

2021 Vestry University, Diocese of Missouri
Presented by Jackie Selle and The Rev. Dr. Valori Mulvey Sherer

Bibliography of Suggested Reading

Davidge, Nancy, and Susan Elliott. *Vestry Resource Guide*. Episcopal Church Foundation, 2017.

McMahon, Colleen, *Meditations for Vestry Members*. Morehouse Publishing, 1999.

Michele, Neal O., *Beyond Business as Usual, Vestry Leadership Development*. Morehouse Publishing,
2016.

Webber, Christopher L. *The Vestry Handbook, 3rd Revised Edition*. Morehouse Publishing, 2011.

Marmon, Pam. “7 [Keys to a Smooth Church Transition](#).” *CT Pastors*, CT Pastors, 31 Aug. 2017.

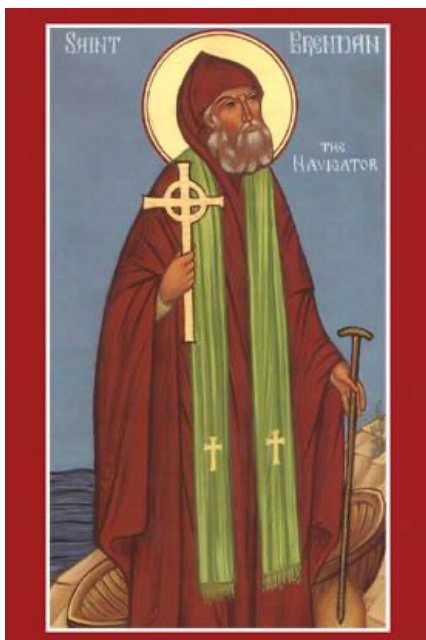
Other tools:

[Friedman’s Theory of Differentiated Leadership](#) (made simple) - YouTube video re: *In A Failure of Nerve*, by Edwin Friedman who applies Bowen's family systems theory to organizational leadership.

[Vestry Papers](#), ECF Vital Practices for leading Congregations.

Church Next: [What Every Vestry Member Needs to Know About Money](#)

[Partnership for Renewal](#): Facilitating new ways of being church. Vestry retreats, workshops



Prayer of St. Brendan (Irish Contemplative)

Lord, I will trust You.
Help me to journey beyond the familiar
and into the unknown.
Give me the faith to leave old ways
and break fresh ground with You.

Christ of the mysteries, I trust You
to be stronger than each storm within me.
I will trust in the darkness and know
that my times, even now, are in Your hand.

Tune my spirit to the music of heaven,
and somehow, make my obedience count for You.

(Source: <http://imagodeicommunity.ca/category/prayers/>)

Prayer for servant leadership:

Fill us most merciful God with the power of your Holy Spirit and free us from any bonds that continue to restrict our freedom to fully love you, one another, and ourselves. Enter our hearts today and our dreams tonight and show us your will for us as your church's servant leaders in this time and place. Loosen our tongues to speak your truth. Strengthen our hearts to birth your love into reality no matter the cost; and make each of us to shine with the celestial light that is the mark of your saints in heaven and on earth; for the love of your Son, our savior, Jesus, the Christ. Amen.

By The Rev. Dr. Valori Mulvey Sherer

Thomas Merton's prayer:



My Lord God, I have no idea where I am going. I do not see the road ahead of me. I cannot know for certain where it will end. Nor do I really know myself, and the fact that I think I am following your will does not mean that I am actually doing so. But I believe that the desire to please you does in fact please you. And I hope I have that desire in all that I am doing. I hope that I will never do anything apart from that desire. And I know that if I do this you will lead me by the right road, though I may know nothing about it. Therefore I will trust you always though I may seem to be lost and in the shadow of death. I will not fear, for you are ever with me, and you will never leave me to face my perils alone.

The Prayer of the Holy Spirit

Come Holy Spirit, Spirit of Love
in the silence...
come to us and bring us your peace,
rest in us that we may be tranquil and still
speak to us as each heart needs to hear;
reveal to us things hidden and things longed for;
rejoice in us that we may praise and be glad;
pray in us that we may be at One with you and with each other;
refresh and renew us from your living springs of water;
dwell in us now and always.
Amen.

Author unknown