

Pastor A Reader For Ordained Ministry

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Discover essential reading materials for pastors and those aspiring to ordained ministry. This curated collection serves as a vital resource for spiritual formation, deepening theological understanding, and enhancing the practical skills required for effective leadership within the church. Prepare yourself for a fulfilling and impactful ministry journey with these foundational texts.

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Pastor

An anthology of reflections on the tasks, joys, and challenges of ordained ministry, written by influential classical and contemporary thinkers.

Pastor

Ordained ministry, says Willimon, is a gift of God to the church--but that doesn't mean that it is easy. Always a difficult vocation, changes in society and the church in recent years have made the ordained life all the more complex and challenging. Is the pastor primarily a preacher, a professional caregiver, an administrator? Given the call of all Christians to be ministers to the world, what is the distinctive ministry of the ordained? When does one's ministry take on the character of prophet, and when does it become that of priest? What are the special ethical obligations and disciplines of the ordained? In this book, Willimon explores these and other central questions about the vocation of ordained ministry. He begins with a discussion of who pastors are, asking about the theological underpinnings of ordained ministry, and then moves on to what pastors do, looking at the distinctive roles the pastor must fulfill. The book also draws on great teachers of the Christian tradition to demonstrate that, while much about Christian ministry has changed, its core concerns--preaching the word, the care of souls, the sacramental life of congregations--remains the same. Ordained ministry is a vocation to which we are called, not a profession that we choose. To answer that call is to open oneself to heartache and sometimes hardship; yet, given the one who calls, it is to make oneself available to deep and profound joy as well.

Pastor: Revised Edition

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Ordained Local Ministry in the Church of England

Authoritative and timely review of the OLM experiment - its achievements, its weaknesses, and its ongoing relevance for the Church today.

Bridging the Gap

Readers make a significant contribution to the Church's ministry and mission. Bridging the Gap is full of information and practical help for those seeking to discover their vocation in Christian ministry, as well as for clergy, Readers and interested lay people.

Instruments of Christ's Love

There are approximately 10,000 Readers in the Church of England, many serving in parishes, taking services and preaching as well as doing pastoral work, while others engage in a variety of other roles. In recent years many dioceses have put a strong emphasis on accredited lay ministry alongside the ministry of clergy. 2016 is the 150th anniversary of Reader Ministry in the Church of England, and there will be celebrations around this. This book, written by two experienced teachers working with Readers and supporting Reader ministry, offers a fresh look at Reader ministry and thus a resource for Readers to consider their own specific ministry as well as for those exploring Reader ministry as a possible vocation.

The Deacon Reader

Drawing on the resources of Classic Anglicanism, Vicar offers a clear theological vision for the future. For thirty years, the Church has been talking about the oncoming challenges of providing ordained ministers to lead and enable local churches. Now long overdue structural change is really happening: but those at the sharp end – ‘vicars’ – are often bewildered and demoralized. This book celebrates the tradition of English Anglican ordained pastoral ministry; it also affirms the value of vicars’ ministry and way of life, and the great gift they have for relating to our communities and churches. The ‘vicar’ (parish priest, pastor, minister) still leads people – those who ‘come to church’ and those who don’t – in prayer and praise, cares for them in their sufferings and rejoices with them in their joys. This deep wisdom has sustained the Church for centuries. Yet, the questions must be asked: how can we be better equipped to make prudent decisions about the way church ministry has to evolve now? How can we meet the evident need in our parishes for an institutional church?

Vicar

In Exploring Practices of Ministry, Pamela Cooper-White and Michael Cooper-White share insights from their extensive experience as parish ministers, church agency executives, and seminary educators in diverse multicultural and international contexts. The book engages readers seeking to deepen theological reflection and expand skills as ministry practitioners, including preaching and public speaking, teaching, leading worship, counseling and care, and serving as organizational and public leaders. This book is a companion journal for pilgrims on the way to becoming confident practitioners of ministry.

