

## Seven Joyful Marks of a Vital Congregation, Questions, and Resources New Castle Presbytery 2022

Our purpose as human beings is to “glorify God and enjoy God forever.”  
(Westminster Shorter Catechism)

This shapes everything we are and everything we do.  
It shapes every relationship inside and outside our church walls.

*John 15: <sup>8</sup> My Father is glorified by this, that you **bear much fruit** and become<sup>[c]</sup> my disciples. <sup>9</sup> As the Father has loved me, so I have loved you; **abide in my love.** <sup>10</sup> If you keep my commandments, you will abide in my love, just as I have kept my Father's commandments and abide in his love. <sup>11</sup> I have said these things to you **so that my joy may be in you and that your joy may be complete.** <sup>12</sup> “This is my commandment, that **you love one another as I have loved you.**”*

These “Seven Joyful Marks” are not a list to show us all the places where we have failed yet again. They are aspirational. They point to what we want to be.

They may even uncover places where we have hidden beauty,  
areas where we may be doing the quiet and faithful work that sends ripples of God’s love into this world in powerful ways that we hadn’t realized.

New Castle Presbytery’s dive into Vital Congregations cannot be just another program,  
another slate of things to be done,  
added to the already full plates of weary church folk  
as we enter this first autumn where Covid finally seems to be manageable.

We want it to be **helpful, even life-giving, joyful, and energizing,  
as well as deep and meaningful.**

That’s not too much to expect, is it? Why not look expect great gifts?

We want to ask questions such as...

- “Why do we have church?”
- “What are we already doing in our churches that has an impact, even if it’s not listed under committee work?”
- “How can we invite church leaders into supportive and helpful cohorts?”
- “How can we engage with people even if they are not filling our pews?”
- “How can we change old, dysfunctional patterns of either ducking conflict or plowing into it destructively?”
- Confident of God’s grace, can we look at ourselves and our churches honestly and lovingly, and be open to the stirrings of the Holy Spirit to enter this new season faithfully?

Here are the Seven Joyful Marks along with descriptions, questions, and resources.  
We look forward to adding new resources as you recommend them.

## 1. Lifelong Spiritual Growth (“Lifelong Discipleship Formation”)

- All life long we are in relationship with the Living God, in whom we find abundant life.
- We continue to read the Bible because it speaks to us in different ways at different times in our lives.
- We are intentional about engaging in prayer in ways that open us to God’s presence in grace, honesty, and awareness, both as individuals and as a group.
- The only graduation from spiritual growth is when we “complete our baptism” and join the Church Triumphant, in other words, when we die.

So, churches can ask themselves:

- a. What are we doing to challenge our people of all ages to grow and deepen in faith?
- b. How committed are we to individual and group prayer and study all life long?
- c. How are we equipping our people to recognize the peace of Jesus Christ amidst the chaos and cacophony of this world?
- d. How do we empower our people to have the courage to forgive as Jesus did, to love those who are different as Jesus did, and to help those in need as Jesus did?
- e. How do we encourage people to bring the issues of the day to the foot of the cross, in other words, bring them to God, and be willing to sacrifice our own egos and desires for our own comfort and protection to the wildly vast love of Jesus?
- f. How are our ways different from the world’s ways of greed and anger, self-centeredness, and scorn for others?

RESOURCES (from NCP pastors and friends)

- **Dwelling in the Word:** using the same scripture passage for opening every church meeting for 3-6- months. Read aloud slowly, savoring each word. Sit in silence. At first it seems just repetitive, but it comes alive in a fresh way as it takes root in people’s hearts and memory.
- **Lectio Divina** is a similar, slow-cooker way of experiencing God’s word. Alone or with a group, read a passage three times slowly with silence in between. Share or journal about what emerges for you.
- Read three **Psalms** each evening. Be newly impressed by the audacity, honesty, and range of experiences and emotions represented there by our faith forebears.
- Keep a **gratitude journal**. Nothing shifts our hearts like practicing gratitude.
- Learn **Mind-Body** awareness techniques with a coach that can help you to recognize when you’ve been triggered or tripped up by something and to becoming rooted and ground in the peace and love of Jesus in how you respond.
- Try **Centering Prayer** or Meditation each morning. Sit quietly and breathe, allowing yourself to simply sit with the Holy One.
- Listen to **music:** instrumental, your favorite hymns or gospel music. (One friend said that listening to Mozart’s string quartets helped him find a sense of healing after a family member had been murdered.)

