



# RESOURCES, WEBSITES & BOOKS ON CLOSURE AND LEGACY

## LEGACY CHURCH AND CHURCH CLOSURE RESOURCES AND CONTACTS

### ● UCC LEGACY CHURCH AND CLOSURE RESOURCES

- Local Church Ministries
- David Schoen

### LIVINGLEGACYCHURCH.ORG

[legacychurch@ucc.org](mailto:legacychurch@ucc.org)

Toll-free: 866-822-8224 X3827

216-736-3827

### ● LEGACY CHURCH FINANCIAL RESOURCES

- United Church Funds

### LEGACY@UCFUNDS.ORG

[ucfunds.org](http://ucfunds.org)

Toll-free: 877-806-4989

212-729-2600

### ● LEGACY BUILDING RESOURCES

- UCC Church Building and Loan Fund
- Patrick G. Duggan

[Cblfund.org](http://Cblfund.org)

[dugganp@ucc.org](mailto:dugganp@ucc.org)

Toll-free: 866-822-8224 X3834

216-736-3834

### ● UCC NEW BEGINNINGS ASSESSMENT SERVICE

- Local Church Ministries
- David Schoen

[www.ucc.org/new-beginnings/](http://www.ucc.org/new-beginnings/)

[schoend@ucc.org](mailto:schoend@ucc.org)

Toll-free: 866-822-8224 X3827

216-736-3827

### ● STRUGGLING CONGREGATIONS OPTIONS, MA CONF.

[www.macucc.org/strugglingcongregations](http://www.macucc.org/strugglingcongregations)

- **CHRISTIAN CHURCH FOUNDATION LEGACY CHURCH RESOURCES**

<http://www.christianchurchfoundation.org/pages/Legacy-Congregations/>

## **BOOKS ON CHURCH LEGACY AND CLOSURE**

- **TOWARD THE BETTER COUNTRY: CHURCH CLOSURE AND RESURRECTION,**

L. Gail Irwin, author

<http://freelancepastor.wordpress.com/about-the-book/>

- **FINISHING WITH GRACE – A GUIDE TO SELLING, MERGING OR CLOSING YOUR CHURCH,**

Linda Hilliard and Gretchen Switzer, authors

<http://www.finishingwithgrace.com/about/>

- **ENDING WITH HOPE: A RESOURCE FOR CLOSING CONGREGATIONS,**

Beth Ann Gaede, author

<https://rowman.com/ISBN/9781566992633>

- **LEGACY CHURCHES,**

Stephen Gray and Franklin Dumond, authors

<http://www.stephengray.org/store/detail.asp?id=11>

- **EMPTY HOUSES: A PASTORAL APPROACH TO CONGREGATIONAL CLOSURES,**

Michael K. Jones, author

<http://www.booksurge.com/Empty-Houses-A-Pastoral-Approach-to/A/1554300223.htm>

## **CHURCH LEGACY AND CLOSURE WORSHIP RESOURCES**

- **LITURGY FOR THE CLOSING OF A CHURCH – UNITED CHURCH OF CANADA**

[http://www.united-church.ca/files/planning/theme/worship\\_closure.pdf](http://www.united-church.ca/files/planning/theme/worship_closure.pdf)

- **FINISHING WITH GRACE – A GUIDE TO SELLING, MERGING OR CLOSING YOUR CHURCH,**

Appendix P. 97-130

<http://www.finishingwithgrace.com/about/>

- **SACRED STORIES: CONTINUING A CONGREGATION'S LEGACY OF MINISTRY,**

P. 10-12 <http://www.christianchurchfoundation.org/UserFiles/Files/SacredStories2012.pdf>

- **A SERMON FOR CLOSING OF CHURCH,**

Rev. Emily C. Heath

<http://emilycheath.com/2012/02/05/sermon-for-the-closing-of-wilmington-congregational-church/>

## **CHURCH RECORDS AND MATERIALS**

- **CONGREGATIONAL LIBRARY AND ARCHIVES – CHURCH CLOSING/RECORD DONATION**

<http://www.congregationallibrary.org/for-churches/closing-donation>

- **UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST HISTORICAL COUNCIL**

<http://www.ucc.org/about-us/archives/historical-council/>

## **CHURCH LEGACY AND CLOSURE BLOGS**

- **THE PARISH PAPER: SHOULD WE CONSIDER CLOSING OUR CHURCH?**

<http://tinyurl.com/church-closing>

- **NO ONE SHOULD HAVE TO DO THIS ALONE - REV. DR. GAIL CAFFERATA**

<http://carducc.wordpress.com/2014/09/11/no-one-should-have-to-do-this-alone/>

- **FROM DEATH TO LIFE: CHURCHES FACING RESURRECTION – REV. GAIL IRWIN**

<http://freelancepastor.wordpress.com/>

- **SEASONS OF GRACE: REFLECTIONS ON CHURCH LIFE BY THE AUTHORS OF FINISHING WITH GRACE**

<http://www.finishingwithgrace.com/>





# ENCOURAGEMENT AND ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Our appreciation begins with you, church pastors and lay leaders, who have chosen to utilize this Living Legacy workbook as you attend to, and care for, your congregation during a time of impending closure.

Understandably, the decision to close a congregation's active ministry can be a difficult and emotional chapter in your life together, but, as you will discover, it also can be a time that inspires great communal clarity and gratitude, emotional courage, and grace-filled acceptance of the realities and opportunities before you. Your faithful leadership is critically needed and spiritually indispensable right now. This is no easy task you have accepted. Yet, gratefully, you have wisely sought the help you will need to attend to the many conversations, tasks and decisions now facing your congregation, as you discern together what will be the capstone that will be your church's legacy.

We pray that Living Legacy will be a source of help, support and comfort as your congregation's ministry comes to a close with dignity, grace, hope and faith, knowing that the God of Resurrection is always at work, both in life and in death. May you know the presence and power of the Stillspeaking God, even as you prepare to end your ministry, celebrating the many ways you can pass on your congregation's spirit through a living legacy that will serve God's mission for years to come. Thank you.

Special thanks go to the Rev. Jane Heckles, who proposed and started this legacy project, working in collaboration with Local Church Ministries and United Church Funds. Jane drafted the outline for the resource and wrote its initial chapters.

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The Living Legacy workbook is a collaborative project of many in the United Church of Christ who are committed to serving local congregations at every stage of life, including the time of ending, closure and legacy.

Thanks be to God, whose steadfast love and faithfulness endures forever!

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