Exploring Practices of Ministry

What are clergy for? In this lively and provocative book, Alan Billings argues that they serve the mission and ministry of the Church, which is to make God possible (or findable).

Making God Possible

In Calling & Character, Willimon lays out a clear and compelling picture of the pastoral life, one that will inform both those embarking on ordained ministry and those who have been in it for many years. He lays out specific habits such as study, collegiality, and humor as the day-by-day means of following the difficult and dangerous, yet deeply rewarding, calling of a pastor.

Calling & Character

Preaching Magazine Book of the Year (2022) Hearts & Minds Best Books List (2022) Christianity Today Award of Merit in Church & Pastoral Leadership (2023) It's time to give pastors permission to read books besides the Bible. Six months into his first senior pastorate, Austin Carty sat in his office reading—not the Bible, not a commentary, not a theological tract, but a novel by Fyodor Dostoevsky. As the minutes turned to hours, while he sat engrossed in this book, he noticed something: he began feeling uneasy. And then anxious. And then guilty. What would someone think if they opened the door and caught him reading fiction? For busy pastors (is there any other kind?), time spent reading feels hard to justify, especially when it's not for sermon prep. But what if reading felt less like a luxury and more like a vocational responsibility—a spiritual practice that bears fruit in every aspect of ministry, from preaching to pastoral care to church leadership? Austin Carty believes that this is exactly how pastors ought to think about reading. The Pastor's Bookshelf shows how worthwhile reading is more about formation than information and how, through reading, a pastor becomes a fuller, more enriched human being with a deeper capacity for wisdom and love, better equipped to understand and work for God's kingdom.

The Pastor's Bookshelf

Presented as the letters of a mature pastor to several fictional recipients, *Letters to New Pastors* delves into the professional, emotional, and spiritual needs of those new to the ministry. In a manner reminiscent of C. S. Lewis's *Letters to Malcolm* and Reinhold Niebuhr's *Leaves from the Notebook of a Tamed Cynic*, Michael Jenkins connects readers with valuable pastoral wisdom gleaned from his years of ministry and from the riches of the Christian past. In these letters Jenkins explores such themes as developing one's own spiritual life, finding balance amid conflicting demands, and rediscovering the meaning of Christ's call for the church's future. Written in a comfortable, personal style, Jenkins's *Letters to New Pastors* is ideal not only for new pastors but also for anyone seeking to better understand the challenges facing those in ministry today.

Letters to New Pastors

The author has achieved his goal of providing spiritual and pastoral support for lay ministry by covering a wide spectrum of interests: historical information, spiritual growth, personal reflection, and career choices." - Lay Ministry Newsletter of the National Association for Lay Ministry
Lay Ministry unmasks the notion for the average Catholic that the consistency of the tradition is also unquestionably clear. Rademacher routes us from Moses to Paul, from Ignatius to Gregory VII to John Paul II, tracing both the theology and practices that underlie contemporary ministry in the church. The trail is one that few Catholics have ever had the chance to walk, and the end point is far different from the one to which we have become accustomed. Rademacher makes points that must be understood and discussed at every level of the church if the church is to remain vibrant in our own times. The limiting definition of the seven sacraments, the restriction on lay participation in the church, the loss of the spiritual meaning of ministry, the clericalization of the church, the effects of sexism on sacramentality, and an inadequate understanding of the nature of the Christian call are all stones across the door of the tomb that block the resurrection of the church to the fullness of life. Rademacher faces them all, forthrightly and courageously. What's more he makes us face them too. Do I recommend it? I would assign it." - Joan Chittister, O.S.B.

Lay Ministry

Are you struggling with a call to the ordained ministry? Dr. Michael A. Milton harnesses Biblical teaching, theological insight, and his own experience to help guide you, from the call to post-seminary.