## 2. **Intentional Loving** (“Intentional, Authentic Evangelism”)

- Evangelism means embodying the love of Jesus in everything we do.
- We believe Jesus when he urged us to not only love our friends and family, but to love those we see as enemies.
- We listen to people when they tell us of their pain, even if it makes us uncomfortable. Our comfort is not more important than their pain.
- We learn to talk about our own faith experience in ways and to listen to others share theirs, even if theirs are very different from ours.
- We believe Jesus is far greater than our ability to comprehend, and can show up in some of the most unexpected places. We do not bring Jesus to others, or bring them to Jesus, but together, we explore how grace and holy love show up in our lives, trusting that the redemptive love of Jesus is already at work everywhere.
- We cannot claim to love our neighbor and at the same time ignore the cries of those who are in pain.

So, churches can ask themselves:

- a. What difference does Jesus make in our lives?
- b. How do we demonstrate the grace of God in Jesus Christ?
- c. How do we forgive, share, heal, and work for justice?
- d. How do we help the world connect Jesus to forgiveness, sharing, healing, and justice, instead of to judgmental exclusion, smugness, or hypocrisy?
- e. How do we help the world see what the saving love of Christ really looks like?
- f. What does loving our neighbors and even our enemies look like?
- g. How might we expect that when new people come into our churches we will also be changed by being in relationship, rather than thinking they will simply become “one of us?”
- h. How do we love without expecting anything in return?

### RESOURCES:

- Eight Habits of Evangelism from the PCUSA: <https://8habits.org/preamble/radical-welcome/>
- Book: *Hospitality: the Sacred Art* by Nanette Sawyer  
[https://www.amazon.com/Hospitality-The-Sacred-Art-Discovering-Invitation/dp/1594732280/ref=tmm\\_pap\\_swatch\\_0?encoding=UTF8&qid=1662657370&sr=1-1](https://www.amazon.com/Hospitality-The-Sacred-Art-Discovering-Invitation/dp/1594732280/ref=tmm_pap_swatch_0?encoding=UTF8&qid=1662657370&sr=1-1)
- Book: *Radical Welcome* by Stephanie Spellers [https://www.amazon.com/Radical-Welcome-Embracing-Spirit-Transformation/dp/1640654682/ref=sr\\_1\\_1?keywords=Radical+Welcome+by+Stephanie+S+pellers&qid=1662658054&s=books&sr=1-1](https://www.amazon.com/Radical-Welcome-Embracing-Spirit-Transformation/dp/1640654682/ref=sr_1_1?keywords=Radical+Welcome+by+Stephanie+S+pellers&qid=1662658054&s=books&sr=1-1)
- Book: *Atlas of the Heart* by Brené Brown [https://www.amazon.com/Atlas-Heart-Meaningful-Connection-Experience/dp/0593207246/ref=tmm\\_pap\\_swatch\\_0?encoding=UTF8&qid=1662658211&sr=1-1](https://www.amazon.com/Atlas-Heart-Meaningful-Connection-Experience/dp/0593207246/ref=tmm_pap_swatch_0?encoding=UTF8&qid=1662658211&sr=1-1)
- Book: *Why Nobody Wants to Be Around Christians Anymore* by Thom and Joani Schultz  
<https://www.amazon.com/Nobody-Wants-Around-Christians-Anymore/dp/1470716534>
- Help for exploring and articulating your own faith story: <https://whyilovejesus.org>

3. **Active, Outward Focus** (“Outward, Incarnational Focus”)

- If Lifelong Spiritual Growth (Joyful Mark #1) is an intake of the breath of the Spirit, Active Outward Focus is the breathing out.
- We are filled in order to pour out again and again. Both are necessary to the Christian life.
- We believe Jesus when he said that we serve him when we attend to the needs of others. (Mt. 25)

So, churches can ask themselves:

- a. How can we listen to and advocate for those who are oppressed or in need in ways that respect their humanity?
- b. Is our top priority institutional survival or thriving through the breath of the Holy Spirit?
- c. How do we shift our focus towards those around us?
- d. How might the local community be able to say that it is better, richer, healthier, happier, because our churches are there?
- e. How might we love these neighbors even if they won't want to “join” us?
- f. How do we express the knowledge that the Holy Spirit is already at work in the lives of people we meet?

