Five Practices of Fruitful Congregations
from the NCCUMC Media Center

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Purpose: This subject guide lists all of our resources that form the *Five Practices of Fruitful Congregations* family of products. Bishop Robert Schnase's program for transforming congregations is recommended to revitalize existing churches and increase the effectiveness of our ministries. The Media Center has also posted subject guides on each of the five practices highlighting resources that could help your church implement the five practices going forward.

Bishop Schnase describes the program: "Five Practices of Fruitful Congregations describes practices that shape and sustain congregations. Vibrant, growing, fruitful congregations repeat and deepen certain fundamental activities, seeking to perform them with excellence: **Radical Hospitality, Passionate Worship, Intentional Faith Development, Risk-Taking Mission and Service, and Extravagant Generosity**. These edgy words focus us on the appropriate work that helps us fulfill the mission of church. Congregations offer the invitation and welcome of Christ, provide worship that connects us to God and to one another, offer opportunities for people to grow in Christ by learning in community, relieve suffering and improve the conditions of people in need through service and mission, and teach people to give of themselves."

Resources for Church Leaders

BK536  Five Practices of Fruitful Congregations
Five Practices of Fruitful Congregations was written by Robert Schnase, bishop of the Missouri Area of the United Methodist Church. Though he first wrote it to describe the five core practices of congregational life for his Missouri congregations, the book is proving useful for congregations across the country and across denominations of the Christian faith. It includes a chapter on each practice plus a chapter on excellence and fruitfulness. The practices include Radical Hospitality, Passionate Worship, Intentional Faith Development, Risk-taking Mission and Service, and Extravagant Generosity.

KIT87  Five Practices of Fruitful Congregations - Leader Manual & Media
The leader's guide and DVD for a 5-week churchwide involvement in the study and practice of Radical Hospitality, Passionate Worship, Intentional Faith Development, Risk-Taking Mission and Service, and Extravagant Generosity. The guide provides planning strategies, schedules, sermons, and liturgies. The DVD provides teaching sessions by Bishop Schnase and worship PowerPoint slides.

DVD346=  Five Practices of Fruitful Congregations - Individual Planning Sessions
Workbooks and DVD sessions for each planning team: Radical Hospitality, Passionate Worship, Intentional Faith Development, Risk-Taking Mission and Service, and Extravagant Generosity. Each planning team has four sessions: What Does the Bible Say?, What is the Practice?, What Can We Do?, Creating a Plan. Worship liturgies are included.

BK702  Five Practices of Fruitful Youth Ministry: A Youth Leader's Guide
Lead youth to live radically, passionately, intentionally, extravagantly—taking risks to become fruitful disciples of Jesus. These ten ready-to-use sessions teach the fundamentals of Christian living. Radical Hospitality, Passionate Worship, Intentional Faith Development, Risk-Taking Mission, and Extravagant Generosity--these five practices, designed to shape both heart and mind, will help youth grow in their discipleship as they transform the world. Features: 2 ready-to-use interactive sessions for each practice, reproducible pages, scripture references, suggestions

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for discussion, questions for reflection, planning helps, tried-and-true activities from youth groups across the country.

**BK703  Five Practices for Children**  

**DVD271  Wonders of Wellness: Why Not Us?**  

**KIT114  Extravagant Generosity: The Heart of Giving - Planning Kit**  
Stewardship programs rise or fall on their ability to do two things: first, provide church leaders easy-to-grasp yet comprehensive help in planning and implementing the program; and second, connect stewardship to the spiritual lives of all the members. Plenty of programs have good ideas, yet they fail to provide leaders with suggested sermons and orders of worship, e-mail messages, letters, newsletter announcements, marketing messages, and other detailed, practical help. Many programs talk about the role of giving in the spiritual life, but they fail to involve church members thinking and praying about their financial discipleship on a day-to-day basis. Created by Michael Reeves and Jennifer Tyler, Extravagant Generosity is built on Bishop Robert Schnase's groundbreaking book Five Practices of Fruitful Congregations. Extravagant Generosity succeeds where other programs fail by offering the following: An overview timeline, providing quick information on what happens during each week of the stewardship campaign; A guidebook for leaders that covers all aspects of the campaign, from detailed plans for each of the four Sunday services to marketing materials like flyers and postcards to e-mail messages and letters designed to be sent to specific groups within the congregation—all available on the enclosed CD-ROM; A book of devotions, Practicing Extravagant Generosity, designed to be distributed to all the members of the congregation, leading them through the Scriptures covered in each of the four weeks and encouraging them to understand financial discipleship in terms of their own mission to build God’s kingdom; A small-group leader's guide to host Sunday school and other small groups during the program using the devotional book; A DVD with video segments for four group-study sessions and short clips for use in worship.

**Resources for Small Groups**  

**BK640  Five Practices of Fruitful Living**  
Five Practices of Fruitful Living provides an honest, practical, and winsome guide to the spiritual journey. By repeating and deepening certain fundamental practices, we cooperate with God in our spiritual growth. These five practices - to receive God's love, to love God in return, to grow in Christ, to serve others, and to give ourselves fully - as we attend to them and develop them, help us settle ourselves in God and become instruments of God's grace. Following Christ will change your heart; and through you, God will change the world.*

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BK639  Five Practices of Fruitful Living Leader Guide
"Five Practices of Fruitful Living provides an honest, practical, and winsome guide to the spiritual journey. By repeating and deepening certain fundamental personal practices, readers cooperate with God in their spiritual growth. These five practices--to receive God's love, to love God in return, to grow in Christ, to serve others, and to give ourselves fully--help readers become instruments of God's grace."

BK537  Cultivating Fruitfulness

BK691  Forty Days of Fruitful Living
Based on Five Practices of Fruitful Living, Forty Days of Fruitful Living guides the individual or small group through daily readings designed to inspire and encourage. Perfect for use during Lent or throughout the year, Forty Days of Fruitful Living will help cultivate the essential practices of a life lived in grace - to receive God’s love, to love God in return, to grow in Christ, to serve others, and to give back.

Websites

Five Practices with Robert Schnase

Five Practices of Fruitful Congregations

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