

10 Leading Indicator Resources*

The resources listed here are focused on helping churches and church leaders achieve and sustain greater Great Commission health. If you know of additional resources, send your ideas to us at churchhealth@efca.org.

For a list of internet based resources related specifically to church health, see [Church Health Web Resources](#).

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Centrality of God's Word – “All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful . . . so that the man of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work” (2 Tim. 3:16-17). We are committed to a proclamation of God's Word that is clear, theologically sound, and communicated in a relevant and practical way. The end result of our proclamation is people who are eager to please God by applying His Word to every area of life.

Church ministry

Doing Church: A Biblical Guide for Leading Ministries through Change, Aubrey Malphurs, Kregel 1999. *Doing Church* is a primer on applying the Bible to church life. Work through this with church and ministry leaders.

Christian life

Bible 101 Series, ed. Bill Donahue, IVP. Designed for groups or individuals who want to know how to study and apply the Bible to their lives in a way that brings personal transformation. The series includes eight six-chapter booklets.

Decide for Yourself: A Theological Workbook, Gordon Lewis, IVP 1970. A survey of major truths of the Christian faith that helps us explore the biblical evidence and draw our own conclusion about what to believe.

Living by the Book: Understanding Your Bible Better (Book, Workbook, Video Series), Howard & William Hendricks, Moody 1993. Howard Hendricks's ability to communicate is put to good use in this introductory guide to Bible study.

The Bible Jesus Read Kit (Book, Video, Leader and Participant Guide), Philip Yancey, Zondervan 2002. Uses video and group discussion to explore the Old Testament in an effort to know God better.

Evangelism

Alpha Course, Nicky Gumbel, Alpha Resources. Alpha is a ten-week practical introduction to the Christian faith designed for nonchurchgoers and new converts. The course is available through [NextStep Resources](#), 800/444-2665.

Passionate Spirituality – “Be filled with the Spirit” (Eph. 5:18-21). “Be strong in the Lord and in His mighty power. Put on the full armor of God . . . and pray in the Spirit on all occasions with all kinds of prayers and requests . . .” (Eph. 6:10-18). We recognize that it is only the presence and power of the Holy Spirit which enables us to live obedient, transformed lives. The prayer lives of our congregations reflect a deep dependence upon God. Experiencing God and following Him are hallmarks of our ministries.

Fervent discipleship

Treatise Concerning the Religions Affections, Jonathan Edwards, various editions. Edwards meticulously defends the thesis that “The religion which God requires and will accept does not consist of weak, dull, and lifeless wishes which scarcely raise us above indifference. In His Word, God insists that we be ‘fervent in spirit, serving the Lord’ (Romans 12:11) . . . Those who deny this may as well throw away their Bibles and get some other rule by which to judge the nature of religion.”

Spiritual transformation

The Next American Spirituality: Finding God in the Twenty-first Century, George Gallup and Timothy Jones, Cook 2000. Two noted pollsters survey the landscape of American “spirituality” and provide information that can help church leaders respond to current trends in biblical ways.

Renovation of the Heart: Putting on the Character of Christ, Dallas Willard, NavPress 2002. Willard explains his view of spiritual transformation that undergirds his previous works—and the work of the church.

The Life You’ve Always Wanted, John Ortberg, Zondervan 1997. A popular guide to the spiritual disciplines—Ortberg refers to it as “Dallas (Willard) for dummies.” Good material. No study guide.

The Pursuing Spiritual Transformation series, John Orberg and others, Zondervan 2000. Based on Willow Creek’s 5 G’s (Grace, Group, Growth, Gifts, and Good Stewardship) and how to use each one as a stepping stone to deepen our personal devotion with the Lord.

Prayer

[EFCA National Prayer Advance](#). “Exists to glorify God by providing servant leadership regarding prayer for the EFCA movement . . .” For resources and information, check out their website.

