

Congregational Development & Transformation Leadership Book Collection

Available in the Presbytery of Detroit Resource Center

Ranier, Thomas S. *Autopsy of a Deceased Church: 12 Ways to Keep Yours Alive*. B&H Publishing Group, 2014. Hardcover. 102 pages.

OVERVIEW:

Autopsy of a Deceased Church is a short book consisting of 12 sets of a story, a reflection, and questions to be explored. It could easily be used with a session or leadership group.

REVIEW:

This short, practical book reveals far more than many wish to admit - churches die, but most, if not all, can live. Or, at least, they might have, had they not allowed the Great Commission and Great Commandment to be eclipsed by lesser things, ultimately resisting the increasingly difficult steps towards renewal. Nevertheless, Rainer writes not as a pointing finger, but as beckoning hand. In a day when church-planting is sexy, church revitalization remains a crucial task for the upholding of Christ's great name where it has once been proclaimed. This book is a welcome aid for many who are toiling in some of the more worked-over areas of the vineyard.

Weese, Carolyn and Crabtree, Russel J. *The Elephant in the Boardroom: Speaking the Unspoken about Pastoral Transitions*, 1st Ed. Jossey-Bass, 2004. Hardcover. 218 pages.

OVERVIEW:

The Elephant in the Boardroom lays the foundation for Holy Cow! Consulting, (<https://holycowconsulting.blog/>) which developed the Congregational Assessment Tool (CAT).

REVIEW:

The first part of the book sets an example of Christ's way of handling transition. It then gives various circumstances in which transition happens and how various role players ought to handle them. Part two is in my view the heart of the book. It posits a theory of four church cultures: the family, the icon, the archival and the replication culture. Each culture must have a different transition approach and failure to adhere to it will result in a failed transition or one that does not favor the health and of the congregation. Part three gives strategic ways of planning for a transition for churches at various capacity levels and using different transitional schemes. The appendix provides tools in a form of a questionnaire, testing the health levels of a congregation and their readiness for a pastoral transition. Overall, the book is a practical guide for those who need a step by step outline in pastoral transition.