

# MissionNorthwest

Resourcing and developing churches that connect people with Jesus Christ

## Leadership Learning Communities 2019 Reading List

### EVERY MONTH

***Immeasurable: Reflections on the Soul of Ministry in the Age of Church, Inc.*** by Skye Jethani Christianity Today's Pastoral/Leadership Book of the Year 2017 (Kindle: \$1.99; Paperback: \$8.80)

Please select one chapter each month to read and review at the LLC meeting in addition studying the main monthly study assignment. The book consists of 24 short chapters.

**Topic:** Drawing on Scripture, cultural studies, and hundreds of conversations with church leaders across the country, Skye advocates for renewed postures toward the sacred calling of pastoral ministry. He exposes unbiblical definitions of success and builds a case for doing the kind of ministry that can't be measured.

**Description (from Amazon):** *Immeasurable* will help ministers recognize the cultural forces shaping their view of the calling, and then re-imagine what faithful church leaders can look like in the twenty-first century. Through short essays and reflections on the pastor's soul and skills, this book will help prospective pastors explore their calling to ministry, and it will help veteran pastors reframe their vision for the work. Drawing on cultural dynamics, personal stories, and his own experience working in a church and with church leaders, Skye Jethani will address matters like ambition, anger, community, consumerism, fame, health, justice, platform, preaching, rest, simplicity, success, vision, and more.

### JANUARY

***Dirt Matters: The Foundation for a Healthy, Vibrant and Healthy Congregation*** by Jim Powell (Kindle \$7.99; Paperback \$13.95; lots of cheaper used copies) [Part One: Forward through Chapter Six]

**Topic:** Cultivating healthy church culture. "My premise is that we have some control over the quality of soil inside the church, and focusing on that is ultimately a higher priority than just tweaking programs, activities, or creative delivery methods." ~ Jim Powell The author, Jim Powell, will be the primary speaker at Leadership Tune-Up 2019.

**Description** (from Amazon): Every church has a unique culture that serves as the soil where its ministry occurs. A church's culture is the somewhat nebulous and complex blend of norms, beliefs, attitudes, traditions, and practices that define the congregation. The culture establishes the environment that often predetermines the effectiveness or ineffectiveness of God's Word within that body of believers. It influences a congregation's potential impact more than techniques, programs, or pragmatic changes. *Dirt Matters* explains and illustrates the importance of church culture, connecting it to a simple analogy that anyone can understand. It also shares how it's possible to cultivate and nurture a healthier church environment that can put you and your congregation in a better position to bear fruit for God's glory.

## FEBRUARY

***Dirt Matters: The Foundation for a Healthy, Vibrant and Healthy Congregation* by Jim Powell** [Part Two: Chapter Seven through Final Thoughts]

## MARCH

***Small Church Essentials: Field-Tested Principles for Leading a Healthy Congregation of under 250*** by Karl Vader (Kindle \$7.99; Paperback \$9.86) [Part One: Introduction through Chapter Nine]

**Topic:** Practical advice for leading a congregation under 250 as it strives to be on mission and healthy. The perspective offered in this book is distinct to smaller churches from a pastoral leader who challenges much of the advice that is passed down from larger churches to smaller churches. Very helpful and doable.

**Description:** *Small Church Essentials* encourages small church pastors to steward their role well, debunking myths about small churches while offering principles for leading a dynamic, healthy small church. Based on the popular six-hour lecture that Karl Vaters delivers to church leaders across the country, *Small Church Essentials* will affirm small church leaders and show them how to identify what they do well, and how to do it even better. Readers will:

- Be assured that leading a small congregation does not make them ministry failures
- Come away inspired to lead with passion, regardless the size of their church
- Have field-tested principles for leading a church in their context
- Possess new metrics for biblically measuring vitality in small churches
- Have a toolkit of resources to use in their everyday ministry

## APRIL

***Small Church Essentials: Field-Tested Principles for Leading a Healthy Congregation of under 250*** by Karl Vader [Part Two: Chapter Ten through Chapter 16]

## MAY

### **Preaching Practicum**

**Read these two articles:** “*Communicating with the Brain in Mind: How neuroscience helps us engage people in an age of distraction.*” by Charles Stone

“*7 Preaching Shifts That Are Happening Right Now*” by Carey Nieuwhof (Available through the LLC Mentor Pastor)

**View Two Sermons:** One by Chris Brown, co-pastor of North Coast Church, Vista, CA and one by Scott Klaudt, lead pastor of Zootown Church, Missoula, MT

**Topic:** Biblical Preaching in a Post-Modern, Post-Christendom Age

**Description:** Sets the stage for a guided discussion on how to preach more effectively to distracted post-moderns with the goal of more effectively capturing people’s hearts and souls with the Gospel leading to life transformation.

