

Annotated Bibliography on Practical Pastoral Issues

Barton, Ruth Haley. *Strengthening the Soul of Your Leadership: Seeking God in the Crucible of Ministry.* Downers Grove: InterVarsity Press, 2018.

Drawing from Moses' forty-year wilderness crash-course, Barton shows exhausted pastors how solitude and contemplation are not leadership luxuries but oxygen. Each chapter ends with spiritual exercises used by thousands of weary pastors at the Transforming Center retreats.

Burns, Bob, Tasha Chapman, and Donald C. Guthrie. *Resilient Ministry: What Pastors Told Us About Surviving and Thriving.* Downers Grove: IVP Praxis, 2013.

Five-year research with 750 pastors yielded five survival themes: spiritual formation, self-care, emotional intelligence, marriage/family, leadership/poetry. Packed with diagnostic tools and cohort questions, it is the textbook for every denominational sustainability summit.

Cloud, Henry, and John Townsend. *Boundaries for Leaders: Results, Reasons, and Realities.* New York: HarperBusiness, 2013.

The Boundaries duo tailor their mega-seller for church boards and staff. Chapters on "gatekeeping your brain" and "pruning toxic people" have saved countless elder meetings from derailment. Includes worksheets now laminated in every staff break-room.

Cordeiro, Wayne. *Leading on Empty: Refilling Your Tank and Renewing Your Passion.* Minneapolis: Bethany House, 2010.

After collapsing onstage, the New Hope Oahu pastor chronicles his clinical burnout and eleven-month sabbatical. Raw journal entries plus a 40-day devotional make this the go-to gift for every pastor hitting the ten-year wall.

Comer, John Mark. *The Ruthless Elimination of Hurry: How to Stay Emotionally Healthy and Spiritually Alive in the Chaos of the Modern World.* Colorado Springs: WaterBrook, 2019.

Comer diagnoses hurry as the silent killer of pastoral souls and prescribes four ancient practices (silence, Sabbath, simplicity, slowing). Over 600,000 copies later, entire elder boards now enforce "phone-free Mondays."

Greear, J. D. *When Leaders Lose Their Way: Avoiding the Pitfalls That Derail Ministry.* Nashville: B&H, 2024.

Fresh off the SBC presidency, Greear names five dragons—pride, comparison, platform, isolation, moral drift—with case studies from fallen megachurch pastors. Each chapter ends with a “dragon-slaying covenant” signed by staff teams nationwide.

MacDonald, Gordon. *Building Below the Waterline: Shoring Up the Foundations of Leadership.* Peabody, MA: Hendrickson, 2011.

The disgraced-but-redeemed pastor writes from the ashes, insisting that private character is 80 % of long-term fruitfulness. His “waterline” metaphor (what sinks ships is below the water) is now preached at every ordination council.

Neck, Christopher P., and Charles C. Manz. *Fit to Lead: Transforming Your Body and Spirit for God-Honoring Leadership.* Cincinnati: Standard, 2022.

Two leadership professors plus a Navy-SEAL trainer give pastors a 90-day fitness-spiritual integration plan. Includes fasting protocols, sleep trackers, and kettlebell prayers—used by the Acts 29 health initiative.

Peterson, Eugene H. *The Pastor: A Memoir.* San Francisco: HarperOne, 2011.

In his final book, the Message translator reflects on forty years of “unhurried formation.” Pastors underline the line “The adjective ‘busy’ is the symptom not of commitment but of betrayal” and tape it above their desks.

Ramsey, Dave, with Jen Sieverts. *Financial Peace University for Church Leaders.* Franklin, TN: Ramsey Press, 2023.

The envelope-system king adapts FPU for clergy: zero-based budgeting for tiny salaries, debt-snowball sermons, and legacy-drawer templates. Over 8,000 churches now run the nine-week class; half report 30 % giving increases.

Scazzero, Peter. *The Emotionally Healthy Leader: How Spiritual and Emotional Health Transform Your Leadership.* Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 2015.

Scazzero’s four-part framework (face your shadow, lead out of brokenness, slow down, Sabbath) birthed the EH Leader podcast and curriculum. Mandatory reading at every Vineyard and ARC planting assessment.

Shelley, Marshall. *Intentional Dragons: Raising the Bar on Ministry Excellence.* Carol Stream, IL: Christianity Today, 2021.

The former Leadership Journal editor compiles thirty years of “dragon” stories—staff betrayals, building disasters, moral failures—with redemptive postscripts. Pastors keep the “Dragon-Slayer Checklist” in their top drawer for crisis days.

Tripp, Paul David. *Dangerous Calling: Confronting the Unique Challenges of Pastoral Ministry.* Wheaton: Crossway, 2012.

Tripp's wake-up call on pride, isolation, and gospel amnesia has sparked hundreds of pastoral peer-accountability groups. The diagnostic questions in chapter 4 are now printed on cards handed out at every new-pastor installation.