

**CCVT List of Resources for Churches Considering New Strategies and Approaches for Moving into the Future  
Shenandoah Presbytery (2026)**

<b>Combined Resources (CCVT)</b>	<b>Relevant Links</b>	<b>Brief explanation of some resources</b>
<b>Documentsto get started</b>		
CCVT, Vitality and Transformation and Romans 12	<a href="#">VT&amp;Rom12</a>	Available on Presbytery Website
CCVT, Conversation Starter Document	<a href="#">ConvoStarter link</a>	Available on Presbytery Website
PneuMatrix Animal Farm Church Ministry reflection tool	<a href="#">Animal Farm</a>	Available on Presbytery Website

<b>Websites/Resources</b>		
<i>Rechurching Toolkit: 20 Things Your Church Can Do Right Now Regarding Dechurching</i>	<a href="https://static1.squarespace.com/static/668ea336ae58a26425de3592/t/67eec985c896583e617a6789/1743702406251/Rechurching+Toolkit+-+20+Things+Your+Church+Can+Do+Right+Now+Regarding+Dechurching+%286%29.pdf">https://static1.squarespace.com/static/668ea336ae58a26425de3592/t/67eec985c896583e617a6789/1743702406251/Rechurching+Toolkit+-+20+Things+Your+Church+Can+Do+Right+Now+Regarding+Dechurching+%286%29.pdf</a>	Ideas and leader discussion tools around topics related to reversing the drain of members/attendees. Some ideas are more helpful for larger churches but may provide helpful "focus checks" for all.
Cultivated ministry - using new metrics to measure faithful effective ministry	<a href="https://nextchurch.net/cultivated-ministry/">https://nextchurch.net/cultivated-ministry/</a>	Cultivated ministry- using new metrics to measure faithful effective ministry
Eight Habits of Evangelism *	<a href="https://8habits.org">https://8habits.org</a>	Reframes evangelism from member recruitment strategy to a means of stepping into God's work of transforming the world.
Fresh Expressions	<a href="https://freshexpressions.com">https://freshexpressions.com</a>	While many churches are familiar with potlucks and fellowship meals, Dinner Church reimagines those gatherings through a missional lens, creating a sacred space for community, hospitality, and the Gospel. It's not just about feeding people—it's about forming new faith communities around the table.
Mennonite Peace Center	<a href="https://mpeacecenter.org/training">https://mpeacecenter.org/training</a>	Offers training on conflict transformation skills and family systems theory for church leaders. Note the following people in ShenPres have received conflict transformation training: GP Bronwen Boswell, Rev. Patrick Pettit, Rev. John Bethard.
Messy Church *	<a href="https://messychurchusa.org/what-is-messy-church/">https://messychurchusa.org/what-is-messy-church/</a>	Focus on reinventing worship for an intergenerational experience where faith forms alongside fellowship in a worship event that is not always tidy.
Next Church	<a href="https://nextchurch.net/">https://nextchurch.net/</a>	When we begin with our own behaviors and actions to seek personal growth, we enter into the world transformed. The gathered Church is not an escape from the world. We believe it is a place where we practice new ways of being to resist to the ways of the world that lead to oppression and division. We return to our communities, schools, and workplaces changed so that we embody the transformative work that leads to justice and liberation.
PCUSA Office of Innovation	<a href="https://pcusa.org/about-pcusa/agencies-entities/interim-unified-agency/ministry-areas/innovation">https://pcusa.org/about-pcusa/agencies-entities/interim-unified-agency/ministry-areas/innovation</a>	

