed attention to the neighborhood as a parish can enliven both congregation and community. The authors propose partnering with the neighbors to discern the congregation's

ministry direction. By focusing on a renewed sense of place, *The New Parish* offers a model for building relationships and recognizing the ways that God is already at work in the surrounding community. A discussion guide is included.

Media

Brene Brown. *Brene Brown on Empathy*. Video. Accessed 1/25/2017.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1Ewgu369Jw>

This 3-minute animated video is a wise and funny conversation starter for small groups ranging in age from older children to adults. It is narrated by Brown, who is a Social Work scholar and teacher. "Empathy" is one of several free videos from Brown on topics related to feelings and communication.

Web Resource

"Ministry With* the Poor." Atlanta, GA: *The United Methodist Board of Global Ministries*. Accessed 9/20/2016. <http://thecrg.org/resources/ministry-with-the-poor>

The asterisk on the word With* signifies the emphasis that this resource places on "...mutuality of relationship with, by, and of the poor." The website is an interactive hub of resource-sharing, networking, story-telling and education around the theme of Ministry With*. There are blog posts, tools for mobilizing, and Bible study and training materials. All resources are free of charge.

PRACTICAL TOOLS FOR COMMUNITY MINISTRY

A tool is anything that helps you perform a specific task. These resources provide concrete steps you can take to realize your goals. For example, there are guides to demographic research in order to learn about the neighborhood, tips on conducting effective meetings, group process "How-to's", and step-by-step instructions for various types of assessment.

Articles

"Chapter 3: Assessing Community Needs and Resources." *The Community Tool Box*. Accessed 9/19/2016. <http://thecrg.org/resources/chapter-3-assessing-community-needs-and-resources>

Here is everything you ever wanted to know – and more – about community needs assessment! Learn what is meant by the term, why assessment matters, and who should be involved. Find instructions for conducting a variety of assessment types, such as "windshield" and "walking" surveys, interviews, and utilizing public records. There is also a section on identifying assets and resources. Users can choose from among the article's many offerings for the tools that fit their needs. This step-by-step guide is practical and user-friendly.

"The Community Tool Box." Lawrence, KS: *University of Kansas Work Group for Community Health and Development*. Accessed 9/21/2016. <http://ctb.ku.edu/en>

This free, online resource teaches the skills needed for building healthier communities. The 46 chapters address topics such as leadership, finance, and communication. Each chapter is divided into sections which include a thorough description of the skill, a checklist, a practice guide, and a PowerPoint presentation summarizing the section's content. Not only is the "Community Tool Box" an invaluable tool for teaching skills for community building, these

skills are useful in other contexts. For example, the chapter entitled “Conducting Effective Meetings” includes sections on facilitation skills, capturing what people say, and techniques for leading group discussions. All of the resources are well-organized and user-friendly.

Unruh, Heidi “Unruh Action Guide. Love Your Neighbors: Everyday Ministry Guide.” Unpublished. unruhheidi@gmail.com

Unruh provides a brief action-reflection guide for planning and executing a new ministry. The process consists of a four-phase cycle: Prepare, Move, Assess, and Grow. For each phase there is a description and a selection of action ideas. Email the author directly to access the article.

Books

Harder, Cameron. *Discovering the Other: Asset Based Approaches for Building Community Together*. Lanham, MD: Rowman & Littlefield Publishers, 2013. <http://thecrg.org/resources/discovering-the-other-asset-based-approaches-for-building-community-together>

By integrating the tools of Appreciative Inquiry and Asset Mapping, Cam Harder provides a new lens for leaders to see the sacred in their midst. Appreciative Inquiry looks at what’s going well and Asset Mapping looks at what resources are available. Together these perspectives and processes help congregations come alive to their unclaimed assets and rich potential. Harder shares real-life examples as well as instructions on how to use the two processes for building community.

Krile, James F. *The Community Leadership Handbook: Framing Ideas, Building Relationships, and Mobilizing Resources*. St. Paul, MN: Fieldstone Alliance, 2006.

https://www.amazon.com/Community-Leadership-Handbook-Relationships-Mobilizing/dp/0940069547?ie=UTF8&*Version*=1&*entries*=0

Written by the director of the Blandon Community Leadership Program, this handbook teaches people how to engage with their community in a proactive, asset-based way. Topics range from identifying community assets to building social capital across cultures; from translating vision into action to building effective community teams. It even addresses running meetings and dealing with conflict. It is user-friendly with clear instructions, handout sheets, questions, and graphic illustrations.

Organization

[Ministry Incubators: Bringing Ideas Home to Roost](http://www.ministryincubators.com)

Mark DeVries and Kenda Creasy Dean; <http://www.ministryincubators.com>

Ministry Incubators (MI) helps ministry entrepreneurs move from concept to implementation through coaching, peer learning communities, consulting and events. MI fosters dreaming and provides practical tips and tools for a healthy start and long term staying power.