Partners in Prayer: Support and Strengthen Your Pastor and Church Leaders, John Maxwell, Nelson 1996. Maxwell offers inspiration and advice on how to start a prayer-partner ministry in your church.

The Praying Church Sourcebook, Alvin J. Vander Grind, Church Development Resources 1997. Contains a variety of resources to help churches pray.

Experiencing God

An Ordinary Day with Jesus Curriculum (Leader and Participant Guides, PowerPoint CD, Video), John Ortberg and Ruth Barton, WillowCreek Resources. This material focuses on various aspects of an ordinary day—every situation, every relationship, every activity—and shows us how we can connect with Jesus in those moments.

Hearing God: Developing a Conversational Relationship with God, Dallas Willard, IVP 1999. Thoughtful advice on what it means to hear God’s voice. Needs a study guide.

Fruitful Evangelism – “*The Son of Man came to seek and to save what was lost*” (Luke 19:10). We are driven to reach our neighborhoods, our nation, and our world with the Gospel of Jesus Christ regardless of racial, economic or political barriers. The budgets, programs, and leaders of our local churches reflect a high commitment to outreach and evangelism. Significant numerical growth through evangelism is an expected outcome of this commitment.

Personal evangelism

Becoming a Contagious Christian Kit (Video, Leader and Participant Guides, Overhead Masters), Mark Mittelberg, Lee Strobel, and Bill Hybels, Zondervan. A field-tested course that provides all the tools you need to help people discover their own personal style of evangelism.

The Everyday Commission. A five-hour seminar designed to help people apply the Great Commission in their daily lives. For information, contact [Sonlife Ministries](#).

The Everyday Commandment. A five-hour seminar designed to help people live out Jesus’ Great Commandment in fulfillment of the Great Commission. For information, contact [Sonlife Ministries](#).

Corporate evangelism

Building a Contagious Church, Mark Mittelberg, Zondervan 2000. Mittelberg presents a six-stage process to help church leaders raise the value for—and actually unleash—“contagious Christianity” in their church.

Community Ministry Potential. A diagnostic tool designed to help your church map out an evangelism strategy by helping you better understand the community where God has placed you. Available from [Urban/Intercultural Mission](#), 800/745-2202.

Evangelism That Works: How to Reach Changing Generations With the Unchanging Gospel, George Barna, Regal 1997. A look at the unsaved in the U.S.—who they are, what they want, and the evangelistic methods that are reaching them. Provides leaders with tangible, real-life tools for the task.

How to Reach Secular People, George Hunter, Abingdon 1996. Hunter profiles of the type of Christian and church that help searching secular people find their way into Christian faith.

Living Proof Evangelism: Cultivating a Lifestyle of Sharing Your Faith (Book, Video Kit, Participants Guide), Jim Peterson, Zondervan. Designed for use with small groups, this video series uses real-life drama to: demonstrate how to develop relationships with non-Christians, model active Christianity in daily life, confidently present Christ in a non-threatening way, and then use these relationships to help new believers grow into passionate followers of Christ.

[Outreach Marketing](#) is a Christian company that provides creative approaches to help Christian churches reach their communities. Check out their website or call them at 800/991-6011 for information.

The Master’s Plan for Making Disciples, Win and Charles Arn, Baker 1998.

“Making disciples” is not limited to making new converts, as the authors suggest. But their development of the *oikos* principle is important and valuable.

High-Impact Worship – “*Shout for joy . . . Worship the Lord . . . Enter his gates with thanksgiving . . .*” (Psalm 100). Inspiring worship which glorifies God and engages the heart, mind, and emotions of people with God must be a hallmark of our public services. We are committed to meeting the worship needs of the various generations which attend our churches. Healthy churches are characterized by a spirit of joy expressed in worship.

[Christian Copyright Licensing International \(CCLI\)](#). This is the licensing agency for Christian music throughout the world. All the information you need to understand the laws and services is available on their website.

