

Volume 42: Vision and Leadership
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VISION AND LEADERSHIP - A STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIP

by Kim Shockley - Catawba Valley Church Vitality Strategist

Thanks to Kim Shockley for resourcing this edition of eLEAD.

The power of vision has been a focal point of my ministry for years. More and more, the work encompasses ongoing coaching for using vision, which is the job of leadership. Ultimately, vision is the sense of how God wants to use the congregation now. Vision is a motivator - it comes from an active prayer and listening and conversation process - focused on what God desires from us and how God wants to use us. Some congregations have this innately, others use a specific process to determine it, and sometimes vision comes with a pastor and the Holy Spirit works through the pastor to infuse vision into the congregation. No matter how vision is determined, it is an active prayer and listening and conversation process that helps us see God's preferred future...[More](#)

VISION AND COMMUNICATION PRACTICES

by Rev. George Ragsdale, First UMC Belmont

Etienne Wenger tells the story of two stonecutters. Each was asked what they were doing. One responds, "I'm cutting this stone into a perfect square." The other says, "I am building a cathedral." Wenger's story illustrates the importance of communicating,



over-communicating and reinforcing mission and values in pastoral leadership. It is easy for us to forget the larger "why" behind our life together as God's people, as well as the particular behaviors and attitudes that align us to God's mission in the world...

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WHERE DOES VISION COME FROM?

by Willis Greene, First UMC Newton

This sounds like a question asked by a preacher during a Children's Moment in worship. The answer is so obvious, but we're a bit reluctant to shout out it out. Where does vision come from? It comes from God! The challenging part for us is discerning God's vision but as Kim Shockley states in her article, [***Vision and Leadership - A Strategic Partnership***](#), we are able to discern God's vision by actively praying and listening... [More](#)

VISION IN THE SMALL CHURCH

by Rev. Phillip Hefner, Denton's Chapel UMC - Morganton



We are all called to be good stewards of the resources - money, time, talent, and gifts - that God brings to our church regardless of the size of the congregation. The presence of a faithfully discerned, clearly stated, and effectively executed vision allows us to honor God by using those resources in the way God intended. However, ministry in a small, rural church makes the presence of a vision even more critical. Going through the visioning process has

allowed us to develop a laser focus on who God has called us to be as individuals and a church by utilizing God's resources faithfully...[More](#)

MAKING THE DREAM VISION REAL

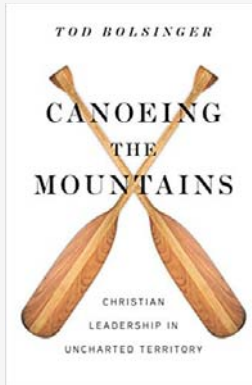
by Dave Zietlow

One of the primary functions of leadership is to articulate a powerful vision that motivates and energizes people toward a preferred future state while encouraging them to implement plans to make that vision a reality. The Mission of the organization remains constant and serves as a reminder and the foundation for the work of the organization. It is important to shape that mission and visit it on a recurring basis every five to seven years to ensure that it remains the organization's core focus. As an example, at Assurance UMC, a church where I am a lay leader, we have had a mission for several years to "Love God, Love Others, and Make Disciples through Growing in Spirit by weekly worship, daily prayer, and small group connection in order to Go Serve Others and Go Share the Good News that Jesus loves them to all people." This Grow and Go is integrated into all we do as a faith community in many ways and communicated frequently. A vision emerges from that organization's mission and becomes something to be lived out... [More](#)



CREATING A LEAD SMALL CULTURE

by Tod Bolsinger



Bolsinger's comparison of the Lewis and Clark expedition with leading the Christian church in today's uncharted territory is still my favorite read for pastors and lay people in leadership. He captures the essence of leadership as we work to fulfill God's purposes in an new cultural landscape...[More](#)

THE SECRET REASON WHY GOOD CHURCHES DIE

by Rebekah Simon-Peter

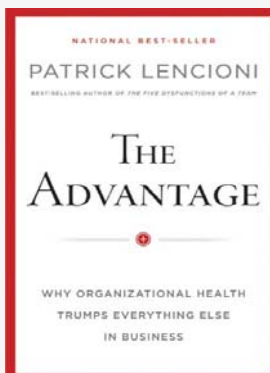
Why do good churches die?

I'm not talking about churches who have an apparent fatal flaw like mean or nasty people, terrible location, clergy sexual misconduct, uninspiring worship or the like. Churches can and do recover from all of those things... [More](#)



THE ADVANTAGE: WHY ORGANIZATIONAL HEALTH TRUMPS EVERYTHING ELSE IN BUSINESS

by Patrick M. Lencioni



Lencioni lays out a clear process for leading through change. I use chapter two, design clarity, to help congregational leaders re-vision and re-claim God's purpose for them. The three other parts of his process are extremely helpful to knowing how to live into the newly designed clarity...[More](#)

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