Web Resources

[“The Association of Religion Data Archives.”](http://thearda.com/) Accessed 9/19/2016. <http://thearda.com/>

This is the go-to site for leaders in need of data for an external or neighborhood assessment. For example, users can access free online information about household income and education level by zip code. There is a “QuickList” feature for up-to-date denominational information. A blog

titled "Ahead of the Trend" addresses religious issues that are gaining in importance. "The Learning Center" hosts a variety of learning modules.

"Connect 2 Help 211: Where Communities Find Solutions and You Find Help." Accessed 9/19/2016. <http://www.connect2help211.org/>

Connect2Help provides up-to-date information on social services in 35 Central Indiana Counties. For information on where to go for help, users can contact the call center any time by dialing "211." "Rainbow Books" are social service directories organized by geographic region. They are available for free download from the website. The Connect2Help database is updated at least twice every year.

"Faith and Service Technical Education Network (FASTEN) Center on Faith in Communities." Accessed 9/19/2016. <http://thecrg.org/resources/faith-and-service-technical-education-network-fasten-center-on-faith-in-communities>

FASTEN provides practical resources aimed at equipping faith-based organizations for community ministry. Leaders will find free resources such as toolkits on mentoring (<http://www.urbanministry.org/wiki/mentoring-programs-toolkit-equipping-your-organization-effective-outreach>) and volunteer management (<http://www.urbanministry.org/wiki/volunteer-toolkit-practical-equipment-effective-volunteer-management>). In addition, there are articles that can serve as an introduction to a topic area. One such article is, "Faith-Based Organizations as Safe Spaces", <http://www.urbanministry.org/wiki/faith-based-organizations-safe-spaces>. There are also book reviews with ordering information. Some resources are available in Spanish.

The Indiana Institute for Working Families. "Self-Sufficiency Standard." Indianapolis, IN: *The Indiana Community Action Association*. Accessed 9/23/2016. www.selfsufficiencystandard.org
The Self-Sufficiency Standard is a statewide and county-by-county report on financial conditions for families and individuals in Indiana. It is also a web-based calculator that determines how much income is needed for families of a particular makeup (adult and one pre-school child, for example) and locale to adequately meet their basic needs. The Standard is an alternative to the Federal Poverty Level measure in that it identifies financial sufficiency based on "real-world" costs. For example, expenses for housing, food, transportation and other necessities vary within the state of Indiana so that it costs almost twice as much to meet basic needs in Hamilton County (Carmel) as it does in Lawrence County (Bedford). Congregations can consult the latest report at <http://selfsufficiencystandard.org/sites/default/files/selfsuff/docs/IN2016.pdf>. Use the Self Sufficiency Calculator <http://www.indianaselfsufficiencystandard.org/calculator> to determine income adequacy vs. actual expenses of specific households. The Self-Sufficiency report and Calculator offer a clear understanding of what it takes to pay the bills in a given household, in a particular community. For congregations wishing to assess community needs, the Self-Sufficiency standard is a go-to measurement of financial wellbeing.

"Social Assets and Vulnerabilities Index" (SAVI)
Sharon Kandris, Director, The Polis Center, 1200 Waterway Blvd, Suite 100 Indianapolis, IN 46202. 317-278-9212; savi@iupui.edu; www.savi.org

SAVI offers customizable data sets related to social and economic conditions in the 9-county Indianapolis area plus Putnam and Brown counties. The information is curated from the U.S. Census Bureau, the Public Library, and other databases that are reliably staffed and monitored. Users can explore SAVI's database with help from a free tutorial on the SAVI system or request customized reports created by SAVI staff at little or no cost. Visit <http://www.indyvitals.org/> to search for information about Indianapolis neighborhoods.

"Studying Congregations." Boston, MA: *Boston University*. Accessed 9/21/2016.

<http://studyingcongregations.org>

This highly interactive website provides access to ongoing discoveries from research led by Nancy Ammerman. In addition to a searchable database, the site offers a Studying Congregations Toolkit that enables congregations to carry out their own community exploration using simple action plans. It offers a variety of research tools, each paired with case studies of the "tool-in-action." For example, there are action guides for "Walking Tours", "Talking Through History", and "Asking Questions." "Ask the Expert" blogs address timely topics, such as using conflict constructively.

SUBJECT AREAS

Is there a particular issue you would like to address through your community ministry project? Take a look at this section to see whether there are resources you can use. Among the topics you will find here are Children, Immigration and Refugees, Hunger, Housing and Homelessness, Youth, and Domestic Violence.