Lord, I Want to Follow Your Call

In this series of messages we want to study the prophecy of the four 'sevens' in the Bible. If we are going to know the prophecy concerning the consummation of this present age, we need to know the truth concerning these four 'sevens.' In [the first] message we want to see the prophecy of the first 'seven,' which is the last seven years of this age spoken of as the last week of the seventy weeks in Daniel 9. The three other sets of 'sevens' are in the book of Revelation. They are the seven seals, seven trumpets, and seven bowls. Revelation may be considered as a book of prophecy constituted with these three sets of 'sevens.' The first 'seven' in Daniel 9 is related to these three sets of 'sevens' in Revelation. The prophecy of these four 'sevens' is related to the Messiah (Christ), the nation of Israel, the New Testament believers, and the church.

The Prophecy of the Four Sevens in the Bible

The time has come, Edward C. Zaragoza argues, to lay a new foundation for how we understand ordained ministry. He begins by reminding us that, on the basis of the priesthood of all believers, clergy are ministers with, rather than servants of, the congregation. Building on the horizontal nature of this relationship, he suggests that we begin to think of a friendship model of ministry. In this model the authority of the ordained arises not from the quality of their service to the congregation (a service which can too easily lead to subjugation or superiority), but from the fact that the church has set them apart to minister with and among them, carrying on their own ministry of prayer, proclamation, and teaching, in ways that enhance and facilitate the ministry of the whole people of God. In this timely and constructive theological analysis, Zaragoza offers a new paradigm for understanding the function of ordained ministry in the life of the congregation. After presenting a critique of the "servant leadership model" and explaining the risks inherent in it, the author presents a "friendship model" of ordained ministry and explains how this model arises from and takes place within the context of the whole people of God.

No Longer Servants, But Friends

Too often pastoral care is uninformed by historical practice and is overly influenced by psychological theory and practice, according to Andrew Purves. At least one consequence of this is that it is often disaffiliated from the church's theological heritage. Purves examines Christian writers from the past who represent the classical tradition in pastoral theology--classical in the sense that they and their texts have shaped the minds and practices of pastors in enduring ways. He reflects on texts from Gregory Nazianzus, John Chrysostom, Gregory the Great, Martin Bucer, and Richard Baxter. He includes a brief biography of each author, introduces the major themes in the writer's theology, and discusses the issues arising for pastoral work.

Pastoral Theology in the Classical Tradition

FROM THE FORWARD: The Calling of a Part-Time Pastor is written for all leaders of small churches. This guidebook is a gateway into fully understanding the trials and joys of working together to lead your small church to fulfill your calling in Jesus Christ. The insights you will discover on these pages will help you make the best decisions as you seek to call a part-time pastor to your church. So valuable is the guidance you will receive in this book that I urge your leaders to read it before looking for a minister, while the search is being conducted, and once again when the task is complete. If you use this book as a guide, you will find help in making the future ministry of your church the very best it can be. This book is also for ministers considering a call to a small church. Here you will be reminded of what you already know-- that your ministry matters-- and that small churches matter in the kingdom of God. This book will resonate with what is in your heart and mind about Jesus Christ. The Calling of a Part-Time Pastor will elevate you in your calling, reminding you that your service and your church is holy and indispensable, and will serve as a valuable guide to effective and faithful part-time or bivocational ministry.

The Calling of a Part-Time Pastor

Becoming a Pastor should be required reading for: All of us who nurture intergenerational communities and ministries, All who are following God's call into a vocation of ministry, whatever form it may take, Anyone in ministry at any time in ministry Book jacket.

Becoming a Pastor

What is Christ's calling to you? You may be seeking an answer; you may be avoiding the question, but when the Lord calls, he will be answered. God's call came suddenly to Elisha; he was plowing a field when Elijah cast the prophet's mantle on him. Levi was in a toll booth, and Peter held a fishing net when Jesus called them. But how does the Lord call today? You have not been blinded by a heavenly light on the road to Damascus, but you are ready to say with Saul of Tarsus, "Lord, what wouldst thou have me to do?" How does the Lord answer that question? - Introduction.