***How to Start a New Service*, Charles Arn, Baker 1997.** Not planning to start a new service? Arn will still help you think about the whole area of worship. He also provides a handy summary of generational differences and how to address them.

***Leadership Handbook of Preaching and Worship: Practical Insight from a Cross Section of Ministry Leaders*, James Berkley, Baker 1997.** Offers counsel on planning, preparing, and doing ministry in a practical up-to-date way.

***The New Worship*, Barry Liesch, Baker 2001.** Liesch, who teaches at Biola, focuses on music in public worship. The goal is for pastors and worship leaders to discuss this book together.

***Worship Evangelism: Inviting Unbelievers into the Presence of God*, Sally Morgenthaler, Zondervan 1999.** Morgenthaler's goal is to help pastors and worship leaders design services that will touch the needs of Boomers and Busters, especially as this relates to "worship evangelism."

***Worship in Spirit and Truth*, John M. Frame, P&R 1996.** Frame teaches theology at Westminster and leads worship in his church. He uses the Puritan's "regulative principle" to help readers think through the meaning of—and biblical "rules" for—public worship.

[Worship Leader](#) is a bi-monthly magazine that discusses the theology of worship, the use of new equipment in worship centers, review of music and books, and personal stories of worship leaders and the writers of new music. For subscription and other information, check out their website.

***Worship Software 3.0*.** This software allows you to search over 6,000 songs; plan your program originally or customize templates; print sheet music, lyrics, overhead transparencies, slides, programs, etc.; track song usage; and compile CCLI reports. For information, contact [Integrity Music](#), 800/239-7000.

Mission- and Vision-Driven – "Therefore go . . ." (Matt. 28:19-20). Our congregations must have a clear sense of God's mission and a compelling vision for the future that is communicated clearly to all members and that drives their programs, budget, personnel and priorities. We need church structures which facilitate mission and vision. A willingness to change and take risks are crucial to ongoing effectiveness for local church ministry.

***Advanced Strategic Planning*, Aubrey Malphurs, Baker 1999.** Malphurs outlines a nine-step process for strategic planning in the church. Malphurs has other books on several of these steps (i.e., values, vision, mission, etc.) but this is his most integrative. It is probably the best overall book for church leaders on this topic.

***How to Change Your Church without Killing It*, Gene Appel and Alan Nelson, Word 2000.** Nelson and Appel present some of the best recent thinking about change as it relates to churches. For church and ministry leaders.

***Look Back, Leap Forward: Building Your Church on the Values of the Past*, Gary L. McIntosh, Baker 2001.** McIntosh adopts the style of *The One Minute Manager* to talk about setting mission goals. Introductory but useful.

[The Purpose Driven Church](#), Rick Warren, Zondervan 1995. This book has probably done as much as any other to popularize the importance of being a mission or (what Warren describes as) a purpose driven church. It provides an example of how one congregation, Saddleback Valley Community Church, does it.

Leadership Development – “*Entrust to reliable men . . .*” (2 Tim. 2:2, 1 Tim. 3:1 - 13; 1 Peter 5: 1 - 11). We are committed to intentional leadership development and the exercise of the leadership gifts. We desire to see trained, godly individuals who are spiritually mature leading our local congregations. We desire to see mature leaders deployed in full-time vocational ministry as workers for the harvest.

Development and exercise of gifts

Disciple Making Leaders, Bill Easum, Easum, Bandy & Associates 1998. In this unpublished paper, Bill Easum—author, church consultant, former pastor—outlines a sample strategy intended to serve as a guide for congregations and/or ministry leaders who are serious about the intentional development of leaders. Available at www.easumbandy.com.

Focusing Living Resource Kit, Terry Walling, [ChurchSmart](http://ChurchSmart.com). The kit consists of three workbooks and a set of tapes designed to help believers bring focus to their life and ministry by (1) examining their past (perspective), (2) clarifying their future (personal mission statement), and (3) identifying resources that will facilitate growth and effectiveness (mentoring). Walling’s approach is based on Robert Clinton’s theory of leadership development (see below).