CHILDREN

Organizations

Harlem Children's Zone

Goeffrey Canada, President, 35 E. 125th St., New York, NY, 10035. 212-360-3255; www.hcz.org
Harlem Children's Zone (HCZ) is "a national model for breaking the cycle of poverty" with a proven, holistic approach that encompasses education, community centers for safe places to learn and play, support for parents, and physical health. Practitioners' Institute is HCZ's vehicle for disseminating the model beyond New York City. It offers several levels of education and training, from a 1-hour remote overview for 1-2 persons to a 3-day program for teams of 6-12 people that includes a congregational site visit. The one-minute video, "What Children Really Need", is a compelling segment urging adults to take an active part in children's lives.

<http://hcz.org/news/what-children-need-is-you/>.

Brooke's Place: Help for Grieving Children

Theresa Brun, Executive Director, 50 E. 91st St. Suite 103, Indianapolis, IN 46240
317-705-9650; theresa@brookesplace.org; <http://www.brookesplace.org>

With a focus on children (and their families) who have experienced the death of a loved one, Brooke's Place aims to "provide hope, help and healing by giving individuals a safe place to

grieve." They offer counseling, peer support groups and more. The website links to helpful articles such as "Ten Things Grieving Children Want You to Know."

Kids Hope USA

David Stahl, President, 100 S. Pine St. Suite 280, Zeeland, MI 49464

800-546-3580; info@kidshopeusa.org; <http://www.kidshopeusa.org/home/>

Kids Hope USA (KHUSA) fosters partnerships among congregations and local schools to mentor at-risk elementary children while at school with trained, church-sponsored volunteers. KHUSA's award winning model is simple and effective: "one child, one hour, one church, one school." Partner congregations receive training, placement and ongoing support. In addition to providing mentors, congregations can participate through prayer partnerships and financial contributions.

Safe Families for Children

4300 W. Irving Park Road Chicago, IL 60641. 773-653-2200; info@safefamilies.net; www.safefamilies.org

Dozens of Central Indiana congregations from across the theological spectrum partner with this national organization. The congregations provide a network of volunteers who house children on a temporary, emergency basis while a parent is ill, taking care of business concerns, or just taking a needed break. Child referrals come from the state Department of Children and Family Services. Host families are screened, trained and supported.

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

Web Resource

"Allstate Foundation Purple Purse." Accessed 9/19/2016. <http://thecrg.org/resources/allstate-foundation-purple-purse>

The Allstate Foundation provides free resources to educate survivors of domestic violence in personal finance. These resources include an online financial curriculum with downloadable student and facilitator guides. Congregations could publicize the web links for individual use, create a safe space for women to take classes, or sponsor and provide leadership for a group.

HOUSING and HOMELESSNESS

Book

Skjegstad, Joy. *Starting a Nonprofit at Your Church*. Lanham, MD: Rowman and Littlefield Publishers, 2002. <http://thecrg.org/resources/starting-a-nonprofit-at-your-church>

A 25-page appendix in this general how-to guide details a model for engaging a congregation in the housing crisis. In the book, Skjegstad walks the reader through the steps to decide and then form a nonprofit. Beginning topics include considering the advantages and the risks, identifying the reasons to start a nonprofit, and determining readiness. As congregations proceed to organize, other issues need to be addressed. Structuring a board of directors and navigating legal and personnel issues are just a few of the many challenges discussed.

Organization

Homeless Initiative Program (HIP)

1835 North Meridian Street, Indianapolis, IN 46202. 317-957-2275

<http://www.indyhealthnet.org/HIP/>

HIP is a program of IU Health, serving Indianapolis-area homeless persons in a number of ways. These include a walk-in triage service for nonmedical emergencies, with case management upon referral, street and shelter outreach, mobile medical care in places that serve homeless persons, and employment training and placement services. They offer special assistance to veterans.

IMMIGRATION AND REFUGEES

Article

Ziegerhals, Gretchen E. "Preparing to Love and Serve Our Neighbors: A Worship Experience." Durham, NC: *Faith and Leadership Education at Duke University*. Accessed February 2, 2017.

<https://www.faithandleadership.com/preparing-love-and-serve-our-neighbors-worship-experience>

Who is my neighbor? Where is God already at Work? These are just two of the key community ministry questions addressed in the "Preparing to Love" ecumenical worship resource. The material is drawn from Westbury United Methodist Church's groundbreaking Fondren Apartment Ministry with one of Houston's immigrant communities. This free worship guide can be downloaded in printable PDF. A link on the webpage leads to the Westbury story and many more resources.

