

What Are We Reading These Days?

Looking for some new **ASSIMILATION** ideas? Below are some current resources from the District Library. Contact Allison Wolf for assistance with the District Library: allison.wolf@michigandistrict.org or 888.225.2111

Assimilation Intensive Seminar

Thomas, Kerrick ; Mansfield, Roy. Church Insights, 2008. Audio, 8cds
Reaching out to first-time guests is the purpose of this audio seminar. The speakers, Kerrick and Roy, discuss why we reach out and outline the details of how they start connections. They answer all the questions you might have had while reading or listening to the other two products on the same subject - Assimilation Seminar and Fusion. (Based on experiences at The Journey, New York, NY)

Assimilation Seminar 2006

Searcy, Nelson, Thomas, Kerrick. Church Insights, 2006. Audio of seminar, 3 cds.
You will listen to a live recording of a workshop that helps the church move people from first time-guests to second-time guests then to regular attenders. Materials reflect The Journey's assimilation strategy and samples of their communications. (The Journey, New York, NY)

First Impressions

Waltz, Mark. Group Publishing, 2005. Book, 144 pgs.
Granger Community Church developed First Impressions Ministry which has one focus - creating experiences that have first-time guests returning to the church. Ministry goals include guests feeling valued and guests experiencing the love of Jesus. The reader will see a ministry that communicates acceptance, respect, and value; one that builds teams who believe that people matter to God. The book includes stories from the church, exercises and review questions; chapter seven provides a good training model.

Fusion

Searcy, Nelson. Regal, 2007. Book, 185 pgs.
Searcy provides a model for assimilation - in particular working with first and second time guests. His plan helps you establish a relationship with newcomers that starts with the first seven minutes of a visit. Most of the communication examples are email/web-based. The key piece is the communication card filled out by all worship service attendees.

New Breed

McKee, Jonathan; McKee, Thomas. Group Publishing, 2008. Book, 171 pgs.
Father and son share volunteer strategies and experiences as they've worked with multiple generations and organizations (including the church.) They identify three essential "hats" that you must wear to work with today's volunteer - the recruiter, the manager and the leader. Recruiting is likened to a "courting relationship." Recruiters need to understand the value of networking, the do's and don'ts of volunteerism and the generational differences. Managers are not "do it my way" kind-of-people, but people who empower others, people who coach by performance. There are two special chapters - one on managing the virtual volunteer (web-based) and second, one on dealing with high-maintenance volunteers (how to coach them and not fire them.) The goal of the leader is to help the whole church focus on making a lasting impact. The McKees say this starts with passion - your passion and then a volunteer's passion and the leaders's ability to focus all this passion into solidarity. This book has lots of lists, suggested resources and samples of forms.