## SEPTEMBER

***Thriving Through Ministry Conflict: By Understanding Your RED and BLUE Zones*** by James P. Osterhaus, Joseph M. Jurkowski, and Todd A. Hahn (Kindle: \$5.49; Paperback \$14.26 and numerous used copies starting at \$2.89)

**Topic:** Excellent guidance for responding to conflict in a healthy, non-reactive way. The book tells a fictional story about a conflicted ministry situation and uses it as an illustration for learning how to lead through conflict. This is one of the more practical books in print for managing one’s own emotional state in the face of opposition. The book assumes that church leaders who lead change must prepare for conflict. It comes with the territory. The book helps readers distinguish between Red Zone reactions (personal motives and emotional heat) versus Blue Zone reactions (focuses on the good of the organization and bounded by clear expectations).

**Description (from Amazon):** Church conflict doesn't have to be an enemy that tears a congregation apart. By learning how to handle it wisely, pastors and church leaders can make resistance one of their most valuable allies. Far from fearing conflict, leaders can turn it into a catalyst for positive change and a stronger, more united church.

Through the fictional story of a typical pastor embroiled in conflict, *Thriving through Ministry Conflict* shows how to handle and resolve conflict in a healthy way. By working through a series of response activities and discussion questions, the reader will gain powerful insights into the emotional dynamics of conflict. Here are the knowledge and tools that can help pastors and church leaders trade self-defeating responses to conflict for an empowering, constructive approach; gain a working command of key conflict survival principles; and cultivate the skills needed to effectively navigate the conflicts every ministry leader faces.

## OCTOBER

***The Daniel Generation: Godly Leadership in an Ungodly Culture* by Jolene Erlacher**  
(Kindle: \$9.99; Paperback: \$14.99)

**Topic:** This book draws parallels between today's tumultuous culture and the culture in which Daniel lived. The author calls on younger generations of leaders to develop courage and humility in the midst of a culture that does not affirm Godly leadership.

**Description (from Amazon):** As Millennials and Generation Z (1980-2012) begin taking leadership roles in our churches, communities and organizations, they face unique challenges. A cultural context informed by moral relativism, technology and globalization requires leadership that remains faithful to biblical practices while creating and implementing new strategies. Like Daniel, who found himself in Nebuchadnezzar's palace, a place foreign to his leaders and mentors in Jerusalem, young leaders today find themselves leading in an environment very different than that experienced by their parents and teachers. Lessons from Daniel's life provide valuable insight for godly leaders of all ages as we navigate the leadership challenges of our day and prepare those who will lead in the future.

## NOVEMBER

***Ministry Mantras: Language for Cultivating Kingdom Culture* by J.R. Briggs & Bob Hyatt**  
(Kindle: \$9.99; Paperback: \$10.02)

**Topic:** A very practical approach towards clarifying mission and shaping church culture by using mantras that stick and direct. Most everyone realizes that a long mission statement is useless. That's not to say that a short, compelling restatement of the Great Commission should be dismissed. Such a mission statement is invaluable. Having said this, pithy, catchy phrases that communicate the actions and values most desired from a congregation pressing into mission have great power. This book demonstrates how to use mantras to cultivate a healthy church culture. It includes numerous examples that can be readily employed in a local congregation.

**Description (from Amazon):** How do you grow your church in its health and mission? Sometimes our communities lack focus or vision. We lose sight of our ministry priorities, or our people don't have concrete reminders of why we do what we do. We need concise, memorable tools for cultivating culture, communicating ministry vision, and developing leaders.

The language we use shapes our communities. Pastors J.R. Briggs and Bob Hyatt share seventy-five short and memorable mantras they use to cast vision, inspire ministry, and create a healthy church culture. These brief chapters provide a wealth of practical wisdom for leadership, discipleship, community, and witness, embodying best practices with vivid stories of on-the-ground ministry.

These bite-sized ministry insights are ideal for church leaders to discuss with their teams and implement in their communities. They provide accessible handles for growing the health of your local church, for the sake of the kingdom.

## **DECEMBER**

**No book selection for December.** Use this month to complete a book that took longer than expected to read. Or, polish off unread sections of Skye Jethani's book *Immeasurable*.