Books

Immigration Alliance and World Relief. *Church Leader's Guide to Immigration*. Durham, NC: World Relief, 2015. <http://thecrg.org/resources/church-leader-s-guide-to-immigration>

Two organizations with extensive on-the-ground experience have teamed up to publish a practical manual on immigration. There are three primary sections to this guide: Biblical & Missiological Foundations for Immigrant Ministry, Immigration Legal Issues, and Developing an Immigration Legal Ministry. The 85-page document includes ideas on how to minister with and to the immigrant community.

Soerens, Matthew and Jenny Hwang Yang. *Welcoming the Stranger: Justice, Compassion & Truth in the Immigration Debate*. Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press, 2009.

<http://www.amazon.com/Welcoming-Stranger-Justice-Compassion-Immigration/dp/0830833595>

Written by World Relief staffers, this book offers a compassionate and informed look at immigration and refugee issues in the United States. They combine practical information with stories that reveal the human face of immigration and challenge people of faith to respond with compassion. Congregations will find direction and inspiration for welcoming the stranger in their midst. Extensive appendices include discussion questions and resource recommendations.

Media

Kristof, Nicholas. *Mr. Trump, Meet My Family: A Refugee's Journey, A Message of Thanks*. New York, NY: The New York Times, 1/28/2017. Accessed 1/31/2017.

<https://www.nytimes.com/video/opinion/100000004896041/mr-trump-meet-my-family.html>

In 1948, a young Romanian, a Holocaust survivor, was eking out a living in Paris, where he was banned from having a work permit. There he met an American woman who, upon learning his plight, appealed to her parents' congregation to help him come to America. Four years later, thanks to Christians in Portland, Oregon, he set foot on Ellis Island. In this compelling, 7-minute video, that man's son, author and NY Times columnist, Nicholas Kristof, relates his family's story. It includes moving footage of him thanking that Presbyterian congregation, over half a century later, for making it all possible. The piece is an inspiring first-person account of the positive impact that refugees and their supporters can have on American life.

Web Resources

"Civics and Citizenship Toolkit US Citizenship and Immigration Services." *United States Citizenship and Immigration Service*. Accessed 9/21/2016.

<https://www.uscis.gov/citizenship/organizations/civics-and-citizenship-toolkit/explore-toolkit>

This collection of free resources provides essential educational material for refugees, immigrants and the organizations that support them. For example, there are several study documents for the naturalization exam as well as a guide for advocates who want to expand ESL and civics education in their local community. A Quick Start Guide offers suggestions on how to use the toolbox in the local setting.

"Faith and Leadership: Who is my Neighbor?" Chapel Hill, NC: *Duke Divinity School*. Accessed 9/19/2016. <https://www.faithandleadership.com/who-is-my-neighbor>

Learn the story of Westbury United Methodist Church's refugee resettlement ministry and its impact on both the congregation and the neighborhood. Visitors to the website will encounter testimonies, commentary, interviews and a worship resource related to ministry that is rooted in intentional community.

"U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services" (USCIS). Accessed 9/21/2016.

<https://www.uscis.gov/>

USCIS provides official government information on immigration, naturalization, National Security Administration refugee status, and educational tools. All resources are available without charge.

MENTAL HEALTH

Organizations

NAMI and "NAMI Faithnet"

NATIONAL: Arlington, VA. (703) 524-7600. www.nami.org

The National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI) is the nation's largest grassroots mental health advocacy organization dedicated to improving the lives of millions of Americans affected by mental illness. NAMI state and local affiliates offer a variety of peer-led education classes and support programs for family members, individuals, providers and the general public at no cost. NAMI FaithNet <http://www.nami.org/faithnet> (accessed 3/9/2017) is an interfaith resource network which recognizes the value of faith in recovery and equips clergy and congregations to welcome and support people impacted by mental illness. Offerings include downloadable

interfaith awareness toolkits, worship planning materials, models of ministry, articles, bulletin inserts, and training presentations.

Web Resources

"Wellspring Mental Health Ministries" Accessed 3/9/2017.

<http://www.mentalhealthministries.net/>

This Indianapolis-based service provides resources for congregations wishing to "erase the stigma of mental illness" through a range of resources that educate, advocate and support. E-Spotlight is a free e-newsletter with news updates, resource reviews and helpful articles. Find free downloadable brochures and resource collections on a range of topics such as "Preventing Gun Violence" and "Creating Caring Congregations. There are videos on "Transforming Psychological Trauma (Post Traumatic Stress) and more. Some resources are for sale, including a DVD curriculum titled, "Mental Illness and Families of Faith", with a study guide that is available for free download from the site. Devotional helps such as prayers and quotes enrich study and worship settings.

PRISON

Article

Heavner, Betsy. "Congregational Tool Box for Prison Ministry." Accessed 9/19/2016.

