

The 2010 Congregational Leadership Series brings congregational leaders face-to-face with one of the church's foremost proponents of simple living. Bob Sitze, author of *(NOT) Trying Too Hard: New Basics for Sustainable Congregations* (Alban Institute), brings the principles of simplicity to both individuals and congregational life. Sitze engages participants in straight talk about the viability of current lifestyles, congregational models, and styles of leadership. He offers a practical alternative approach: Simplifying the identity and behavior of congregations and their leaders to match their

available assets. Using a whimsical, conversational style, Sitze draws together the insights of neurobiology, management theory, and decades of experience in and with congregations.

The seminars will be repeated three times, in three locations across southeastern Iowa. The sessions are designed to engage both paid staff (pastors and program staff) and lay volunteers, especially those who serve on church councils, boards, or vestries. Each session stands independently; together they form a practical approach to congregational leadership in changing and demanding times.

Sponsored by

Center for Renewal at Grand View University
Ankeny Forum
Cedar River Forum
ILLOWA Coalition
Iowa Annual Conference of the United Methodist Church
Presbytery of Des Moines
Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in the Upper Midwest
Southeastern Iowa Synod, ELCA
Presbytery of East Iowa
The Iowa Conference of the United Church of Christ
Episcopal Diocese of Iowa



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Congregational Leadership Series

*leading congregations
in a changing world*

A series of three two-part seminars for church leaders to cultivate a new imagination for congregational leadership.

April 26 – 29, 2010 • Des Moines • Cedar Rapids • Quad Cities

The Presenter

Bob Sitze last served as an education, stewardship and hunger staff member for the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America. While he is not ordained, he has been a leader, beneficiary and critic of congregational life for over forty years. He spends his post-denominational days as a congregational consultant and writer. He is currently finishing work on *It's (NOT) Too Late: A Field Guide to Hope*, to be published by The Alban Institute. Sitze's previous books include: *(NOT) Trying Too Hard: New Basics for Sustainable Congregations*; *Your Brain Goes to Church: Neuroscience and Congregational Life*; and *Starting Simple: Conversations About the Way We Live*. Copies of Sitze's books will be available for discounted purchase at the event.



The Sessions

EVENING SESSION: SIMPLICITY BEGINS AT HOME

Sitze walks with participants through the concepts and practices of "simple living." Especially important: How an emphasis on simplifying individual and family lifestyles is critical for the near and long-term well-being of God's people.

MORNING SESSION: SIMPLICITY GOES TO CHURCH

Sitze applies the principles of simple living to help congregational leaders and members rethink congregational life so that it's manageable and sustainable. Several elements of both workshops are easily repeated in participants' own homes and congregations.

COST: \$125 per congregation. Congregations may bring as many leaders as they would like to both the evening and the morning session. Congregations bringing six or fewer participants may pay \$20 per person.

Online registration, including credit card payment option, available at www.renewingchurch.org

The first 50 people to register will receive a free copy of the book, *Church-going Insider or Gospel-carrying Outsider? A different view of congregations* by Judith McWilliams Dickhart

Registration Form

Contact name _____

Phone _____

E-mail _____

Congregation _____

Address _____

City, State, Zip _____

The Schedule

QUAD CITIES – AUGUSTANA COLLEGE, ROCK ISLAND

Monday, April 26, 7:00 – 9:00 p.m.

Tuesday, April 27, 9:00 – 11:30 a.m.

CEDAR RAPIDS – FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH

Tuesday, April 27, 7:00 – 9:00 p.m.

Wednesday, April 28, 9:00 – 11:30 a.m.

DES MOINES – GRAND VIEW UNIVERSITY

Wednesday, April 28, 7:00 – 9:00 p.m.

Thursday, April 29, 9:00 – 11:30 a.m.

A simpler congregation is, by definition, one that's manageable. The question many of us don't face: Are we actually managing well the identity and ideals we have chosen for our congregation?

– Bob Sitze

Approximately _____ people from our congregation will attend.

Total amount enclosed \$ _____
(Fee is \$125 per congregation or \$20 per person if fewer than six participants.)

We will attend the seminars in:

- Des Moines
- Cedar Rapids
- Quad Cities

Please return the above information with payment by April 15 to:

Center for Renewal
Grand View University
1200 Grandview Avenue
Des Moines, IA 50316-1599