The Making of a Leader: Recognizing the Lessons and Stages of Leadership Development, Robert Clinton, NavPress 1988. From his study of the lives of hundreds of historical, biblical, and contemporary leaders, Clinton has identified six stages of leadership development. In addition, he provides checkpoints to clarify where you are in the process.

Theological Education by Extension (TEE). TEE is a study program using S.E.A.N (Seminary Extension for All Nations), a five book two year study program that includes self-pacing, thoroughly biblical study guides, and weekly class time with other students and/or a mentor while remaining in a local church. The goal is to develop skills in leading, teaching, preaching, counseling, doctrine, and spiritual formation. The curriculum is printed in 50 languages. Contact [Urban/Intercultural Mission](http://UrbanInterculturalMission.com), 800/745-2202.

Spiritual maturity

A Work of Heart: Understanding How God Shapes Spiritual Leaders, Reggie McNeal, Jossey-Bass 2000. McNeal provides both “theory” and action steps for leadership growth and development. Because it provides discussion questions related to each topic it covers, *Work of Heart* can be used individually, in mentoring settings, or it can be discussed together as a group.

Spiritual Leadership, J. Oswald Sanders, Moody 1994. In this classic, Sanders blends his own wisdom with that of others. The basic ideas come from the Bible, common sense, and countless missionaries and leaders of generations past.

The Measure of a Man, Gene Getz, Regal 1974. A guided tour of the twenty characteristics and qualities of maturity outlined in 1 Timothy 3:1-7 and Titus 1:5-9. Designed for group study.

Leading congregations

Getting Things Done: Concepts and Skills for Leaders, Lyle Schaller, Abingdon 1986. Schaller believes leadership skills can be learned. In *Getting Things Done*, he introduces several of the key skills needed by church leaders and shows what is involved in learning each. Digital download available at www.amazon.com.

7 Habits of Highly Effective People, Stephen Covey, Simon and Schuster 1989. Covey’s *7 Habits* has been a best seller for over a decade. Anyone who leads people (or who aspires to) should read it at least once. It would be a good book for church boards or ministry teams to read and discuss together.

The Unity Factor, Larry Osborne, Owl Concepts 1989. Osborne discusses what it takes to develop a healthy leadership team. *Unity Factor* can be ordered from [NextStep Resources](#) or directly at www.northcoastchurch.com.

The Power of Team Leadership: Finding Strength in Shared Responsibility, George Barna, Waterbrook 2001. "We have developed an unreasonable notion of what a leader should do. Who could possibly meet such a range of disparate expectations? Leadership works best when it is provided by teams of gifted leaders serving together in pursuit of a clear and compelling vision."

Transforming Church Boards into Communities of Spiritual Leaders, Charles M. Olsen, Alban 1998. Mainline; suggestive.

Multiplication

Raising Leaders for the Harvest, Robert Logan and Neil Cole, [ChurchSmart](#) 1995. *Raising Leaders* is a self-contained toolkit for developing reproducing leaders—with an eye toward church planting. The format of the manual is an extended outline but audiotapes are included to help you work through the process.

Church Planting – "In Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the Earth" (Acts 1:8; Acts 13–28). Healthy congregations are committed to reproducing themselves. We have a vision for planting or facilitating the planting of churches in our community, district, and world. Believing that God desires the EFCA to reflect the economic and ethnic diversity of our nation, we will be intentional in planting churches among all people who make up our nation and our world.

Cell Church Planter's Guide, Bob Logan & Jeannette Buller, [ChurchSmart](#). Logan and Buller walk planters through a seven-stage process church planting process. Includes ten audio tapes and a notebook.

Churches Planting Churches, Bob Logan & Steve Ogne, [ChurchSmart](#). *Churches Planting Churches* is a guide designed to walk your church through the process of planting a daughter church.

