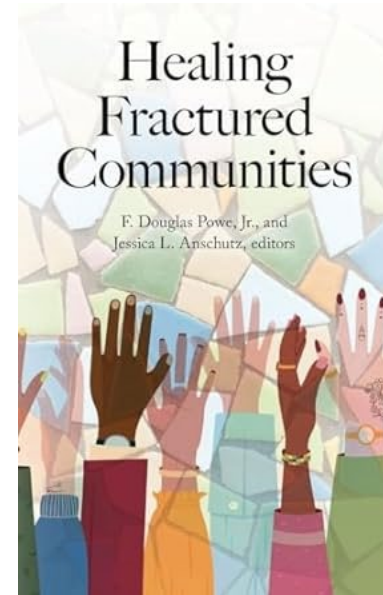


Healing Fractured Communities



Rev. Dr. F. Douglas Powe Jr., Directory
Rev. Dr. Jessica L. Anschutz, Associate Director
Lewis Center for Church Leadership

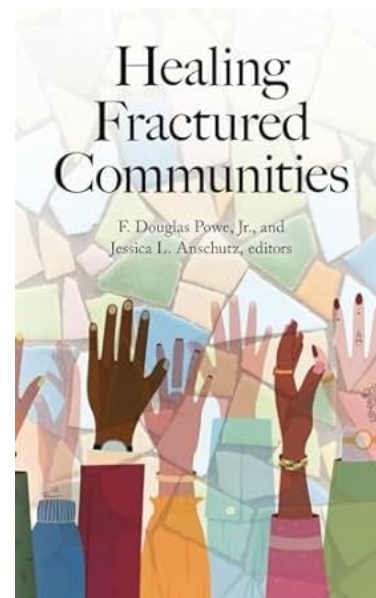


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Healing Fractured Communities



Opening Prayer



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Lewis Community Leadership Fellows

- Cohorts of United Methodist Clergy
- “Healing Troubled Communities”
- gun violence, race relations, criminal justice, building trusting neighborhood relations, school advocacy
- Sandtown - neighborhood In Baltimore made famous by the April 2015 death of Freddie Gray.



Lewis Community Leadership Fellows

- October 2022 LCLF trip to Puerto Rico
- 16 fellows and 3 Lewis Center Staff
- [Methodist Church of Puerto Rico](#) congregations
- Leaders from UMCOR and [REHACE's](#) regional resilience centers
- Primera Iglesia Bautista Rio Piedras
- [Seminario Evangélico de Puerto Rico](#) Dr. Agustina Luvis Núñez
and Rev. Gamaliel Ortiz

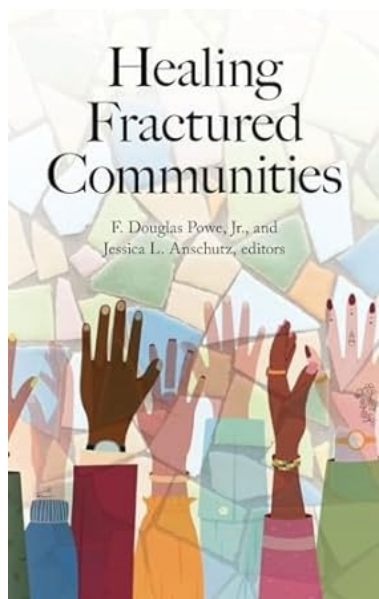


Quick Links

- www.churchleadership.com/socialmedia
- www.churchleadership.com/lewisfellows
- <https://www.churchleadership.com/books/healing-fractured-communities/>



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Healing Fractured Communities Framework



Renewal

"Do not be conformed to this age,
but be transformed by the renewing of the mind"
Romans 12:2 (NRSVUE)



Renewal in Healing Fractured Communities

Chapter 1: Who is my neighbor? By Laura Heikes

Serving in a community where 95% of the population is Latino/a, but the congregation was 85-95% white

Sharing God's love with congregation and community



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Renewal in Healing Fractured Communities

Chapter 2: Responding to the Surprising Realities of Student Poverty by Julius Wardley

Relaunching ministry at Texas State University - first-generation college students who grew up in impoverished backgrounds and suffered from intergenerational poverty



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Renewal Reflection

How is God calling your congregation and/or community to be renewed?



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Tools & Resources

Leadership Excellence Series

What is God's vision for your congregation?