<http://thecrg.org/resources/congregational-tool-box-for-prison-ministry>

Heavner's collection employs a wrap-around approach to engagement with the criminal justice system. It addresses prevention, ministry with the incarcerated, their victims and their families, ministry with prison system workers, ex-convict reentry, and advocacy. There are suggestions for talking within the congregation about the biblical call to minister to those behind bars as well as Bible study and leadership development resources for building a prison ministry team. In all, this tool box offers seven different ways for congregations to do criminal justice work.

YOUTH

Book

Northern California Urban Development. *FutureProfits: Empowering Youth to Make Wise Decisions About Life and Money*. Lincoln, NE: iUniverse, 2010. [https://www.amazon.com/FutureProfits-Empowering-Youth-Decisions-About/dp/1450252729/ref=sr_1_1?ie=UTF8&qid=1534277434&sr=8-](https://www.amazon.com/FutureProfits-Empowering-Youth-Decisions-About/dp/1450252729/ref=sr_1_1?ie=UTF8&qid=1534277434&sr=8-1&keywords=northern+california+urban+development)

[Empowering-Youth-Decisions-](https://www.amazon.com/FutureProfits-Empowering-Youth-Decisions-About/dp/1450252729/ref=sr_1_1?ie=UTF8&qid=1534277434&sr=8-1&keywords=northern+california+urban+development)

[About/dp/1450252729/ref=sr_1_1?ie=UTF8&qid=1534277434&sr=8-](https://www.amazon.com/FutureProfits-Empowering-Youth-Decisions-About/dp/1450252729/ref=sr_1_1?ie=UTF8&qid=1534277434&sr=8-1&keywords=northern+california+urban+development)

[1&keywords=northern+california+urban+development](https://www.amazon.com/FutureProfits-Empowering-Youth-Decisions-About/dp/1450252729/ref=sr_1_1?ie=UTF8&qid=1534277434&sr=8-1&keywords=northern+california+urban+development)

The FutureProfits curriculum combines financial literacy training on traditional topics such as budgeting and account balancing with life skills like goal-setting and delayed gratification. Participants explore related issues, including the workings of predatory lending and how money circulates through the community. The material is media savvy and accessible to today's teens. Although written for urban youth the curriculum could be adapted for use among a wide range of modern teen learners.

Organizations

Indiana Youth Institute (IYI)

603 East Washington Street, Suite 800, Indianapolis, Indiana 46204-2692; 317-396-2700; 800-343-7060; www.iyi.org

IYI provides training and support for anyone who works with youth, including youth ministers. For example, IYI partners with local leaders throughout the state to offer free peer gatherings that include a meal, networking opportunities, and expert presentations on topics such as suicide and bullying. Through a simple application process, congregations can access low-cost coaching in such areas of strategic planning and board development. In addition, small Continuing Education grants are available to youth workers on a repeating basis.

Project Play: Reimagining Youth Sports in America

Tom Farrey, Executive Director, Aspen Institute, Washington, DC

sportsandsociety@aspeninstitute.org; <http://www.aspenprojectplay.org/>

Project Play is a national initiative of the Aspen Institute that advocates providing sports opportunities for all children. Their research and recommendations are documented and available on the website, and provide rationale and practical guidance for congregations interested in sports ministries. For an example of how transformative a community-based sports program can be, view this YouTube video featuring a program in Chicago, <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fwLFUSdZnOE>.

SUSTAINABILITY

You have a great idea for community ministry and high hopes for its effectiveness. How will you structure the program, fund, house, and staff it, so that it continues and even grows over time? To assure that your project has staying power, consider these resources on project sustainability.

Articles

Copeland, Adam J. "Crowdfunding for Congregations and Faith-Related Non-profits."

Accessed 9/19/2016. <http://thecrg.org/resources/crowdfunding-for-congregations-and-faith-related-non-profits>

This free e-guide first defines crowdfunding, including descriptions of different types and some of the most popular platforms. Then it identifies key shifts in faith and giving. Thinking about crowdfunding invites congregations to consider things like articulating a vision, broadening the audience, offering multiple entry points for donors, and video storytelling. There are links to model congregational campaigns, and a Q/A section for further exploration.

Skjegstad, Joy. "Should Your Church Start a Nonprofit?" Faith and Leadership. Chapel Hill, NC: Duke Divinity School. Accessed 9/21/2016. <http://thecrg.org/resources/should-your-church-start-a-nonprofit>

Skjegstad's principle image is that of a caged bird. She asks, "Has the ministry or program outgrown the congregation's capacity in funding, volunteers, management expertise, or even

facility?" If so, it may be time for the congregation to consider starting a separate nonprofit to allow the ministry to "fly." The article describes two scenarios where forming a nonprofit might be helpful and then outlines some of the disadvantages, such as additional reporting requirements, separate administration, and a possible loss of ownership on the part of the congregation.

