

Revitalization Pathway



Brief Description	The path to congregational health and mission effectiveness is unique to each corps but there are phases which can be identified. Imagining the steps to take can reduce strain on the leaders and congregants and allow identification of milestones on the journey.
Leader(s)	Major Peter van Duinen, Corps Officer Dr. James Watson, Corps Health and Planting Consultant
Presenter(s)	Major Peter van Duinen, Corps Officer Bio: Currently Corps Officer of Guelph Citadel, he has three years experience in divisional leadership and over fifteen years experience in congregational ministry in both rural and urban corps, including six years in a multi-ethnic congregation. He has helped congregations navigate a variety of issues including community engagement, leadership development, organizational restructuring, vision development, and change management. He has been a sessional instructor at Booth University College, and currently teaches the congregational governance course at CFOT. Major van Duinen holds an MDiv

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	<p>degree from Wesley Seminary at Indiana Wesleyan University with a specialization in congregational revitalization.</p> <p>Dr. James Watson, Corps Health and Planting Consultant Bio: As an interdenominational consultant and now for The Salvation Army he has over 15 years of experience walking alongside congregations at various points in their life cycles. He has been a Bible college and seminary instructor in areas of congregational health and mission as well as a researcher focusing on congregational leadership and intercultural engagement. Dr. Watson holds an MDiv degree from McMaster Divinity College and a PhD from Fuller Theological Seminary.</p>
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Schedule			
Date & Time	Session Title	Description/Presenter	Pre-session preparation
February 22, 1 pm (Eastern time), 2022	Introduction	<p>Revitalization is needed for healthy congregational life. We will review the process and invite questions.</p> <p>Peter van Duinen Life Cycle identification exercise.</p> <p>James Watson</p>	<p>Preview the five minute introductory video at saministryresources.ca/lifecycle and/or the guide at https://salvationist.ca/corps-mission/corps-administration/corps-health/</p>
March 8, 1 pm (Eastern time), 2022	Revitalization Pathway	<p>Introduction to revitalization pathway design.</p> <p>Peter van Duinen Breakout Groups: Feedback on revitalization pathway outline.</p>	<p>Prepare to share a draft outline of what you imagine as a pathway.</p>

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March 22, 1 pm (Eastern time), 2022	Spiritual Renewal	Breakout Groups: What has been helpful to encourage spiritual renewal during the revitalization process? James Watson Congregational spiritual practices.	Prepare to share your revitalization process with attention to spiritual practices.
April 5, 1 pm (Eastern time), 2022	Leading Real People	Breakout Groups: Who is “on the bus” for the revitalization process? James Watson Leadership development and engaging people in mission Peter van Duinen	Prepare to answer the question, “Who is on the bus?”
April 19, 1 pm (Eastern time), 2022	Change	Introduction to congregational change. James Watson Breakout Groups: Revitalization pathways – where will be the points of possible turbulence?	Prepare to identify milestones in your revitalization pathway.
May 3, 1 pm (Eastern time), 2022	Where do we go from here?	Implementing the pathway, mapping the milestones. Peter van Duinen and James Watson Breakout Groups: Workshop.	Prepare questions for the revitalization pathways for the second last session.
May 17, 1 pm (Eastern time), 2022	Capstones	Presentations, constructive feedback, and prayer.	Prepare for capstone presentations.

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Annotated Bibliography

alphacanada.org

Alpha Canada provides resources for faith exploration. The combination of a shared meal and safe space for asking questions about spirituality has benefitted many people.

Arn, Charles. *Side Door: How to Open Your Church to Reach More People*. Indianapolis: Wesleyan Publishing House, 2013.

Vital congregations are good at empowering their people to pursue their unique strengths. It is by discovering the passions of its individual insiders that a church can creatively and effectively draw the outsiders into its fellowship and into Jesus.

Bowen, John P. *Evangelism for "Normal" People*. Minneapolis: Augsburg Fortress, 2002.

A helpful and easy to read textbook on evangelism based on the Canadian experience, written by an evangelist and professor of evangelism.

Collins, Jim. "Jim Collins - Concepts - First Who...Then What?" Accessed October 18, 2021.

