

# From Here to Community

## Enhancing Christian Community in Today's Society

**Today American churches** face a strongly individualistic culture that often frustrates efforts to build effective Christian communities. How can we help individuals see beyond personal concerns to the importance of relationships within wider communities? What should we do to enhance our communities? How can we learn what Christian community means in our society? *From Here to Community* uses scripture, prayer, dramas, case studies and guided discussions, as well as readings from scholars and theologians, to provide a learning experience designed to answer these questions and move Christians to the "doing" stage.

### From field testing participants:

- "I liked how church history, scripture, case studies, and sociological observations were melded together."
- "Excellent food for thought on many areas of my life that need adjusting."
- "The true stories generated a lot of personal sharing."
- "We were consistently challenged to dig deeper rather than give quick answers."
- "I didn't know that the Bible had so much guidance for communities."

### From field testing leaders:

- "Well-integrated, well-structured sessions."
- "Good preparation for two members who will be on our church vision committee."
- "Some folks have not only been stirred on the edges, but also on the inside."
- "The Leader's Guide helped me feel well-prepared, more of a facilitator than a leader."
- "The teaching plans had helpful suggestions for visual aids and discussion points."

### The authors:

As experienced college educators in science, mathematics, and health care, Dick and Judy Reuning combine their passion for creating high quality learning experiences with over thirty years of teaching experience in the (Lutheran) church setting at both adult and children's levels. Through LifeCrossings, LLC – Resources for Life's Choices, they have committed second careers to publishing learning materials (with companion leader's guides) that connect Christian faith with the daily challenges of life in American society. Drawing on the guidance of their advisory board, with its breadth of expertise and diverse Christian background, as well as their own experiences as volunteers and board members in the social service arena, they have developed this resource for Christian communities of any denomination.

**"You cannot work through this course without being challenged, affected, changed. What is more, your church has the opportunity to become community, that is, to become the agent for and the witness to God's vision for humanity."**

**Walter R. Bouman,  
theologian**

**LifeCrossings**

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