

The Pastor's Bookshelf



Recommended by Peggy Way

I encourage congregations to read beyond the formal pastoral care literature as they define themselves as caring congregations.

Herb Anderson and Ed Foley
*Mighty Stories,
Dangerous Rituals*
(Jossey-Bass, 2001)

Pastoral care and Christian rituals are mutually supportive and creative in the life of faith. This book is accessible to a worship committee and the mission task force, directly related to the "stories" resident within a congregation.

Ruth Behar
*The Vulnerable Observer:
Anthropology That Breaks
Your Heart*
(Beacon, 1996)

Pastors familiar with Henri Nouwen's concept of the "wounded healer" may be challenged by this secular perspective on the importance of claiming our own involvements in the practices of our vocation.

Craig Dykstra
*Growing in the Life of Faith:
Education and Christian Practices*
(Geneva Press, 1999)

Invaluable for congregational groups seeking to reflect on their own faithful practices. See also *Practicing Our Faith* by Dorothy Bass.

Christine D. Pohl
*Making Room:
Recovering Hospitality
as a Christian Tradition*
(Eerdmans, 1999)

Offers theological grounding for a congregation seeking to become more hospitable, and would be a helpful resource for adult education.

Nancy J. Gorsuch
*Introducing Feminist Pastoral
Care and Counseling*
(Pilgrim Press, 2001)

Her focus on congregational ministries illuminates how pastoral care, counseling and consultation actually operate in that setting.

Roy Herndon Steinhoffsmith
The Mutuality of Care
(Chalice, 1999)

Will challenge any reader to look at our professional and personal caring practices with an eye to our equality before God.

Sondra Ely Wheeler
*Stewards of Life:
Bioethics and Pastoral Care*
(Abingdon, 1996)

Will help a congregation come to understand the complex issues in biomedical ethics that affect their caring practices in relation to health care ministries and ethical issues of choices surrounding birth and death.

Eward P. Wimberly
*Counseling African American
Marriages and Families*
(Westminster, 1997)

A helpful text not only for African American congregations, but for congregations seeking to be inclusive as well as for those seeking deeper understandings of our cultural and racial similarities and differences.