Called to the Ministry

Unless God is worshipped for His Own sake, we are reduced to idolatry. Segler, in his book Christian Worship, says: "God must be worshipped for His Own glory, or it is idolatry, however relatively worthy its motivation." (Segler 1967, 12, emphasis added). Again, we emphasise the pivotal focus on God

alone. He alone is worthy of worship. The English word “worship” is derived from the Old English word *weorthscipe*—“worth” and “ship”—“worthship”— meaning worship; one worthy of reverence and honour. It is honour shown to an object. (Worship – Wikipedia). When we worship, we declare God’s worth. The 24 elders proclaimed: “You are worthy, our LORD and God, to receive glory and honour and power, for you created all things, and by your will they were created and have their being.” (Revelation 4:11, emphasis added). The angels sang: “Worthy is the Lamb, who was slain, to receive power and wealth and wisdom and strength and honour and glory and praise!” The four living creatures said, “Amen,” and the elders fell down and worshipped. (Revelation 5:12, 14, emphases added). * * * * * You have taken a 4-wheel drive trip into the outback. You couldn’t be more remote. The horizon is a blur in the far distance. There is no town for miles! You are out of range for any mobile phone coverage. There is no passing traffic. And the old jalopy has “packed it in”. What do you do? For too many people it is an occasion of “venting their spleen”, cursing loud and long, blaming anyone and everyone, etc.—and kicking the wheel! The answer is very simple for the Christian. You worship! And don’t argue that there is no pipe organ or choir or anything that is usually related to “worship”. Now it is time to truly worship—and it is all and only to do with God. You might start with a devotional statement—a reminder of just Who God is: “Dear Lord. Almighty creator, ruler and sustainer of the universe. You are from everlasting to everlasting. You know all things—including our predicament. You are everywhere—including out here in this remote place. You are right here with us (His immanence), so we have nothing to worry about. As our omniscient God, You not only know of our predicament, but You have known all about it from the creation of the world. That being the case, it is no surprise to You what has happened today. So we need not to be surprised. And we are assured that You have it all under control. Our lives are in Your merciful and loving hands. With Your omnipotence, there will be no difficulty in providing a solution—however seemingly difficult it might appear”. This is true worship. True worship is an appreciation of God for His own sake. Without regard to the circumstances!! And without regard for the benefits that we might derive from Him—or even desperately hope to derive from Him. There is no bargaining. No demanding. No handwringing. No guidelines for your expectations. No angry retorts, like “If God knew this from the creation of the world why didn’t He let us know?” “If He is a sovereign God, why did He allow this to happen ... here!?” True worship is an appreciation of God for His own sake. FULL STOP. Now what is the sovereign God going to do? Be assured that He only does all things well/perfectly. He is the judge of all the earth, and He will only do what is right. Can you trust Him for that? Can you expect more than that? Is that OK? Can you trust God to be God—overwhelming in mercy and care for His children? Do you think that He will be able to handle this without your advice and help? If He can’t, then there is no hope for any of us. So sit down and relax. It doesn’t depend on you. Can we say with relaxed surrender: “But I trust in you, LORD; I say, ‘You are my God.’ My times are in your hands ...” (Psalm 31:14-15, emphases added).

PRAYER: PREMISED ON WORSHIP

Enjoy culture in a way that feeds your faith and helps you share it with others

Plugged In

Readers make a significant and welcome contribution to the Church’s ministry and mission. Called and trained, they assist the Church’s life and witness by leading worship, preaching and teaching, and engaging in pastoral work and evangelism. Today, women are well established as Readers and Reader Ministry has developed to include pastoral work and funerals as well as the traditional preaching, teaching and liturgical roles. Bridging the Gap is full of information and practical help for those seeking to discover their vocation in Christian ministry as well as for clergy, Readers and interested lay people. It includes contributions from Christina Baxter, the Principal of St John’s College, Nottingham and Chair of the House of Laity of the General Synod, and Andrew Britton, the distinguished economist.