Presbyterian Foundation Financial Health Assessment	<a href="https://assessment.presbyterianfoundation.org/#:~:text=The%20Financial%20Health%20Assessment%20is%20a%20tool%20for,but%20does%20require%20knowledge%20of%20your%20church%27s%20finances.">https://assessment.presbyterianfoundation.org/#:~:text=The%20Financial%20Health%20Assessment%20is%20a%20tool%20for,but%20does%20require%20knowledge%20of%20your%20church%27s%20finances.</a>	A tool to assist you in learning about your congregation's financial health.
Project Regeneration (Presbyterian Foundation)	<a href="https://www.presbyterianfoundation.org/project-regeneration/">https://www.presbyterianfoundation.org/project-regeneration/</a>	
Presbyterian Outlook Articles, Interviews, and Newsletters (Miscellaneous)	<a href="https://pres-outlook.org/2024/04/the-challenges-of-innovation/">https://pres-outlook.org/2024/04/the-challenges-of-innovation/</a>	Andrew Root and Kenda Creasy Dean in conversation about innovation
"	<a href="https://pres-outlook.org/2023/09/faithful-cooperation-across-differences/">https://pres-outlook.org/2023/09/faithful-cooperation-across-differences/</a>	Interview with interfaith activist Eboo Patel about his book, We Need to Build
"	<a href="https://pres-outlook.org/2023/05/a-generational-approach-to-ministry-innovation-can-i-have-the-keys/">https://pres-outlook.org/2023/05/a-generational-approach-to-ministry-innovation-can-i-have-the-keys/</a>	Mark DeVries writes about shared leadership with younger generations
"	<a href="https://pres-outlook.org/2023/09/four-things-to-consider-when-crafting-worship/">https://pres-outlook.org/2023/09/four-things-to-consider-when-crafting-worship/</a>	Popular article giving practical suggestions for making worship more welcoming
"	<a href="https://pres-outlook.org">https://pres-outlook.org</a>	
"	<a href="https://pres-outlook.org/newsletters/">https://pres-outlook.org/newsletters/</a>	Stay up to date on all Outlook articles and resources by signing up for email newsletters:
<b>Community Journeys</b>		
Building for Hope	<a href="http://buildingforhope.org">buildingforhope.org</a>	Lilly Endowment cohort program in which churches can repurpose unutilized space, engage more deeply with the community, and renew congregations.
Good Futures Accelerator, a course to unlock church resources and imagination *	<a href="https://www.rootedgood.org/good-futures/">https://www.rootedgood.org/good-futures/</a>	Good Futures Accelerator, a course to unlock church resources and imagination
Holy Cow! Assessment	<a href="https://holycowconsulting.com">https://holycowconsulting.com</a>	
PneuMatrix (and The Center for Healthy Churches)	<a href="https://chchurches.org/about/">https://chchurches.org/about/</a>	PneuMatrix (and The Center for Healthy Churches)
Rooted Good *	<a href="https://www.rootedgood.org/">https://www.rootedgood.org/</a>	A series of tools are available. Check their website. One helpful set of booklets can help you think through detailed considerations related to repurposing all or part of your property (through sale, renting/sharing).
Vital Congregations	<a href="https://pcusa.org/about-pcusa/agencies-entities/interim-unified-agency/ministry-areas/vital-congregations">https://pcusa.org/about-pcusa/agencies-entities/interim-unified-agency/ministry-areas/vital-congregations</a>	A cohort of churches walk through a two-year experience together.
Warren, Rich, <i>40 Days of Purpose</i> (Curriculum)*		Available from various online sources; DVD and study guides.
<b>Podcasts/Coaching</b>		
Leader's Journey	<a href="https://theleadersjourney.us">https://theleadersjourney.us</a>	"We founded The Leader's Journey to help church leaders guide their congregations and create healthier teams. After a decade of seeing the impact leadership systems have made in church environments, we adapted our teaching to apply to any business or nonprofit."

<b>Books</b>		
Barton, Ruth Haley. <i>Strengthening the Soul of Your Leadership: Seeking God in the Crucible of Ministry</i> . Expanded ed. Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press, 2018.		Strengthening the Soul of Your Leadership weaves together contemporary illustrations with penetrating insights from the life of Moses to help ministry leaders care for their own souls so that they may in turn minister well to others.
Beaumont, Susan. <i>How to Lead When You Don't Know Where You're Going: Leading in a Liminal Season</i> . Lanham, MD: Rowman & Littlefield, 2019.		A guide to church leadership in a shifting context
Benac, Dustin, <i>Adaptive Church</i> . Waco, TX: Baylor University Press, 2022.		A deep dive into Benac's research with churches, learning adaptive techniques through collaboration and community in a variety of settings.
Bendroth, Norman B. <i>Interim Ministry in Action: a Handbook for Churches in Transition</i> . Lanham, MD: Rowman & Littlefield, 2018.		Many churches today find themselves in frequent transition, whether due to the changing culture, the struggles of mainline churches, or the changing nature of mission. Interim Ministry in Action helps guide churches and their leadership through these times of change. The book will guide readers step-by-step through the process of how and why to decide to call an interim minister, the process for deciding what's next, and more.
Bolsinger, Tod. <i>Canoeing the Mountains: Christian Leadership in Uncharted Territory</i> . Downers Grove, Ill: IVP Books, 2016.		Bolsinger uses the analogy of Lewis and Clark's journey to describe where the church is now (stuck) and points us to adaptive strategies.
Cleghorn, John, <i>Resurrecting Church</i> . Minneapolis, MN: Fortress Press, 2021.		Cleghorn, pastor, writes about the changes Caldwell Presbyterian in Charlotte, NC, made to become more diverse, inclusive, and flexible.
Cormode, Scott. <i>The Innovative Church</i> . Grand Rapids, MI: BakerAcademic, 2020.		"Leadership begins with listening," writes Cormode. Taking cues from business, and tech, Cormode shows the steps that churches can take to become more innovative, and hence, relevant.
Creasy Dean, Kenda, <i>Innovating for Love</i> . Knoxville, TN: Market Square Books, 2022.		Creasy Dean writes about Christian Social Innovation, and the way that love both innovates and propels us forward
<i>Engage</i> . Louisville, Ky: PMA and Presbyterian Publishing Corporation, *	<a href="https://old.pcusa.org/engage/welcome/">https://old.pcusa.org/engage/welcome/</a>	"Engage, an evangelism approach helps churches become relevant again. As Congregations using Engage learn how to share their faith, they attract people to join them in following Jesus— in God's mission of transformation in neighborhoods and communities."
Friedman, Edwin. <i>A Failure of Nerve: Leadership in the Age of the Quick Fix. 10th ed</i> . New York: Church Publishing, 2017.		Friedman was the first to tell us that all organizations have personalities, like families, and to apply the insights of family therapy to churches and synagogues, rectors and rabbis, politicians and teachers. A Failure of Nerve is essential reading for all leaders, be they parents or presidents, corporate executives or educators, religious superiors or coaches, healers or generals, managers or clergy.

