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Five Practices Of Fruitful Congregations



Synopsis

People are searching for a church shaped and sustained by Radical Hospitality, Passionate Worship, Intentional Faith Development, Risk-Taking Mission and Service, and Extravagant Generosity. These fundamental practices are critical to the success of congregations. Their presence and strength demonstrate congregational health, vitality, and fruitfulness. By repeating and improving these practices, churches fulfill their mission to make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world.

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Customer Reviews

Five Practices is a thought-provoking book for congregational leaders who want to see the church fulfill its mission to make disciples of Jesus Christ. -- Leading Ideas Book Review by Tom Berlin, senior pastor of Floris United Methodist Church in Herndon, Virginia
Schnase is helpful because he tells the truth. He is hopeful because he imagines a different and more faithful future for the church. The practices described in this book will lead any pastor or leader, or better yet any congregation, toward renewal in the service of God's mission. --Circuit Rider Magazine Book Review by Kenneth H. Carter, Jr., Providence UMC, Charlotte, NC

"Robert Schnase astutely weaves theological insight, practical advice, and exemplary stories into an inspiring book for pastors and laity alike. The five practices are central to faithful and fruitful Christian living and offer a blueprint for congregational vitality and excellent ministry. Be careful,

however. While the nouns (e.g., hospitality, generosity) sound wonderfully encouraging, the adjectives that go with them (e.g., radical, extravagant) point to how challenging and life-transforming they are. So use at your own risk--a risk that your congregation will discover a new sense of 'the life that really is life' (I Tim. 6:19)." -L. Gregory Jones, Dean and Professor of Theology, Duke Divinity School "In a time when congregations focus more on activities than outcomes and more on good intentions than transformed lives, Robert Schnase reminds us that God's call to congregational fruitfulness is biblical and Wesleyan to the core. Schnase's words are thoughtful, provocative, and challenging. Any congregation will find encouragement and insight in every chapter to deepen faithfulness and multiply fruitfulness." -Lovett H. Weems, Jr., Distinguished Professor of Church Leadership, Wesley Theological Seminary "Stimulating. Challenging. Uniquely helpful. These five practices make mission come alive. They are essential to fruitful congregations. Excellent for congregational leaders, Sunday school classes, small group studies, pastors and ministry teams. Bishop Schnase gives us powerful language, rich examples, and practical suggestions for fulfilling the mission God gives us." -Janice Riggle Huie, Bishop of the Texas Conference of The United Methodist Church

I am using this as a supplement to the current use of Five Practices of Fruitful Living with my elders. My one concern is the expectation that these practices will solve the problem congregations may have of stemming the decline of church attendance and providing a vision for the future of their church. There is a lot of work to be done when trying to keep a church vital and relevant across age groups. This is one way to encourage solidarity and direction, but the leadership has to buy in or agree this is where they think the congregation is ready to go first.

This book fuels the imagination for what churches can be. The author makes the case that healthy, productive churches tend to practice radical hospitality, passionate worship, intentional faith development, risk-taking mission and service, and extravagant generosity. In each chapter he unpacks what each of these practices means and gives several examples of what it looks like. This would make for a good church-wide study. Every church would do well to consider how it is doing in each of these five areas.

This book is absolutely the total package, it gives the church balance in all direction of faith development and worship, radical hospitality. risk-taking and about extravagant generosity. These are all necessary challenges all churches face. Using these guidelines have truly change the way

of our ways on an outreach level. This have made a big difference in the way we run our worship service, we are going out in the community and making a difference in the community and people's lives. I try to relate back to the Five Practices of Fruitful Congregations because there are time we might have made a change & it wasnt working, but reading about faith developement can give you a total new ideal on the same situation and turn it around to become as God would have wanted his people to serve.

Great for our congregation.

A good read for your whole congregation. Gives practical tips for increasing your sense of hospitality, worship, faith development, mission/service and generosity. After reading this book my Sunday School class started praying for each other by using post-it notes and being more intentional with reaching out to other in our congregation by sending cards. Seems like simple, common sense things to do, but they have a big impact.

Bought these as a Christmas present for my daughter and son-in-law who live in Puerto Rico. They spend lot of time at the beach. They are loving these masks!! Great present--a real hit!

This book contains information on how churches can enliven their missions by making improvements in five areas. Since these five areas are discussed by other writers in mission improvement, I have reason to believe this book presents a plan that is worthwhile to attempt. We have just received the kit and are reviewing this to see how it can be coordinated with other educational programs and equipping efforts that we are implementing. Probably what a prospective buyer really wants to know is: "Does this work?" I cannot answer that yet, but it sounds like it is worth trying the program. I would suggest buying this book before buying the kit, so that you have an overview of the whole program, anyway.

We did this church-wide and it was fantastic. The five fruits are all important to churches that believe themselves to be like Jesus. We have to worship passionately, be radically hospitable, take risks, and so on and so on. If you want your church to grow spiritually, and find a way to embrace the real spirit of being a Christ follower, read this book. Its anecdotes all revolve around United Methodist congregations, but the practices themselves are Bible-centric, not Methodist-centric or John Wesley-centric. It helps that Wesley himself was Bible-centered.

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