Bridging the Gap

The church is not just a building; it is an assembly of people who need a vision. Here is inspiration for a radically biblical vision that will both minister to and involve your church's assembly.

Finding a Vision for Your Church

Trieste Publishing has a massive catalogue of classic book titles. Our aim is to provide readers with the highest quality reproductions of fiction and non-fiction literature that has stood the test of time. The many thousands of books in our collection have been sourced from libraries and private collections

around the world. The titles that Trieste Publishing has chosen to be part of the collection have been scanned to simulate the original. Our readers see the books the same way that their first readers did decades or a hundred or more years ago. Books from that period are often spoiled by imperfections that did not exist in the original. Imperfections could be in the form of blurred text, photographs, or missing pages. It is highly unlikely that this would occur with one of our books. Our extensive quality control ensures that the readers of Trieste Publishing's books will be delighted with their purchase. Our staff has thoroughly reviewed every page of all the books in the collection, repairing, or if necessary, rejecting titles that are not of the highest quality. This process ensures that the reader of one of Trieste Publishing's titles receives a volume that faithfully reproduces the original, and to the maximum degree possible, gives them the experience of owning the original work. We pride ourselves on not only creating a pathway to an extensive reservoir of books of the finest quality, but also providing value to every one of our readers. Generally, Trieste books are purchased singly - on demand, however they may also be purchased in bulk. Readers interested in bulk purchases are invited to contact us directly to enquire about our tailored bulk rates.

The Ministry of the Word

Messenger, sentinel, steward ... these three words have been used to describe the work of a priest in the Church of England since Cranmer wrote the original ordination rite in 1550. Two more, servant and shepherd, were added in 1980. Taken together, these five metaphors provide a rich and resonant set of ideas through which to explore the nature of Christian ministry. In this short, lyrical book, Bishop Stephen Cottrell explores each one; based on actual addresses given to ordinands on the night before their ordination, it is refreshing, challenging and accessible. Anyone considering ordination or already in ministry will want to read this book for the fascinating exploration of the five metaphors he considers.

On Priesthood

In *Reading for Preaching* Cornelius Plantinga makes a striking claim: preachers who read widely will most likely become better preachers. Plantinga -- himself a master preacher -- shows how a wide reading program can benefit preachers. First, he says, good reading generates delight, and the preacher who enters the world of delight goes with God. Good reading can also help tune the preacher's ear for language -- his or her primary tool. General reading can enlarge the preacher's sympathies for people and situations that she or he had previously known nothing about. And, above all, the preacher who reads widely has the chance to become wise. This beautifully written book will benefit not just preachers but anyone interested in the wisdom to be derived from reading. Works that Plantinga interacts with in the book include *The Kite Runner*, by Khaled Hosseini *Journey*, by Sonia Nazario *Silence*, by Shusaku Endo "How Much Land Does a Man Need?" by Leo Tolstoy "Narcissus Leaves the Pool" by Joseph Epstein *Les Misérables*, by Victor Hugo . . . and many more!

Reading for Preaching

Becoming the Pastor You Hope to Be unapologetically urges clergy readers to develop practices that will help them become more excellent ministers. A long-time field educator, now serving as a denominational staff person responsible for ministerial formation, Barbara Blodgett believes excellence is a matter of doing simple things with care and consistency. Ministers who commit themselves to excellence will grow and flourish, and even become happier in ministry. Blodgett urges ministers to resist praise and instead to ask for feedback, to seek the company of mentors who are better than the reader is at what he or she does, to be vulnerable before their peers in order to learn from them, and to define themselves as a leader who does not merely take activist stances but risks entering into deep, transformative relationships. Improvement in ministry, Blodgett argues, comes about not through extraordinary leaps and bounds but rather through adopting simple habits and carrying through on small but thoughtfully made choices. Addressed to ministers, *Becoming the Pastor You Hope to Be* is also a valuable resource for discernment committees, Christian educators, leaders of continuing education and lay education programs, and all those who partner with theological schools to help form ministers, both lay and ordained.