RESOURCES:

- Book: (Just one of many excellent ones on how systemic racism has shaped much of the America we have all inherited) *White Too Long: The Legacy of White Supremacy in American Christianity* by Robert P. Jones [https://www.amazon.com/White-Too-Long-Supremacy-Christianity/dp/1982122870/ref=sr\\_1\\_1?qclid=Cj0KCQjwpeaYBhDXARIsAEzItbGmdcDNk9e3tHa39zVtLc7Kb9ZzS-zgSNulnf\\_7Ylq979MiKY\\_4msaAiMpEALw\\_wcB&hvid=616989085187&hvdev=c&hvlocphy=9007464&hvnetw=g&hvqmt=e&hvrnd=17621610736494161253&hvtargid=kwd-839062847410&hydadcr=15250\\_13597201&keywords=white+too+long&qid=1662658620&sr=8-1](https://www.amazon.com/White-Too-Long-Supremacy-Christianity/dp/1982122870/ref=sr_1_1?qclid=Cj0KCQjwpeaYBhDXARIsAEzItbGmdcDNk9e3tHa39zVtLc7Kb9ZzS-zgSNulnf_7Ylq979MiKY_4msaAiMpEALw_wcB&hvid=616989085187&hvdev=c&hvlocphy=9007464&hvnetw=g&hvqmt=e&hvrnd=17621610736494161253&hvtargid=kwd-839062847410&hydadcr=15250_13597201&keywords=white+too+long&qid=1662658620&sr=8-1)
- Book: *Freeing Congregational Mission* by B. Hunter Farrell with S. Balajiedlang Khylllep [https://www.amazon.com/Freeing-Congregational-Mission-Companionship-Co-Development/dp/1514000687/ref=asc\\_df\\_1514000687/?tag=hyprod-20&linkCode=df0&hvid=532384509515&hvpos=&hvnetw=g&hvrnd=8324497579987367619&hvpon=&hvptwo=&hvqmt=&hvdev=c&hvdvcmdl=&hvlocint=&hvlocphy=9007464&hvtargid=pla-1411939780468&psc=1](https://www.amazon.com/Freeing-Congregational-Mission-Companionship-Co-Development/dp/1514000687/ref=asc_df_1514000687/?tag=hyprod-20&linkCode=df0&hvid=532384509515&hvpos=&hvnetw=g&hvrnd=8324497579987367619&hvpon=&hvptwo=&hvqmt=&hvdev=c&hvdvcmdl=&hvlocint=&hvlocphy=9007464&hvtargid=pla-1411939780468&psc=1)
- Book: *Always With Us? What Jesus Really Said About the Poor* by Liz Theoharis <https://liztheoharis.org/book/always-with-us-what-jesus-really-said-about-the-poor/>
- New Castle Presbytery's Covenantal Partners:
  - Riverfront Ministries <http://www.riverfrontwilmo.com>
  - Church on Main <http://www.churchonmainde.com>
  - Guatemala Partnership <https://ncpguatemala.com>
  - Congo Partnership [www.ncpcongo.com](http://www.ncpcongo.com)
  - Campus Ministry [https://www.ncpresbytery.org/team\\_member/nona-holy/](https://www.ncpresbytery.org/team_member/nona-holy/)
  - Interfaith Peacemaking [https://www.ncpresbytery.org/team\\_member/terry-dykstra/](https://www.ncpresbytery.org/team_member/terry-dykstra/)
  - Montgomery Group Anti-Racism Advocacy <https://www.ncpresbytery.org/montgomery-group/>
  - Immigrant Justice Committee [https://www.ncpresbytery.org/team\\_member/terry-dykstra/](https://www.ncpresbytery.org/team_member/terry-dykstra/)
- Congregational Grants for mission partnerships <https://www.ignitencp.org>

#### 4. **Shared Gifts and Power** (“Empower Servant Leadership”)

- To each is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good. (1 Cor. 12:7)
- We don’t expect the pastor to do everything, nor do we saddle the same people with the same tasks indefinitely.
- We help people develop new skills and invite new involvement with the freedom to do new things or do old things differently.

So, churches can ask themselves:

- a. How do we make sure the pastor is not “doing it all?”
- b. How do we identify and nurture the spiritual gifts of everyone, not just the ones who always do most of the work?
- c. How can we model and live into rhythms of life and work that honor sabbath time and balance responsibility with accountability for shared ministry?
- d. How do we recognize our investment of ego in self-image, accomplishment, credit, and being right/admired, appreciated, and shift our focus to encourage everyone to live into their calling?
- e. How is power shared in our congregation? Are we willing to let new people do things in new ways?
- f. How careful are we to guard against burnout and power monopolies?
- g. Do we have term limits, Sabbath, and sabbatical time for leaders?
- h. How do we call people into leadership who recognize the needs of all, and not just those with the most power?
- i. Whose benefit are we thinking of when we make decisions? The members who are already there? Or those we are called to reach?
- j. Are we equipping our members to serve the community and not merely themselves?

