

## **Ecclesiology, Mission, and Theology**

*Global Mission in the Twenty-first Century: A Vision of Evangelical Faithfulness in God's Mission.* Chicago: ELCA Global Mission, n.d.

Jacobson, Dennis A. *Doing Justice: Congregations and Community Organizing.* Minneapolis: Fortress Press, 2001.

Moe-Lobeda, Cynthia D. *Public Church: For the Life of the World.* Minneapolis: Augsburg Fortress, 2004.

Nessan, Craig L. *Shalom Church: The Body of Christ as Ministering Community.* Minneapolis: Fortress Press, 2010.

*Together for Ministry.* Final Report and Actions on the Study of Ministry, 1988-1993. Chicago: ELCA Division for Ministry, 1993.

## **Organizational Development and Change**

*Organizational Culture and Leadership* by Edgar H. Schein, 2010.

Regarded as one of the most influential management books of all time, this fourth edition of *Leadership and Organizational Culture* transforms the abstract concept of culture into a tool that can be used to better shape the dynamics of organization and change. This updated edition focuses on today's business realities. Edgar Schein draws on a wide range of contemporary research to redefine culture and demonstrate the crucial role leaders play in successfully applying the principles of culture to achieve their organizational goals.

*Understanding Organizational Culture* by Mats Alvesson, 2012.

Essential reading for undergraduate and postgraduate courses in management and organization studies, this book challenges and provokes critical thinking, giving insight into the field of organizational culture. The author answers questions of definition, explores alternative perspectives, and expands on substantive issues before discussing key issues of research synthesizes for students the advances in the field of organizational culture. The author also uses examples to develop and illustrate ideas on how cultural thinking can be used in managerial and non-managerial organizational theory and theory-supported practice.

*Leading Change* by John Kotter, 2012

Kotter's eight-step process for managing change with positive results has become the foundation for leaders and organizations across the globe. By outlining the process every organization must go through to achieve its goals, and by identifying where and how even top performers derail during the change process, Kotter provides a practical resource for leaders and managers charged with making change initiatives work.

*The Change Handbook* by Holman, Devane, and Cady, second edition 2007

The second edition profiles sixty-one change methods—up from eighteen in the first edition. Nineteen of these methods are explored in depth, with case studies, answers to frequently asked questions, and details on the roles and responsibilities of the people involved, conditions for success, and more.

The Harvard Business Review has a series of articles on creating change: <http://hbr.org/2012/07/cultural-change-that-sticks/ar/1> (see the “related” list at the bottom)

*Diffusion of Innovations*, by Everett Rogers, 2003 (5th edition)

Books that offer a **more substantive theological as well as theoretical understanding of culture** from a Christian perspective:

*Theories of Culture: A New Agenda for Theology* by Kathryn Tanner, 1997

Since the 1970s exciting new directions in the study of culture have erupted to critique and displace earlier, largely static notions. These more dynamic models stress the indeterminate, fragmented, even conflictual character of cultural processes and completely alter the framework for thinking theologically about them. In fact, Tanner argues, the new orientation in cultural theory and anthropology affords fresh opportunities for religious thought and opens new vistas for theology, especially on how Christians conceive of the theological task, theological diversity and inculturation, and even Christianity's own cultural identity.

*Christ and Culture* by Graham Ward, 2005

Ward presents a stimulating series of reflections on Christ and contemporary culture. This title takes as its starting point Niebuhr's famous volume on "Christ and Culture" published in the 1970s. It explores representations of Christ from sources as diverse as the New Testament and twentieth-century continental philosophy. It considers Christ and culture in the light of contemporary categories such as the body, gender, desire, politics and the sublime. It develops an original and imaginative Christology rooted in Scriptural exegesis and concerned with today's cultural issues. The author has been described as 'the most visionary theologian of his generation'.

*The Missional Leader: Equipping Your Church to Reach a Changing World* by Alan Roxburgh and Fred Romanuk, 2006

Roxburgh and Romanuk give church and denominational leaders a clear model for leading the change necessary to create and foster a missional church focused outward to spread the message of the Gospel into the surrounding community. *The Missional Leader* emphasizes principles rather than institutional forms, shows readers how to move away from "church as usual," and demonstrates what capacities, environments, and mindsets are required to lead a missional church.

Books that offer basically **pragmatic approaches from an evangelical perspective**. There is less theological and theoretical substance here but helpful insights emerge along the way.

*Cracking Your Church's Culture Code: Seven Keys to Unleashing Vision and Inspiration* by Samuel R. Chand, 2010

Chand contends that the best strategic plans and good leadership often are not able to move churches in the desired direction because of toxic culture. Quite often, leaders don't sense the toxicity, but it poisons their relationships and derails their vision. This work describes five easily identifiable categories of church culture (inspiring-accepting-stagnant-discouraging-toxic), with diagnostic descriptions in the book and a separate online assessment tool. The reader will be able to identify strengths and needs of their church's culture, and then apply practical strategies (communication, control and authority, selection and placement of personnel, etc.) to make their church's culture more positive.

*Creating Your Church's Culture: How to Uproot Mediocrity and Create a Healthy Organizational Culture* by Stephen Blandino, 2013

Churches are committed to a spiritual mission, but it is often the organizational aspects of the church that hinder the mission from moving forward. Cultivating health in the organizational side of church culture requires a thorough understanding of the church's vision, systems, staffing, relationships, and leadership. When the culture is healthy, it delivers consistently healthy outcomes that advance the

mission of the church. But when cultures are unhealthy, or worse, toxic, they perpetuate constant dysfunction and derail the church's purpose.

*Culture Shift: Transforming Your Church from the Inside Out* by Robert Lewis and Wayne Cordeiro, 2005

Written for church leaders, ministers, pastors, ministry teams, and lay leaders, this book helps the reader identify their church's distinctive culture, gives practical tools to change it from the inside-out, and provides steps to keep the new culture aligned with the church's mission. Real transformation is not about working harder or even copying another church's approach but about changing church culture at a foundational level.

### **Books on mission and vocation.**

*Transforming Mission: Paradigm Shifts in Theology of Mission* by David J. Bosch, 2005.

*Beyond Maintenance to Mission: A Theology of the Congregation* by Craig Nesson, 2010.

*Luther on Vocation* by Gustaf Wingren, 1957.

*Vocation: Discerning Our Callings in Life* by Douglas J. Schurman, 2004.

### **Books on Ministry in Daily Life.**

*The Scattering: Imagining a Church that Connects Faith and Life* by Dwight L. DuBois, 2015.

*Liberating the Laity: Equipping All the Saints for Ministry* by R. Paul Stevens, 1985.

*Faith as a Way of Life: A Vision for Pastoral Leadership* by Christian Scharen, 2008.

*God at Work: The History and Promise of the Faith at Work Movement* by David W. Miller, 2007.

*Church-going Insider or Gospel-carrying Outsider: A Different View of Congregations* by Judith McWilliam Dickhart, 2002. (Note: published by the Division for Ministry of the ELCA and not readily available for purchase.)

*Unfinished Business: Returning the Ministry to the People of God* by Greg Ogden, 2003.

*The Other Six Days: Vocation, Work, and Ministry in Biblical Perspective* by R. Paul Stevens, 1999.

*Where in the World Are You? Connecting Faith and Daily Life* by Norma Cook Everist and Nelvin Vos, 1996.

*A Theology of the Laity* by Hendrik Kraemer, 1958.

*Priesthood, Pastors, Bishops: Public Ministry for the Reformation & Today*, by Timothy Wengert, 2008

*Desiring the Kingdom: Worship, Worldview, and Cultural Formation*, by James K. A. Smith