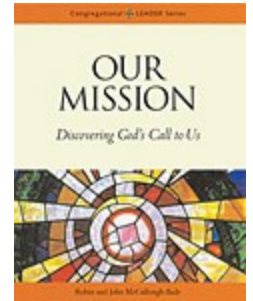




# Open for Exploration!

## Rethinking Mission & Church Structure

What does it mean to “be church?” What are we called to do, to be? How does our structure support our sense of mission and call? The following resources may be helpful for congregations rethinking mission and church structure.



**The Resource Center**  
Eastern North Dakota Synod, ELCA  
1703 32nd Avenue South  
Fargo, ND 58103  
[www.eandsynod.org](http://www.eandsynod.org)  
701.232.3381  
[juliea@eandsynod.org](mailto:juliea@eandsynod.org)

## Resources for YOU and YOUR Congregation

- All resources are available for loan to individuals and to congregations
- Call, visit, or email the Resource Center at the EaND Synod office
- An online catalog is available at [www.eandsynod.org](http://www.eandsynod.org) (“Search the Catalog” under the Resource Center)
- Available to you are web links, online collections, media and print resources, curricula and more for all areas of congregational life

- The **Congregational Leadership Series** provides practical steps for looking at context (**Our Context: Exploring Our Congregation and Community**); mission (**Our Mission: Discovering God’s Call to Us**); structure (**Structure: Carrying Out the Vision**); and stewardship (**Our Stewardship: Managing Our Assets**). Additional resources help with staffing, identifying leaders, and shaping and defining church committees. Preview copies available for loan.
- Martha Grace Reese’s **Unbinding the Gospel Series** is one place for congregations to begin considering who they are and what they are called to do. It includes an all church study and 40 days of prayer and faith sharing outlined in **Unbinding Your Heart**. In **Unbinding Your Church**, pastors and leaders are invited to a conversation about relearning why we have a story that needs telling. Two additional resources follow: **Unbinding the Gospel** about real life evangelism and **Unbinding the Soul** about the joy of Christian life. Go to <http://www.gracenet.info/> Available for loan.
- **Discovering Hope: Building Vitality in Rural Congregations** and a companion resource, **Building Hope**, offer practical help by telling stories of 26 effective congregations. Available for loan.
- Some 21<sup>st</sup> century reformers who help us think about church as a verb, practices of faith, and missional servant ministry are **Nadia Bolz-Weber, Brian McLaren, Craig Van Gelder, Diana Butler Bass, Kenda Creasy Dean, Rob Bell, Phyllis Tickle, Reggie McNeal, Joan Chittister, Dorothy Bass**. Call the Resource Center for suggestions of resources by these people and many others working to help shape a faithful church.
- **Natural Church Development** is a process for helping leaders focus on church health and mission. Go to <http://www.ncd-international.org/public/essence.html> for mini-seminars, video clips, books and tools. Books available for loan.
- **The Alban Institute** continues to provide help of all kinds for rethinking congregational life and mission. A free online guide to resources can be found at [www.congregationalresources.org](http://www.congregationalresources.org) Weekly conversations for building up congregations and their leaders is available for subscription at [weekly@alban.org](mailto:weekly@alban.org) Books available for loan.



**God, Throw Fire on Us** *God, kindle your weary church again, so that we will burn with your message. When others come to put out the flame of your love, we want to be burning so fiercely that all their water won't have any effect.*

**March 2011**