#### RESOURCES

- The Book of Order [https://www.pcusa.org/site\\_media/media/uploads/oga/pdf/2019-23-boo-elec\\_010621.pdf](https://www.pcusa.org/site_media/media/uploads/oga/pdf/2019-23-boo-elec_010621.pdf) for information on who is responsible for what, term limits, and the theology behind shared ministry.
- “Vocation is the place where your deep gladness meets the world's deep need.” -- Frederick Buechner. Look for where there is energy and enthusiasm.
- Book: *Discover Your Spiritual Type* by Corinne Ware; old but excellent for understand people’s different ways of experiencing and living into faith: [https://www.amazon.com/Discover-Your-Spiritual-Type-Corinne/dp/1566991498/ref=sr\\_1\\_1?crid=3BJTMUZFPJGJS&keywords=corinne+ware&qid=1662661806&s=books&sprefix=corinne+ware%2Cstripbooks%2C73&sr=1-1](https://www.amazon.com/Discover-Your-Spiritual-Type-Corinne/dp/1566991498/ref=sr_1_1?crid=3BJTMUZFPJGJS&keywords=corinne+ware&qid=1662661806&s=books&sprefix=corinne+ware%2Cstripbooks%2C73&sr=1-1)
- Speaking of gifts, another great book by Brené Brown: *The Gifts of Imperfection*. [https://www.amazon.com/Gifts-Imperfection-Anniversary-Features-brand-new/dp/1616499605/ref=sxst\\_entity\\_rec\\_bsx\\_s\\_def\\_r00\\_t\\_auf?content-id=amzn1.sym.a36c3969-f821-4d5b-a8e8-be129cf4aa4a%3Aamzn1.sym.a36c3969-f821-4d5b-a8e8-be129cf4aa4a&crid=5N3B157HC4UF&cv\\_ct\\_cx=gifts+of+imperfection+book+brene+brown&keywords=gifts+of+imperfection+book+brene+brown&pd\\_rd\\_i=1616499605&pd\\_rd\\_r=b45d0f0a-f27c-4848-a282-7b37612e6501&pd\\_rd\\_w=y5yP5&pd\\_rd\\_wg=zamFi&pf\\_rd\\_p=a36c3969-f821-4d5b-a8e8-be129cf4aa4a&pf\\_rd\\_r=RSA20B31S302HOJ6SJA&qid=1662662017&s=books&sprefix=gifts+of%2Cstripbooks%2C91&sr=1-3-ef9bfb7-b507-43a0-b887-27e2a8414df0](https://www.amazon.com/Gifts-Imperfection-Anniversary-Features-brand-new/dp/1616499605/ref=sxst_entity_rec_bsx_s_def_r00_t_auf?content-id=amzn1.sym.a36c3969-f821-4d5b-a8e8-be129cf4aa4a%3Aamzn1.sym.a36c3969-f821-4d5b-a8e8-be129cf4aa4a&crid=5N3B157HC4UF&cv_ct_cx=gifts+of+imperfection+book+brene+brown&keywords=gifts+of+imperfection+book+brene+brown&pd_rd_i=1616499605&pd_rd_r=b45d0f0a-f27c-4848-a282-7b37612e6501&pd_rd_w=y5yP5&pd_rd_wg=zamFi&pf_rd_p=a36c3969-f821-4d5b-a8e8-be129cf4aa4a&pf_rd_r=RSA20B31S302HOJ6SJA&qid=1662662017&s=books&sprefix=gifts+of%2Cstripbooks%2C91&sr=1-3-ef9bfb7-b507-43a0-b887-27e2a8414df0)
- Spiritual Gifts Inventories such as this one from the UM Church: <https://www.umcdiscipleship.org/spiritual-gifts-inventory/en>

## 5. Spirit-Inspired Worship

- We approach worship as a time of reverence and celebration, honesty and relevance, giving and equipping.
- We pray in our preparation, bring our whole selves, and open our hearts to how God might be speaking to us.
- - So, churches can ask themselves:
    - a. Do we truly expect that the Holy Spirit is present and at work in our worship?
    - b. Does our worship engage or is it boring?
    - c. Does it challenge *and* comfort?
    - d. Does it teach, transform, equip?
    - e. Does it send us out different from how we came in, ready to love more deeply and live more meaningfully?
    - f. Are worshippers given clear structure to feel a part of things?
    - g. Do we engage multiple senses?
    - h. Is there room for response, for giving, for praying, and other participation?