Planting Growing Churches for the 21st Century, Aubrey Malphurs, Baker 1998. "This book is not only for church planters," Malphurs writes, "but also for those who are already in a church but want to learn more about how growing churches function."

Planting Churches Cross-Culturally: North America and Beyond, David J. Hesselgrave, Baker 2000. Hesselgrave outlines ten phases of cross-cultural church planting based on the Great Commission and Paul's missionary pattern.

The Church Planter's Toolkit: A Self-study Resource Kit for Church Planters and Those Who Supervise Them, Robert Logan & Steve Ogne, [ChurchSmart](#). The *Toolkit* includes 12 audio tapes, detailed checklists, and action planning worksheets and is designed to form a comprehensive package for church planters and their supervisors.

Financial Stewardship – "Command . . . not to be arrogant nor to put their hope in wealth . . . but to put their hope in God . . . Command them to do good . . . and to be generous and willing to share" (1 Tim. 6:17–19). Our churches must be financially strong through ongoing stewardship education and the challenging of our congregations to make sacrificial investments in eternity through regular and special gifts. Our pastors must address the issue of money and possessions in a biblical, relevant, and practical way. Our congregations must adopt God's heart for the poor, disadvantaged, and needy in their allocation of available resources.

[EFCA Ministry Campaign Services](#). Contact [Ministry Campaign Services](#), or

800/995-8571, for consultation in stewardship education, capital campaign services, and ministry strategy planning.

44 Ways to Expand the Financial Base of Your Congregation, Lyle Schaller, Abingdon 1989. Schaller describes this as a “how” book on encouraging people to be more generous in underwriting the costs of ministry. Practical and suggestive.

Good Sense Budget Course (Video, Leader and Participant Guide, CD ROM), Dick Towner, Zondervan. A five hour workshop designed to train people to integrate biblical financial principles into their lives—financially and spiritually. For information, check out [Good Sense Ministry](#).

How to Increase Giving in Your Church: A Practical Guide to the Sensitive Task of Raising Money for Your Church or Ministry, George Barna, Regal 1997. This is a research-based study of the who, how, and why of givers and giving.

Maximum Generosity Church Resource Guide, Brian Kluth, [Kingdom Seekers](#). This resource is aimed at pastors and contains preaching helps, worksheets, sample brochures, and a planning calendar among other things.

Master Your Money (Book and Workbook), Ron Blue, Nelson 1997. Blue combines biblical teaching on stewardship with modern insights on financial management and cash control. He provides detailed charts and worksheets and a handy glossary of money terms.

Neither Poverty nor Riches, Craig L. Blomberg, Eerdmans 1999. Blomberg wrote this book to survey the biblical teaching on material possessions. He challenges Christians to consider a “graduated tithe.”

Intentional Disciplemaking – “Entrust to reliable men . . .” (2 Tim. 2:2).

“Therefore go and make disciples . . .” (Matt. 28: 19-20). Intentional disciplemaking processes to the next level of spiritual maturity must be built into the fabric of every local church. These disciplemaking pathways must be able to take a majority of local church members from new life in Christ to spiritual maturity. We have a commitment to see each member of our congregations using their spiritual gift(s) within the context of the local church.

Discipleship

Following the Master: Discipleship in the Steps of Jesus, M. J. Wilkins, Zondervan 1992. Wilkins traces the concept of discipleship through the entire biblical era.

Disciplemaking through the local church

Growing True Disciples: New Strategies for Producing Genuine Followers of Christ, George Barna, Waterbrook 2001. “Almost every church in our country has some type of discipleship program or set of activities, but stunningly few churches have a church of disciples,” Barna states. In this book, he outlines biblically based insights on building a discipling church.

New Century Disciplemaking, Bill Hull, Revell 1997. Hull reviews Jesus’ disciplemaking strategy and offers applications to the contemporary church. Formerly published as *Jesus Christ Disciplemaker*.