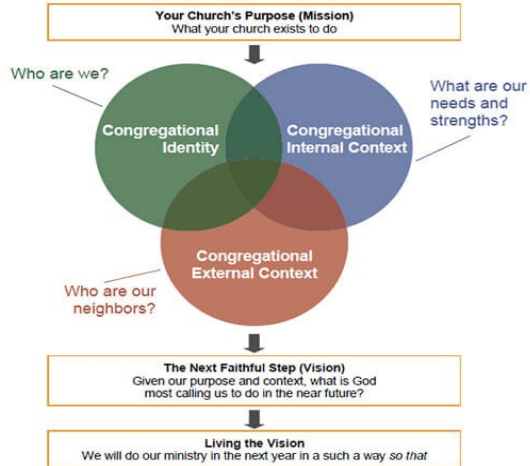
Discovering God's Future for Your Church
Video Tool Kit



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Discovering God's Future for Your Church | Unit 2: The Importance of Vision | Sheet 2

Vision Process Diagram



Your Church's Purpose (Mission)
What your church exists to do

Who are we?

Congregational Identity

Congregational Internal Context

What are our needs and strengths?

Congregational External Context

Who are our neighbors?

The Next Faithful Step (Vision)
Given our purpose and context, what is God most calling us to do in the near future?

Living the Vision
We will do our ministry in the next year in a such a way so that

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Resilience

Our ability to adapt to the ongoing challenges facing us in ministry and out continue to have hope for the future

Our congregations are in a perpetual state of resilience



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Resilience

Important for church leaders to help congregations be resilient in the face of whatever challenges they are facing

- Post COVID-19 and pandemic of racism (ongoing issues racism and classism)
- Pastoral or leadership transition
- Congregational decline
- Shifting to a cooperative parish model or multi-point charge
- Realignment of budget, staffing



3 Practices for Building Resilience

- Building your connections
- Fostering wellness
- Finding purpose

American Psychological Association

<https://www.umc.org/en/content/howfaithbuilds%20your%20resilienceskills>



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Resilience in Healing Fractured Communities

Chapter 3: Wrestling with the Real Presence of Racism By Tyler Jackson

Wrestling with racism and how the process evolved from one centered on dialog and learning to a more holistic approach aimed not just at reconciliation between people but also toward systemic justice through community engagement.



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Resilience in Healing Fractured Communities

Chapter 4 : Bridging the Divide By Iraida Ruiz de Porras

Shares challenges of a female pastor in a cross-racial/cross-cultural and multicultural ministry setting.



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Resilience Reflection

Where do you see opportunities for building resilience in your ministry, congregation, and/or community?



Tools & Resources

To the Point: Suggestions for Churches with Clergywomen

<https://www.churchleadership.com/to-the-point/to-the-point-suggestions-for-churches-with-a-clergywoman/>

To the Point: Ways Established Church Leaders Can Work with Young Clergy

<https://www.churchleadership.com/to-the-point/to-the-point-ways-established-church-leaders-can-work-with-young-clergy/>



Resistance

Leaders must work to resist

- Seemingly advantageous shortcuts
- Falling back into harmful old patterns



Resistance

Leaders must

- Build authentic community bonds
- Extend hospitality to those who are different
- Disrupt the status quo



Resistance in *Healing Fractured Communities*

Chapter 5: Healing a Fractured Rural Church by Joel Kidwell

Served a congregation that had completed a \$2 million project for a building addition called “The Disciple Center” for the “Memorial Day Supper” and was divided on the question of how to engage the community.



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Resistance in *Healing Fractured Communities*

Chapter 6: Will the Poor Always be Among Us? by Andréá Cummings

Andréá examines how stereotypes and cultural appropriations prevent us from seeing the true nature and magnitude of poverty.



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Resistance

in *Healing Fractured Communities*

Building Community and Relationships, extending hospitality, challenge status quo

- Be a student and teacher
- Learn names
- Visit *la pulga*
- Meet with leaders in local elementary school
- Build connections across departments at college
- Encourage food pantry volunteers to think deeply about poverty
- Ensure children are fed while teaching them about Jesus



Resistance in *Healing Fractured Communities*

Attend to the chicken in the room

- Resentment & exhaustion of chicken dinner
- Shift from inward focus to outward focus
- Change the metrics of success for campus ministry
- Rethink stereotypes around poverty
- Truth telling



Small Strategic Acts of Resistance

- Visit *la pulga*
- Post pictures of *spiro papas*
- Meet for an *agua fresca*
- Put out grass fires of gossip, bias, hate, & negativity
- Take a second vote
- Empty buckets & address immediate needs
- Advocate for change



Resistance Small Group Discussion

How is God calling you to resist old, harmful patterns and bring about transformation?