## RESOURCES

- Presbyterian Association of Musicians <https://www.presbysmusic.org/connect>
- Creative worship ideas: <https://marciamcfee.com>
- More creative worship ideas: <https://sanctifiedart.org>
- Book: *African-American Christian Worship, 2<sup>nd</sup> Edition* by Melva W. Costen  
[https://www.amazon.com/African-American-Christian-Worship-2nd/dp/0687646227/ref=asc\\_df\\_0687646227/?tag=hyprod-20&linkCode=df0&hvadid=312057361370&hvpos=&hvnetw=g&hvrnd=3384088922766312242&hvpone=&hvptwo=&hvgmt=&hvdev=c&hvdvcmdl=&hvlocint=&hvlocphy=9007464&hvtargid=pla-571840486055&psc=1](https://www.amazon.com/African-American-Christian-Worship-2nd/dp/0687646227/ref=asc_df_0687646227/?tag=hyprod-20&linkCode=df0&hvadid=312057361370&hvpos=&hvnetw=g&hvrnd=3384088922766312242&hvpone=&hvptwo=&hvgmt=&hvdev=c&hvdvcmdl=&hvlocint=&hvlocphy=9007464&hvtargid=pla-571840486055&psc=1)
- Book: *Worship for the Whole People of God, 2<sup>nd</sup> Edition* by Ruth C. Duck  
[https://www.amazon.com/Worship-Whole-People-God-Second/dp/066426476X/ref=pd\\_bxgy\\_img\\_sccl\\_1/140-7033874-6838531?pd\\_rd\\_w=tCrfX&content-id=amzn1.sym.7757a8b5-874e-4a67-9d85-54ed32f01737&pf\\_rd\\_p=7757a8b5-874e-4a67-9d85-54ed32f01737&pf\\_rd\\_r=YK5TYQV97CKDPVP90RD0&pd\\_rd\\_wg=vJ9Jf&pd\\_rd\\_r=85901188-34ba-4f56-bf8b-abf0429fc802&pd\\_rd\\_i=066426476X&psc=1](https://www.amazon.com/Worship-Whole-People-God-Second/dp/066426476X/ref=pd_bxgy_img_sccl_1/140-7033874-6838531?pd_rd_w=tCrfX&content-id=amzn1.sym.7757a8b5-874e-4a67-9d85-54ed32f01737&pf_rd_p=7757a8b5-874e-4a67-9d85-54ed32f01737&pf_rd_r=YK5TYQV97CKDPVP90RD0&pd_rd_wg=vJ9Jf&pd_rd_r=85901188-34ba-4f56-bf8b-abf0429fc802&pd_rd_i=066426476X&psc=1)
- The Book of Order [https://www.pcusa.org/site\\_media/media/uploads/oga/pdf/2019-23-booelec\\_010621.pdf](https://www.pcusa.org/site_media/media/uploads/oga/pdf/2019-23-booelec_010621.pdf) for information on why we worship, what are the necessary components, and how wide our Presbyterian range of styles can stretch while still being theologically sound.

## 6. **Genuinely Caring Relationships** (“Caring Relationship”)

- We are safe places for honesty and sharing.
- We are intentional about making room for new people and learning about them.
- We support, encourage, challenge, and enjoy one another.

So, churches can ask themselves:

- a. Are we warm and welcoming to newcomers (without overwhelming them with hunger for “new blood!)? Or do we give new people a polite smile and gravitate towards the people we know best?
- b. How do we get past the superficial niceties and into authentic conversations?
- c. How do we make our churches safe places to share our experiences and the challenges of our journeys?
- d. How do we discourage gossip?
- e. How do we confront conflict, seek reconciliation, embrace diversity, and seek peace without ignoring difficulties?