Books

Law, Eric H. F. *Holy Currencies: 6 Blessings for Sustainable Missional Ministries*. St. Louis, MO: Chalice Press, 2013. <http://thecrg.org/resources/holy-currencies-six-blessings-for-sustainable-missional-ministries>

The Rev. Law discusses six congregational assets or "currencies": Gracious Leadership, Relationships, Truth, Wellness, Money, and Time/Place. Together they form what he calls a "cycle of blessing." Similar to other asset-based approaches, *Holy Currencies* points to ways that these assets inform and shape one another for the common good. Included are exercises and guided tasks for use in congregational groups.

Law, Eric H. F. *Holy Currency Exchange: 101 Stories, Songs, Actions and Visions of Missional and Sustainable Ministries*. St. Louis, MO: Chalice Press, 2015. <http://thecrg.org/resources/holy-currency-exchange-101-stories-songs-actions-and-visions-of-missional-and-sustainable-ministries>

Reflections in this second book by Eric Law are organized around the stewardship of the six "holy currencies" laid out in his first book, *Holy Currencies: 6 Blessings for Sustainable Missional Ministries*. They are: Gracious Leadership, Relationships, Truth, Wellness, Money, and Time/Place. Law uses story, song and poetry to help the reader explore more deeply the currencies named in the earlier book. Throughout, there are questions and suggestions for dialogue. Scan the Table of Contents to find the 10 pledge cards for a quick overview of the model's congregational applications.

McChesney, Chris, Shean Covey, and Jim Huling. *The Four Disciplines of Execution: Achieving Your Wildly Important Goals*. New York, NY: Free Press, 2012. <https://www.amazon.com/Disciplines-Execution-Achieving-Wildly-Important/dp/145162705X/>

From the performance experts at FranklinCovey comes this guide to meeting important goals. The 4 Disciplines - Focusing on the Wildly Important, Acting on Lead Measures, Keeping a Compelling Scoreboard, and Creating a Cadence of Accountability – are discussed in depth, offering individuals and leaders access to what the authors call a "simple, repeatable, and proven" approach to organizational effectiveness.

Skjegstad, Joy. *Starting a Nonprofit at Your Church*. Lanham, MD: Rowman and Littlefield Publishers, 2002. <http://thecrg.org/resources/starting-a-nonprofit-at-your-church>

Skjegstad walks the reader through the steps to decide and then form a nonprofit. Beginning topics include considering the advantages and the risks, identifying the reasons to start a nonprofit, and determining readiness. As congregations proceed to organize, other issues need to be addressed. Structuring a board of directors and navigating legal and personnel issues are just a few of the many such challenges which are discussed.

Organizations

Kaleidoscope Institute

Rev. Dr. Eric H.F. Law, Founder and Director, The Cathedral Center of St. Paul, 840 Echo Park Ave., Los Angeles, CA 90026; <http://www.kscopeinstitute.org/>; <http://www.kscopeinstitute.org/>
The Kaleidoscope Institute equips church leaders for ministry “in a diverse, changing world.” Drawing upon its founder’s decades-long experience helping congregations and judicatories create inclusive and sustainable ministries, Kaleidoscope Institute provides workshops on Gracious Leadership, Community Transformation, Intercultural Competency, Holy Currencies, and more. “Holy Currencies” is Law’s model for ministry based on six currencies of blessing (relationship, truth, wellness, leadership, time and place, and money). Visit Law’s “Sustainist Blog” for articles and action guides that promote communication and understanding across cultural divides.

Ministry Incubators: Bringing Ideas Home to Roost

Mark DeVries and Kenda Creasy Dean; <http://www.ministryincubators.com>
Ministry Incubators (MI) helps ministry entrepreneurs move from concept to implementation through coaching, peer learning communities, consulting and events. MI fosters dreaming and provides practical tips and tools for a healthy start and long term staying power.

Nina Mason Pulliam Charitable Trust

135 N Pennsylvania Street, Suite 1200, Indianapolis, IN 46204. 317-231-6075

<http://www.ninapulliamtrust.org/grantees/recent-grantees/indiana/>

The Pulliam Trust funds projects run by nonprofit organizations located in and serving metropolitan Indianapolis. The Trust supports programs in three broad categories: Helping People in Need, Protecting Animals and Nature, and Enriching Community Life. Grants are awarded twice a year. Further information including grant guidelines and lists of formerly funded projects are available on the website.

Web Resource

“Faith and Service Technical Education Network (FASTEN): Sharing Knowledge, Strengthening Connections, Improving Outcomes for Community Transformation.” Accessed 9/19/2016.