<https://www.jimcollins.com/concepts/first-who-then-what.html>.

An outline of the bus analogy.

Dale, Robert D. *To Dream Again: How to Help Your Church Come Alive*. Eugene: Wipf & Stock Publishers, 1981.

There are four ways to revitalize a church, organizationally speaking. Policy changes, change personnel, create new program structures or clarify purpose. The fourth way to revitalize a church is to define and act on its fundamental purpose.

Im, Daniel. *No Silver Bullets: 5 Small Shifts that will Transform Your Ministry*. Nashville: B&H Books, 2017.

A "systems approach" to reviewing primary (practical and ecclesial) functions of your congregation.

Krause, Michael, ed. *From the Margins to the Centre: The Diaspora Effect*. Toronto: Tyndale Academic Press, 2018.

Canadian leaders reflect on congregational mission in multicultural society.

McAlpine, Bill, Joel Thiessen, Keith Walker, and Arch Chee Keen Wong. *Signs of Life: Catholic, Mainline, and Conservative Protestant Congregations in Canada*. Toronto: Tyndale Academic Press, 2021.

A national research project reviewing Canadian understandings of "flourishing" for congregations.

McConnell, William. *Renew Your Congregation: Healing the Sick, Raising the Dead*. Atlanta: Chalice Press, 2007.

Providing both spiritual and practical perspectives based on hard won experience, this book offer examples of what can be involved in congregational renewal.

McIntosh, Gary L. *Taking Your Church to the Next Level: What Got You Here Won't Get You There*. Grand Rapids: Baker Books, 2009.

Taking Your Church to the Next Level explains the impact of age and size on churches and outlines the improvements that must be made at each point for a church to remain fruitful and faithful to its mission.

Mohler, R. Albert. *A Guide to Church Revitalization*. Louisville: SBTs Press, 2015.

This guide book details the necessary elements of revitalizing a dying church, from the centrality of expository preaching to cultivating spiritual discipline among members. It includes a description of the revitalizing process, a summary of the factors indicating ultimate success, and a depiction of the personal character required to be a spiritually effective church planter.

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Morgan, Tony. *The Unstuck Church: Equipping Churches to Experience Sustained Health*. Nashville: Thomas Nelson, 2017.

This book calls for an honest assessment of where your congregation sits on the lifecycle and offers the challenge of becoming unstuck. It unpacks each stage of the congregational lifecycle and offers specific and strategic next steps the church leader can take towards sustained health.

Munn, Janet and Stephen Court. "Rhythms of Prayer: Something for Everyone." In *Army on its Knees: The Dynamics of Great Commission Prayer*. London: Salvation Books, 2012, 49-66.

This a comprehensive book on prayer. This particular chapter presents multiple approaches to prayer.

Ross, Donald. *Turnaround Pastor: Pathways to Save, Revive and Build your Church*. Montlake Terrace, WA: Turnaround Church Coaching Network, 2013.

Learn from Dr. Ross' personal experience and coaching expertise how to communicate effectively with your congregation, make courageous decisions to move your church forward, lead through major changes, cast meaningful vision, advance Christ's kingdom in your community, and become a Turnaround Pastor.

Scazzero, Peter. *The Emotionally Healthy Church, Updated and Expanded Edition: A Strategy for Discipleship That Actually Changes Lives*. Zondervan, 2009.

An introduction to congregational emotional intelligence based in discipleship.

Shepherd, Eleanor. *More Questions than Answers: Sharing Faith by Listening*. Eugene: Resource Publications, 2010.

A helpful introduction into engaging in meaningful relationship through listening, both to the person in front of you and to God in that moment.

Whitesel, Bob. *Preparing for Change Reaction: How to Introduce Change in Your Church*. Indianapolis: Wesleyan Publishing House, 2007.

This practical guide is designed to be used by church leaders with their boards as a tool for negotiating needed changes. The author compellingly makes the case that new methodology can and must be embraced without altering a church's beliefs or mission. He then offers a series of exercises to be undertaken jointly by church leaders that will result in the production of a master plan for managing change effectively in the local church.