## RESOURCES

- As shown under resources for Joyful Mark #2 - Book: *Atlas of the Heart* by Brené Brown [https://www.amazon.com/Atlas-Heart-Meaningful-Connection-Experience/dp/0593207246/ref=tmm\\_pap\\_swatch\\_0?encoding=UTF8&qid=1662658211&sr=1-1](https://www.amazon.com/Atlas-Heart-Meaningful-Connection-Experience/dp/0593207246/ref=tmm_pap_swatch_0?encoding=UTF8&qid=1662658211&sr=1-1) for developing our capacity for listening to one another.
- Also shown under resources for Mark #2 - Book: *Why Nobody Wants to Be Around Christians Anymore* by Thom and Joani Schultz <https://www.amazon.com/Nobody-Wants-Around-Christians-Anymore/dp/1470716534> See chapter on “Fearless Conversation.”
- Re: The “Culture Wars” – Book: *A House United: How the Church Can Save the World* by Allen Hilton <https://www.amazon.com/House-United-Church-Save-World/dp/1506401910>

## 7. **Healthy Accountability** (“Ecclesial Health”)

- We know what our values and priorities are as a church and make our decisions in line with those.
  - We are not afraid of conflict, but recognize it as something that can actually cultivate growth.
  - We equip ourselves with tools for healthy and honest conversations.
  - We accept that we will make mistakes and are open to making things right.
  -
- So, churches can ask themselves:
- a. How do we understand *being* Church? What is Church *for*?
  - b. How do we address and manage conflict?
    - i. How can we help one another speak the truth in love and learn to undo the habits of gossip?
  - c. How do we communicate our shared values and align our decisions with them?
  - d. Do we worship our buildings more than we seek to follow Jesus Christ?
  - e. Does our budget reflect our stated values?
  - f. Do we teach healthy giving habits?
  - g. Are we fiscally responsible, transparent, and accountable?
  - h. How open are we to change?

## RESOURCES

- <https://theleadersjourney.us>
- <https://theleadersjourney.us/resources/>
- Pamphlet: *Effective Organizing for Congregational Renewal* by Michael Gecan  
[https://www.amazon.com/Effective-Organizing-Congregational-Renewal-Michael/dp/0879463848/ref=sr\\_1\\_4?dchild=1&qid=1613073814&refinements=p\\_27%3AMichael+Gecan&s=books&sr=1-4&text=Michael+Gecan](https://www.amazon.com/Effective-Organizing-Congregational-Renewal-Michael/dp/0879463848/ref=sr_1_4?dchild=1&qid=1613073814&refinements=p_27%3AMichael+Gecan&s=books&sr=1-4&text=Michael+Gecan)
- Book: *Learning Change: Congregational Transformation Fueled by Personal Renewal* by Jim Herrington and Trisha Taylor <https://www.amazon.com/Learning-Change-Congregational-Transformation-Personal/dp/0825444551>
- Book: *Mission Rift: Leading Through Church Conflict* by David E. Woolverton  
[https://www.amazon.com/Mission-Rift-Leading-through-Conflict/dp/1506464777/ref=asc\\_df\\_1506464777/?tag=hyprod-20&linkCode=df0&hvadid=533440480310&hvpos=&hvnetw=g&hvrand=13949358657609067707&hvpone=&hvp two=&hvgmt=&hvdev=c&hvdvcmdl=&hvlocint=&hvlocphy=9007464&hvtargid=pla-1389465699818&psc=1](https://www.amazon.com/Mission-Rift-Leading-through-Conflict/dp/1506464777/ref=asc_df_1506464777/?tag=hyprod-20&linkCode=df0&hvadid=533440480310&hvpos=&hvnetw=g&hvrand=13949358657609067707&hvpone=&hvp two=&hvgmt=&hvdev=c&hvdvcmdl=&hvlocint=&hvlocphy=9007464&hvtargid=pla-1389465699818&psc=1)
- Lombard Mennonite Peace Center training opportunities <https://lmpeacecenter.org/all-events/>
- Book: *We Aren't Broke: Uncovering Hidden Resources for Mission and Ministry* by Mark Elsdon. Written from a campus ministry experience, but applicable to any non-profit, including churches, who want to explore Impact Investment funding.  
[https://www.amazon.com/We-Aren't-Broke-Uncovering-Resources/dp/0802878989/ref=asc\\_df\\_0802878989/?tag=hyprod-20&linkCode=df0&hvadid=563715217888&hvpos=&hvnetw=g&hvrand=7954906411769472679&hvpone=&hvp two=&hvgmt=&hvdev=c&hvdvcmdl=&hvlocint=&hvlocphy=9007464&hvtargid=pla-1360720102946&psc=1](https://www.amazon.com/We-Aren't-Broke-Uncovering-Resources/dp/0802878989/ref=asc_df_0802878989/?tag=hyprod-20&linkCode=df0&hvadid=563715217888&hvpos=&hvnetw=g&hvrand=7954906411769472679&hvpone=&hvp two=&hvgmt=&hvdev=c&hvdvcmdl=&hvlocint=&hvlocphy=9007464&hvtargid=pla-1360720102946&psc=1)