<http://thecrg.org/resources/faith-and-service-technical-education-network-fasten-center-on-faith-in-communities>

FASTEN provides practical resources aimed equipping faith-based organizations for community ministry. Leaders will find free resources such as toolkits on mentoring (<http://www.urbanministry.org/wiki/mentoring-programs-toolkit-equipping-your-organization-effective-outreach>) and volunteer management (<http://www.urbanministry.org/wiki/volunteer-toolkit-practical-equipment-effective-volunteer-management>). In addition, there are articles that can serve as an introduction to a topic area. One such article is, “Faith-Based Organizations as Safe Spaces”, <http://www.urbanministry.org/wiki/faith-based-organizations-safe-spaces>. There are also book reviews with ordering information. Some resources are available in Spanish.

WAYS OF DOING COMMUNITY MINISTRY

Learning from a variety of sources can spark your imagination and broaden your knowledge. Enjoy this selection for its rich array of ideas and inspiration, and feel free to draw upon them as you design your project.

Articles

Shapiro, Tim. "Applying Positive Deviance." Compass for Congregations Series. Indianapolis, IN: *The Center for Congregations*, 3/2016. Accessed 9/19/2016.

<http://thecrg.org/content/files/Positive-Deviance.pdf>.

Learn the story of seven Indiana congregations who used positive deviance to improve their relationships with strangers (and neighbors) with social service needs. The congregations in this observational study discovered new behaviors that enhanced their relationships, forged new friendships and met needs. In addition to telling the story of this project, the report describes the positive deviance approach and offers ideas about how positive deviance might be adapted to help your congregation solve challenging problems.

Unruh, Heidi. "Love Your Neighbors: Everyday Ministry Resource Guide." Unpublished.

unruhheidi@gmail.com

Readers will encounter more than 120 ways to be "salt and light" where they live, work, worship, and play. Related to each life-arena are suggestions that involve intercessory prayer, building relationships, and service. A handful of real-life stories and an extensive list of further resources completes this practical guide. Unruh's companion article, "Love Your Neighbors" presents a theological understanding, framed as 5 "Travelers' Principles." *Relationships* are the engine of this ministry, *Witness* is the headlight, *Prayer* is the fuel, *Prudence* is the seatbelt and *Patience* is the speedometer. Unruh unpacks each principle with biblical wisdom and practical insights. Contact the author for access to these two articles.

Books

Fowler, Faith. *This Far by Faith: Twenty Years at Cass Community*. Detroit, MI: Front Edge Publishing, LLC, 2014. [https://www.amazon.com/This-Far-Faith-](https://www.amazon.com/This-Far-Faith-Fowler/dp/193988070X/ref=sr_1_1?s=books&ie=UTF8&qid=1479304520&sr=1-1&keywords=faith+fowler)

[Fowler/dp/193988070X/ref=sr_1_1?s=books&ie=UTF8&qid=1479304520&sr=1-1&keywords=faith+fowler](https://www.amazon.com/This-Far-Faith-Fowler/dp/193988070X/ref=sr_1_1?s=books&ie=UTF8&qid=1479304520&sr=1-1&keywords=faith+fowler)

United Methodist minister and entrepreneur Faith Fowler narrates the remarkable story of two decades as the pastor of an inner-city congregation, their asset-based approach to community ministry, and the unconventional souls (homeless, mentally ill, addicted) who are partners in that ministry. A nationally recognized faith leader, Fowler in this memoir offers a glimpse of her all-in approach, founded on the belief that every life has inestimable worth and on the quintessentially Wesleyan conviction that the world is her parish.

Skjegstad, Joy. *7 Creative Models for Community Ministry*. Judson Press, Valley Forge, PA, 2013.
<http://thecrg.org/resources/7-creative-models-for-community-ministry>

Models described here address such topics as creating a non-profit, donating goods or money, advocating for public policy, and mobilizing volunteers. A chapter on choosing the right model provides specific criteria congregations can use to evaluate their direction.

Skjegstad, Joy. *Starting a Nonprofit at Your Church*. Lanham, MD: Rowman and Littlefield Publishers, 2002. <http://thecrg.org/resources/starting-a-nonprofit-at-your-church>

Skjegstad walks the reader through the steps to decide and then form a nonprofit. Beginning topics include considering the advantages and the risks, identifying the reasons to start a nonprofit, and determining readiness. As congregations proceed to organize, other issues need to be addressed. Structuring a board of directors and navigating legal and personnel issues are just a few of the many challenges discussed. A 25-page appendix details a model for engaging a congregation in the housing crisis

Organizations

Criterion Institute, 81 Church Hill Road, Haddam, Connecticut 06438

860-345-3520; info@criterioninstitute.org; <https://criterioninstitute.org/our-church-work/1kchurches/1k-churches-mission>

Criterion Institute's mission is to equip congregations for the transformation of economies, based on biblical principles. Its "1K Churches" program aims to recruit and train 1000 congregations across the US to become agents of systemic change through targeted micro-lending in their communities. "Micro-lending" refers to the practice of making business loans (usually quite small) to people who do not qualify for traditional lending programs. The 1K process involves Bible study followed by action: Making a loan to a local business whose mission is in line with the congregation's. The Institute also offers one-day "Toolkit" workshops that introduce faith leaders to economic concepts and systems, a blog with congregational stories, and a Bible study that doubles as a discernment tool.