Becoming the Pastor You Hope to Be

This introduction to psychology has been devised for those training for and working in the clergy. Ideal both as a professional handbook and a textbook, it covers social, developmental, educational,

occupational and counselling psychology, as well as the psychology of religion. It carefully considers the processes of personal change and growth central to religion.

Psychology for Christian Ministry

Ministry is often examined in terms of who the minister is, not what the minister does. But the vocation to ministry must be understood as a call to identity as well as to practice, one that is rooted in Jesus' life and ministry as well as the Spirit's charisms. In *Introducing the Practice of Ministry* Kathleen A. Cahalan defines ministerial leadership as carried out through the practices of teaching, preaching, pastoral care, worship, social ministry, and administration for the sake of nurturing the life of discipleship in the community of believers. In her examination of charisms for each of the practices of ministry, Cahalan presents readers with a Trinitarian foundation, noting that the practices of discipleship and ministry have their origin in the very practices of God." Kathleen A. Cahalan is associate professor of theology at Saint John's University School of Theology, Seminary in Collegeville, Minnesota. She is author of *Formed in the Image of Christ: The Sacramental-Moral Theology of Bernard Häring* (Liturgical Press, 2004) and *Projects That Matter: Successful Planning and Evaluation for Religious Organizations* (Alban Institute, 2003). She is the past-president of the Association of Practical Theology. "

Introducing the Practice of Ministry

An experienced pastoral practitioner Writes with poetic insight and reflective discipline about the practice of ministry and the life of the priest person. Doug Purnell is also a professional artist and the book shares many of his drawings as part of the text. His book will touch you deeply. It will not be a gentle read, but it will be ministry shaping. You will think in new ways about ministry and about the role of the priestly person as a result of reading this book. You will be enriched. "Artist, minister, scholar, and teacher, Douglas Purnell creates an integrated portrait of what an implicated ministry looks like amidst painful and challenging circumstances. He skillfully interweaves image and text in a healing narrative that reveals the heart of ministry in daily living within community." CARMEN NANKO-FERNANDEZ, Catholic Theological Union Chicago As if he were painting on one of his canvases, Doug Purnell has created an amazingly detailed landscape that includes his own struggles to reclaim his call to ministry amidst the lived experiences of the people of St. Leo's Parish. The reader is invited inside an intimate, fiercely honest reflection on pastoral practice as we listen to a pastor listen to himself for the sake of being in ministry authentically. HERBERT ANDERSON, Pacific Lutheran Theological Union and the Graduate Theological Union, Berkeley "Purnell's work is a witness to the fact that he seeks balance in being a person, being a partner, being a parent, being a pastor, and being an artist. He is inspirational and transformational as he explores the inevitable tension between being in ministry and doing ministry. Every pastoral leader who wonders about messages of being 'excellent' in ministry should read this book!" JACO HAMMAN, Western Theological Seminary, Holland, Michigan

Being in Ministry

Wise and practical essays on the pastor as shepherd, preacher, worship leader, and professional "This is pastoral theology at its best. Bishop Emeritus Donald N. Bastian unfolds a lifetime of pastoral wisdom in words as fresh and timely as they are seasoned and timeless. In writing that is deeply rooted in scripture and the pastoral tradition of the historic church, Bastian applies his years of experience as pastor and church leader to the perennial needs of the postmodern church in any culture. Highly recommended." DOUGLAS R. CULLUM, Vice President and Dean, Professor of Historical and Pastoral Theology, Northeastern Seminary, Rochester, New York "Rightly recognized for the grace and gifts of pastoral ministry, Donald N. Bastian has provided readers with wisdom, substance, and practical help distilled from decades as a minister of the gospel. Especially helpful for younger pastors, the book will deepen their theology, confirm their vocation, and help them through more than a few difficulties." VICTOR A. SHEPHERD, Professor of Theology, Tyndale University College & Seminary, Toronto, Professor Ordinarius, the Graduate Theological Union, University of Oxford, and author of eleven books Donald N. Bastian, bishop emeritus of the Free Methodist Church of North America, is widely regarded as an inspired preacher, wise overseer of the church, and outstanding writer. He is also the author of *God's House Rules: Seven Biblical Truths to Transform and Enrich Your Family Life* and other books and writes the blog Just Call Me Pastor.