Sharpening the Focus of the Church, Gene Getz, Moody 1974. This book is currently out of print, but it is worth searching to find. Getz examines the church’s ministry using three lenses—Scripture, history, and culture—to identify enduring principles of life-transforming ministry.

The Equipping Church Guidebook, Sue Mallory & Brad Smith, Zondervan 2001.

This is the fullest resource for developing an equipping ministry that is currently available.

Disciplemaking pathways

Growing a Healthy Church: Christ's Disciplemaking Plan, Dann Spader & Gary Mayes, Moody 1991. Outlines a disciplemaking strategy based on the ministry of Jesus. The material in this book is presented in Sonlife's *Growing a Healthy Church* strategy seminar. For information, contact [Sonlife Ministries](#).

The Disciple-Making Pastor, Bill Hull, Baker 1999. Hull encourages pastors to define their primary task in terms of disciplemaking. Chapter 9, "Making it Work in the Local Church," provides a programmatic snapshot of how a pastor could begin to implement the disciplemaking process in the church.

The Lost Art of Disciple Making, Leroy Eims, Zondervan 1978. Eims outlines disciplemaking as a process. He also defines the desired "product" at each step. The charts and appendixes are helpful.

Spiritual gifts

Mobilizing Spiritual Gifts Series, Paul Ford, [ChurchSmart](#). A strategy to help people discover and use their spiritual gifts. Elements include: *Unleash Your Church!* (overview), *Ministry Mentor Guide* (train mobilization specialists), and *Getting Your Gifts in Gear* (Sunday school/small group study). Basic and easy to use.

Network: Understanding God's Design for You in the Church (Video Kit; Leader, Participant, Consultant, and Implementation Guides; Overhead Masters), Bruce Bugbee, Don Cousins, & Bill Hybels, Zondervan. A comprehensive, proven approach to guiding people to serve in the right ministries by helping them discover their spiritual gifts, passion, and personal style.

Loving Relationships – "By this will men know that you are my disciples, if you love one another" (John 13:35). Recognizing that all people are made in God's image and are loved by Him, we believe that our churches must reach across social, economic, and racial lines with practical acts of love within the church and the community—with special care for the needy, forgotten, and defenseless. We also believe our churches must be characterized by believers who are committed to the reconciliation of relationships among all people. Within the local church, loving relationships produce unity, accountability, and a powerful demonstration of God's presence within our communities.

Life Together: A Discussion of Christian Fellowship, Dietrich Bonhoeffer, HarperCollins 1954. A classic; thoughtful and suggestive.

The Mark of a Christian, Francis Schaeffer, IVP. In this brief challenge, late philosopher-theologian Francis Schaeffer encourages Christians to respond effectively and compassionately to a needy world.

Small groups

Biblical Foundations for Small Group Ministry, G. W. Icenogle, IVP 1994. This is a thought-provoking study of biblical community, primarily through the concept of small groups.

The Connecting Church: Beyond Small Groups to Authentic Community, Randy Frazee, Word 2000. Frazee, who "hit the wall" with small groups, discusses several trends in American culture that hinder biblical community. In the process, he fleshes out a model strategy for developing successful experiences of community.

Prepare Your Church for the Future, Carl F. George, Revell 1991. Considered by many to be the best book on small group ministry. Provides a clear rationale and implementable model for churches to use.

Reconciliation

The Message of Ephesians: God's New Society, John R. W. Stott, IVP 1979.

Stott's commentary has been around for a while. But it is a reliable guide to the biblical concepts of reconciliation and "new society" developed by Paul and discussed in this chapter. Get the edition that has a study guide and discuss it with your leadership team or small group—or both.

The Peacemaker: A Biblical Guide to Resolving Personal Conflict, Ken Sande, Baker 1997. Sande's book is used by EFCA Conciliation Services to equip people in churches to respond to conflict biblically.

* Updated July 2002