Understanding and Activating Congregations: A Bibliography

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From a wide assortment of books that have implications for the congregation, we have chosen for this Bibliography those volumes that take the local church as a primary frame of reference. Books on pastoral care by clergy, the work of the laity, or the general purpose of the church in the world were not included unless a major section of their content focused clearly on the life and work of the local congregation. A few unique books were included because they have been widely used to interpret some phase of congregational life, although they were originally written with a larger field in view, for example, H. Richard Niebuhr's *Christ and Culture*, which provides a typology often applied to congregations.

There are three major divisions: Missional Studies, including works that advocate change in the world through the agency of the church, which itself must be changed as a more effective instrument of mission; Studies of Church Functions, works that accept the congregation as basically sound but urge that congregations improve in a particular area of congregational activity; Descriptive Research, reports on the conditions of religiousness within the congregation or the correlations between the congregation and its social context. Each area has several subdivisions. We have made sometimes difficult decisions to place books in a single category although many have implications in several.

MISSIONAL STUDIES

1. Change the Church to Change the World


World Council of Churches, Department on Studies in Evangelism. Western European Working Group. *The Church for Others and the
2. Work with the World As It Is


3. Bring the World into the Church

STUDIES OF CHURCH FUNCTIONS

1. Administration of the Congregation


2. Congregational Renewal


Greeley, Andrew; Durkin, Mary; Shea, Thomas; Tracy, David; and McCready, William. *Parish, Priest and People: New Leadership for the Local Church*. Chicago: Thomas More Press, 1981.


3. Conflict Management


4. Congregation As Pastor


———. *Mental Health Through Christian Community: The Local*


5. Congregation As Educator


6. Congregation As Prophet


7. Congregation As Worshiping Community


DESCRIPTIVE RESEARCH

1. Internal: Religiousness Within the Congregation


Glock, Charles; Ringer, Benjamin; and Babbie, Earl. *To Comfort and to Challenge*. Berkeley: University of California, 1967.


2. External: Relationship Between the Congregation and Its Community


———. 1000 City Churches. New York: George H. Doran, 1926.


Leiffer, Murry H. City and Church in Transition. Chicago: Willett, Clark, 1938.