The Pastor's First Love

The remarkable success of the book *A Pastor's Toolbox: Management Skills for Parish Leadership* has demonstrated that the demands of time and financial challenges continue to impact the work of today's parish leaders. The need has become even greater for practical tools to assist in the many aspects of temporal administration, leadership, and church management. This follow-up volume provides all new information, insights, and practical tools that pastors need to handle the complexities of parish management in the twenty-first century. Sixteen contributors from across the country deliver key content that focuses on promoting excellence and best practices in the areas of management, finances, communications, and human resources development. *A Pastor's Toolbox 2* provides: leadership tools for the pastor and his team; help for working with the parish's pastoral and finance council; intercultural competence and complex pastoring situations; suggestions for time management and effective meetings; human resources, change management, and canon law; tools for parish stewardship, communications, and Catholic schools. The book is an outgrowth of the *Toolbox for Pastoral Management*, a nationally recognized joint project of Leadership Roundtable and Seton Hall University. Learn more at www.LeadershipRoundtable.org.

A Pastor's Toolbox 2

This one-of-a-kind resource in professional ethics helps today's Christian leaders maintain a high moral character and lifestyle and sharpen their personal and professional decision-making skills. Two experienced teachers and pastors address both current and perennial ethical issues and offer guidance for developing a personal code of ethics to maintain integrity in the work of ministry. The authors address the nature of ethical decision making as well as practical areas where integrity can be compromised, including issues raised by the use of smartphones and social media. Appendixes include codes of ethics from various denominations.

Ethics for Christian Ministry

This handbook investigates the Christian ministry providing an introduction to what the Bible says as well as addressing developments from the history of the Church. It considers crucial issues for the contemporary Christian, including the ministry of the whole church, women in leadership, working together and handling failure. The book also provides insight into the workings of the Church of England and how one becomes an ordained minister.

An Introduction to Christian Ministry

(FULL COLOR INTERIOR) In a transparent, touching, encouraging and easy-to-read conversational style, the author shares her stories of encounters with a very personal God. God reached into her heart full of grief, pain, and meaninglessness, transforming her with the joy of a new and vibrant personal relationship through Jesus Christ. The God of love invited her to partner with Him, and thus began an extra-ordinary adventure in a life of Christian ministry as a second career pastor while balancing family life with a husband and two children. It was nothing she expected but everything the God of surprises had dreamed for her. With deeply personal and honest storytelling similar to Ann Voskamp's *One Thousand Gifts*, Susan shares the insights she's gleaned through her own experiences and those she has met in the eight churches she has served. As she encounters evil, suffering and brokenness in her own life and in the lives of those in her charge, God meets her in those places to address her questions and show her another reality that transforms those painful experiences. Even through disappointments, failure and near burnout, the reader sees how sufficient God is to use these unwelcomed experiences to bring victory and new purpose. Through her inspirational stories of those she has met along the way, the reader catches a glimpse of what it is like to partner with the living God and watch Him transform lives. Her ministry as an Anglo female pastor in cross-cultural ministry to an all-black church gave her opportunities to experience what it is like to be in the minority, to build bridges through love and understanding, and to experience the joy of community within diversity. Called to healing ministries of all types, she has been surprised by God as she has witnessed physical, spiritual, emotional, mental, and relational healing that have set people free to serve God as joyful disciples of Jesus Christ. With the heart of an evangelist, this pastor has led her churches in ministries to bring community hope, healing and transformation. The stories throughout the book will especially encourage women in ministry of all types. Whether you are needing hope, wrestling with questions of faith, struggling to heal from pain or meaninglessness in your life, hoping to grow closer to God, beginning the journey toward ordained ministry, or needing new passion for ministry, this book will not disappoint and may even surprise you.

with your heart's desire. The book is appropriate for small group studies and includes a study guide useful for both group discussions or personal reflection.

