Resource Guide

Our mission is to assist Indiana congregations in finding and using the very best resources available to address the practical challenges they face. This resource list was developed to supplement the workshop, Leading Change, sponsored by the Center and led by Gil Rendle. Author, congregational consultant, and popular workshop leader, Rendle recommends these resources.

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Leading Change

This workbook provides insight and practical application to the author’s view of transitions, which in the basic model start with an "ending," proceed through a "neutral zone," and then evolve into "new beginnings." "Managing" transitions offers a way to bring closure, let go, proceed through a dry period, and enter a situation of new personal and corporate opportunity. Persons applying this book to life in congregations can appropriate cases from their own experience and rework the assessment questions accordingly.

Leaders who want more than "Six Secrets of Successful Leaders, Easily Digested" will consider this work by a physician, psychiatrist, musician, and lecturer in public policy. Heifetz makes two key distinctions regarding leadership: that between technical and adaptive problems (which require different modes of action), and that between leadership and authority. The bulk of the book works through these distinctions in both theoretical and practical ways. Although not aimed at religious leaders, this book’s focus on adaptive leadership will be useful to them.

Deep Change assumes that individuals have the capacity to change organizations through passion, vision, risk, and the creation of excellence. This requires that they not only address the need for change in the organization, but also in themselves and the other members of the organization. The self-contained chapters and reflection sections would assist congregational leaders in a variety of situations, including those who see the need for change but feel they lack the motivation or skill to lead it, as well as those facing stress and uncertainty. The practical suggestions at the end of each chapter provide concrete methods for turning insights into action.

This practical guide combines theory, research, and the author’s extensive work with congregations facing change to provide leaders and others with practical diagnostic models and tools for leading change in a spiritual way. This is a book about helping congregational leaders address the needs of their congregations in the midst of change. Rendle provides practical diagnostic models, clear processes, and useful examples for how congregational leaders can become agents of change and transformation. Charts, graphs, games, and exercises make this book easy to understand and its principles easy to apply. This book is helpful to leaders dealing with congregational change or wishing to introduce change in a congregation.

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