Harwood Institute on Public Innovation

Rich Harwood, Director, 4915 St. Elmo Ave., Bethesda, MD, 20814

301/656-3669; thi@theharwoodinstitute.org www.theharwoodinstitute.org ORGANIZATION

The Harwood Institute specializes in leadership training for community change. Some aspects of their approach are identifying community issues through discovering shared aspirations, creating "conditions for change to take hold", and cultivating "a can-do narrative." Sign up for the free weekly blog for news and inspiration. Public Innovators training labs are available in a variety of formats, from multi-day to an 8-week virtual workshop.

Indianapolis Neighborhood Advocates, Office of the Mayor

http://www.indy.gov/EGOV/MAYOR/GETINTOUCH/NEIGHBORHOOD_SERVICES/ta/Pages/home.aspx

Neighborhood Advocates serve through the Indianapolis Mayor's office to interface with community groups, businesses, and concerned citizens. The advocates are available to attend local meetings, field questions about city services and policies such as zoning, and be the go-to

person for groups looking to implement improvement or service projects. Each area of the city has an assigned advocate, who can be located via a map on the website. This service is available only in Marion County.

Local Initiative Support Corporation (LISC)

Bill Taft, Director, 202 E. Market St., Indianapolis, IN 46204. 317-454-8494; lfitzsimons@lisc.org; www.liscindianapolis.org

LISC fosters community development by partnering with "on-the-ground" organizations to strengthen Indianapolis communities. Its core focus is four-pronged: Livability (housing), Opportunity (employment), Vitality (health and the environment) and Education. Visit the website to see where LISC projects are at work throughout Indianapolis and find neighborhood-generated strategic plans. This veteran organization serves Marion County, but their programming could inspire imitation elsewhere. Many of the volunteer and training opportunities are available beyond Marion County.

The Proximity Project: Orienting Churches to Serve Neighborhoods Through the Built Environment

Sara Joy Proppe, Director, St. Paul, MN; <http://www.proximityprojectinc.com/>

The Proximity Project (TPP) helps congregations embrace a role in creating hospitable public spaces on their own property, in their neighborhood, and throughout the community. Learn how to work with and through local government planning processes to effect structural change. Workshops and other events are held exclusively in the St. Paul area, but TPP coaching and consulting services are available nation-wide. The website offers articles, blogs and links to further resources.

Web Resources

"Allstate Foundation Purple Purse." Accessed 9/19/2016. <http://thecrg.org/resources/allstate-foundation-purple-purse>

The Allstate Foundation provides free resources to educate survivors of domestic violence in personal finance. These resources include an online financial curriculum with downloadable student and facilitator guides. Congregations could publicize the web links for individual use, create a safe space for women to take classes, or sponsor and provide leadership for a group.

The Indiana Institute for Working Families. "Self-Sufficiency Standard." Indianapolis, IN: *The Indiana Community Action Association*. Accessed 9/23/2016. www.selfsufficiencystandard.org

The Self-Sufficiency Standard is a statewide and county-by-county report on financial conditions for families and individuals in Indiana. It is also a web-based calculator that determines how much income is needed for families of a particular makeup (adult and one pre-school child, for example) and locale to adequately meet their basic needs. The Standard is an alternative to the Federal Poverty Level measure in that it identifies financial sufficiency based on "real-world" costs. For example, expenses for housing, food, transportation and other necessities vary within the state of Indiana so that it costs almost twice as much to meet basic needs in Hamilton County (Carmel) as it does in Lawrence County (Bedford). Congregations can consult the latest report at

<http://selfsufficiencystandard.org/sites/default/files/selfsuff/docs/IN2016.pdf>. Use the Self

Sufficiency Calculator <http://www.indianaselfsufficiencystandard.org/calculator> to determine income adequacy vs. actual expenses of specific households. The Self-Sufficiency report and Calculator offer a clear understanding of what it takes to pay the bills in a given household, in a particular community. For congregations wishing to assess community needs, the Self-Sufficiency standard is a go-to measurement of financial wellbeing.