Encountering the God of Surprises

Leadership is a much-discussed topic. What does it actually mean for us as Christians? Does Christian leadership have its own distinctive shape and character? In *Servants and Fools, A Biblical Theology of Leadership*, Arthur Boers examines Jesus's pattern of leadership. Boers shows how this pattern is rooted in service and sacrifice, is cautious about power and hierarchies, and prioritizes the vulnerable. In other words, it often reverses what we expect of leadership, and is different from what we read in most leadership literature. *Servants and Fools* is a unique resource for students and practitioners across denominations. It offers a foundational perspective on leadership and guidance for practical application in the reader's daily life and ministry. Arthur Boers has at last written the book we have sorely needed, a book that is destined to become the main text in my seminary courses in church leadership, a book that is sure to be enthusiastically received by thousands of contemporary Christian leaders. Boers energetically underscores the joyful peculiarity of specifically Christian leadership. His book is unique: a biblically based, Christologically grounded defense of leadership in the name of Christ. --Will Willimon, Professor of the Practice of Christian Ministry, Duke Divinity School, United Methodist Bishop, retired, and author of *Pastor: The Theology and Practice of Ordained Leadership* *Servants and Fools* is a brilliant and essential contribution to any serious study of leadership: Robust, faithful, insightful biblical teaching. A judicious, knowledgeable harvest of the best contributions from leadership theorists and practitioners. Plus humor, in-the-trenches experiences, and practical applications. I cannot imagine ever teaching another class on leadership without assigning and discussing Arthur Boers's book! --David W. Gill, Mockler-Phillips Professor of Workplace Theology & Ethics, Gordon-Conwell Theological Seminary In *Servants and Fools: A Biblical Theology of Leadership*, Arthur Boers deconstructs the contemporary cult of "leadership" and serves up a refreshingly Biblical alternative. It is a great cautionary tale for today's churches, seminaries, and Christian non-profits. At the same time, it offers great insight for secular organizations and leaders as well. --John Suk, author, former editor of *The Banner*, and pastor of Lawrence Park Community Church, Toronto, Canada. One of Hearts & Minds Bookstore's BEST BOOKS OF 2015!

Servants and Fools

Have you ever felt a tug deep inside to serve other human beings with work that matters? Written for all Christians of any affiliation, this primer challenges readers to think seriously about the nature, role, and work of ordained ministry in the church. This wise book will help you: recognize the importance of choices about theological education; understand the servant role of the ordained minister; identify the unique work and activities of the ordained minister; and clarify the types of ministers who are sought by various churches.

Who Will Go for Us?

Churches have split and denominations have formed over the issue of church government. While many Christians can explain their church's form of rule or defend it because of its "tried and true" traditions, few people understand their church's administrative customs from a biblical perspective. *Who Runs the Church?* explores questions such as: What model for governing the church does the Bible provide, and is such a model given for practical or spiritual reasons? Is there room for different methods within Christianity? Or is there a right way of "doing church"? And, finally, how (and by whom) should the church be governed? Four predominant approaches to church government are presented by respected proponents: Episcopalianism - represented by Peter Toon Presbyterianism - represented by L. Roy Taylor Single-Elder Congregationalism - represented by Paige Patterson Plural-Elder Congregationalism - represented by Samuel E. Waldron As in other *Counterpoints* books, each view is followed by critiques from the other contributors, and its advocate then responds.

Who Runs the Church?