Heifetz <i>et al</i> , <i>The Practice of Adaptive Leadership</i> . Boston, MA: Harvard Business Review Press, 2009.		Examples of Adaptive leadership in the non-church world, from the group who began Adaptive Leadership at Harvard Business School.
Heifetz, Ronald A., and Martin Linsky. <i>Leadership on the Line: Staying Alive through the Dangers of Leading</i> . Cambridge, MA: Harvard Business School Press, 2002.		They present everyday tools that give equal weight to the dangerous work of leading change and the critical importance of personal survival. Through vivid stories from all walks of life, the authors present straightforward strategies for navigating the perilous straits of leadership.
Herrington, Jim, R. Robert Creech, and Trisha Taylor. <i>The Leader's Journey: Accepting the Call to Personal and Congregational Transformation</i> . San Francisco: Jossey-Bass, 2003.		This book helps pastors and church leaders understand the role their personal transformation as Jesus's disciples plays in effective congregational leadership. It shifts the focus of leadership from techniques and charisma to spiritual transformation and developing emotional maturity so leaders can effectively lead congregations to embrace change.
McGonigal, Jane, <i>Imaginable: How to see the future coming and feel ready for anything--even things that seem impossible today.</i>	<a href="https://pcusa.org/news-storytelling/news/2025/9/5/game?utm_medium=email&amp;hsenc=p2ANqtz-9wZnRNEHaaatBsFzhF7Qhgs0jcN6UP6PaAmkvOI08Z1IS0_R9N8GFta4VnhSV0xJtowLa-WuCn6eVqWfluahXPWNUOCA&amp;hsmi=379248007&amp;utm_content=379248007&amp;utm_source=hs_email">https://pcusa.org/news-storytelling/news/2025/9/5/game?utm_medium=email&amp;hsenc=p2ANqtz-9wZnRNEHaaatBsFzhF7Qhgs0jcN6UP6PaAmkvOI08Z1IS0_R9N8GFta4VnhSV0xJtowLa-WuCn6eVqWfluahXPWNUOCA&amp;hsmi=379248007&amp;utm_content=379248007&amp;utm_source=hs_email</a>	
Rendle, Gil and Alice Mann, <i>Holy Conversations: Strategic Planning as a Spiritual Practice for Congregations</i> . Lanham, MD: Rowman & Littlefield Publishers, 2003.		This book can help individual leaders (e.g., pastors) to begin conversations with other leaders in their context. You can go at your own pace and select what you think might work in your community. Chapters are short and practical.
Rendle, Gil, <i>Leading Change in the Congregation</i> . The Alban Institute, 1998.		This book helps pastors and church leaders understand the role their personal transformation as Jesus's disciples plays in effective congregational leadership. It shifts the focus of leadership from techniques and charisma to spiritual transformation and developing emotional maturity so leaders can effectively lead congregations to embrace change.
Snow, Luther K., <i>The Power of Asset Mapping: How Your Congregation Can Act on Its Gifts</i> . Lanham, MD: Alban Institute/Rowman & Littlefield, 2004.		
Stetzer, Ed, <i>Transformational Church</i> . Nashville, TN: B&H Publishing, 2010.		
Swift, Deborah Fae, <i>The Church has Left the Building</i> .	<a href="https://southpc.org/publications/">https://southpc.org/publications/</a>	A reflection and step by step recount of the process South Presbyterian, Rochester, NY used to adapt to a changing context and be the church in new ways and places.