

# East District Discipleship Toolbox

## Discipleship Resources for Pastors and Churches

### Personal Discipleship Resources for Pastors and Church Leaders

#### Spiritual Direction

- Spiritual Directors help others attend to God's presence and revelation, grow in intimacy with Christ and respond to the work of the Holy Spirit. Engaging with a spiritual director is a valuable practice for every pastor. If you would like assistance in finding a spiritual director we would love to help! Contact Rev. Sharon Reid, East District Discipleship Coach, at [SharonReid@ctcumc.org](mailto:SharonReid@ctcumc.org).

#### Spiritual Retreat

- Most every pastor is in need of a time away for a time of solitude, prayer, reflection and experiencing God's presence in the beauty of nature. At Glen Lake Camp & Retreat Center in Glen Rose a hotel-style room in the Paluxy Cabin is only \$45 per night for pastors. To schedule your retreat, contact Amanda Garza, Guest Services Director, [amanda@glenlake.org](mailto:amanda@glenlake.org), 254-897-2247.
- [Invitation to Retreat](#): The Gift and Necessity of Time Away with God by Ruth Haley Barton is an excellent guide for the spiritual practice of retreat. You can read this book ahead of your retreat, using the ideas at the end of each chapter under the heading "Preparing for Retreat," or you can take it with you and read it when you get there, using the ideas under the heading "While on Retreat."

#### Book Recommendations

- [The Good and Beautiful God](#): Falling in Love with the God Jesus Knows by James Bryan Smith
- [Flourishing in Ministry](#): How to Cultivate Clergy Wellbeing by Matt Bloom
- [Strengthening the Soul of Your Leadership](#): Seeking God in the Crucible of Ministry by Ruth Haley Barton
- [Liturgy of the Ordinary](#): Sacred Practices in Everyday Life by Tish Harrison Warren

#### Podcasts

- [Things Above Podcast](#): a podcast for mind discipleship by James Bryan Smith
- [Lectio 365](#) prayer and devotional podcast by Pete Greig and 24-7 Prayer
- [Strengthening the Soul of Your Leadership](#) podcast by Ruth Haley Barton

### Creating a Discipling Culture in Your Church

#### Coaching

- A Coach is a collaborative partner, who helps gifted leaders discern, fulfill and celebrate what God has uniquely placed within them and called them to do within their context.

- Contact Rev. Sharon Reid, East District Discipleship Coach, at SharonReid@ctcumc.org for a conversation about further understanding and growing the discipling culture in your church.
- If you would like to explore engaging with an ICF professionally trained coach in the Central Texas Conference, contact Rev. Meg Witmer-Faile at MegWitmer-Faile@ctcumc.org.

### Book Recommendations

- [Building a Discipling Culture](#): How to Release a Missional Movement by Discipling People Like Jesus Did, by Mike Breen.
- [The Disciplemaker's Handbook](#): Seven Elements of Discipleship Lifestyle by Harrington & Patrick
- [Mentor Like Jesus](#): His Radical Approach to Building the Church, by Regi Campbell
- [Membership to Discipleship](#): Growing Mature Disciples Who Make Disciples, by Phil Maynard

### Teaching and Resources

- [Develop a Discipleship System](#) from UM Discipleship Ministries Free downloadable guides and courses on discipleship
- [Gospel Discipleship](#) by Michelle J. Morris
- [The Good and Beautiful Series](#) by James Bryan Smith, aims to help Christians develop a robust discipleship by helping them understand who God is, what it means to be a Christian and what it means to live in community as a part of God's kingdom.
- [Building a Spiritual Core](#), webinar by Bishop Mike Lowry, Rev. Mike Ramsdell and Rev. Joseph Nader, focused on making disciples and strengthening our Churches' spiritual lives.

### Community Assessment

- Who is in your community? What do they like and what do they need? [MissionInsite](#) is a comprehensive online demographic tool. Learn who really lives in the community surrounding your church—their attitudes, affinity groups, church preferences, and needs.