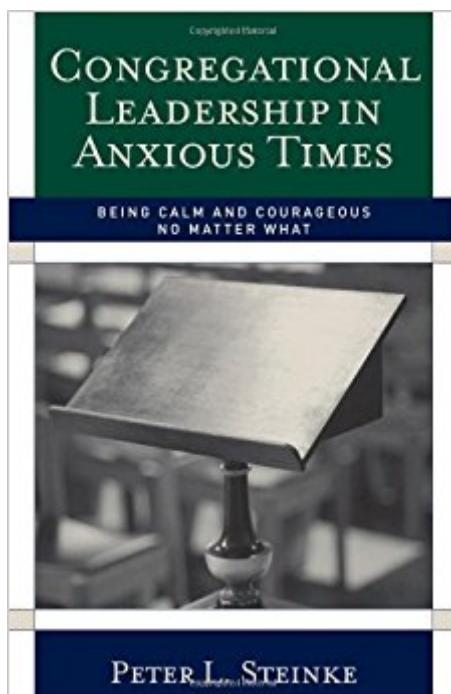


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# Congregational Leadership In Anxious Times: Being Calm And Courageous No Matter What



## **Synopsis**

Anxious times call for steady leadership. When tensions emerge in a congregation, its leaders cannot be as anxious as the people they serve. To remain effective, congregational leaders must control their own uneasiness. This takes self-awareness and confidence to manage relationships and influence behaviors. Knowing how to deal with anxiety and how to work through complex challenges can lead a congregation to new insights, growth, and vitality. Anxious times hold not only the potential for loss but also for creation, important learnings, and changes that will strengthen the congregation. With this new book, internationally respected consultant Peter Steinke goes deeper into the requirements of effective congregational leadership. Born from the wisdom of Steinke's distinguished career, this new volume will both enlighten and embolden leaders. Steinke inspires courage in leaders to maintain the course, unearth secrets, resist sabotage, withstand fury, and overcome timidity or doubts. His insights, illustrations, and provocations will carry leaders through rough times, provide clarity during confusing times, and uplift them in joyous times.

## **Book Information**

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## **Customer Reviews**

This is the book you'll want on your shelf and will want to read carefully and digest if you hope to master a rudimentary understanding of the way family systems theory addresses leadership in a congregation. (New England Lutheran Theological Forum) Dr. Steinke once again illuminates the path towards healthier, more effective church leadership. He consistently provides deep wisdom

that is both relevant and transformative. (James Boyer, pastoral psychotherapist and organizational consultant)A faithful book, full of insight and illustration. (Rick Foss, Bishop, Eastern North Dakota Synod, ELCA)In his first two books, Peter Steinke effectively offered the lens of family systems through which to see congregational life. In this new book, he continues his tradition of wit, clarity, and insight while moving to a new level of depth and artistry. (W. Craig Gilliam, Director, The Center for Pastoral Effectiveness, The Louisiana Annual Conference of the UMC)

Peter L. Steinke is an internationally respected congregational systems consultant who has also served as a parish pastor, an eduator, and a therapist for clergy. He is the author of the best-selling books *How Your Church Family Works* and *Healthy Congregations*.

This is the best resource hat I e found for understanding why people have anxious responses and how to navigate conflict in light of the numerous people in each congregational conflict.

Read with an open mind you will benefit from learning about the ways you function in pastoral leadership as well as tools to recognize behaviors in yourself and congregations that do not lead to healing and health.

A good book that, at its core, warns leaders that change and anxious times are your staples if you want a healthy organization. Written with churchs in mind, this book explores how change can affect an organization. Look leaders must be mindful of the early signs of change, know how to ride it out or facilitate healthy chsngs. and how to instigate healthy change. It's final chapter deals with members and leaders who rely on their charm and are too worried about the status quo, and their detrimental effect on the organization.

This book provided wonderful content to prepare me for a period of transition at our church. It was easy to read and gave great spiritual and physiological references for the challenges congregational leaders face in times of change. Scenarios of real life issues are included as well as checklists and open ended questions. I am much better prepared to lead in the anxious time approaching our congregation.

An interesting combination of cell biology, Bible stories, and systems dynamics -- used to highlight some of the dysfunction typical of religious communities and prescribe behaviors likely to promote

strong leadership. Those already deeply involved in congregational politics will recognize some of the parishioner types described. Steinke's suggestions for leadership success aren't easy, but they sure seem promising and admirable.

Text for graduate class on church conflict

This book is good value for congregations that may feel like they have lost their way a little. It probes the sort of issues that often lie a little below the surface, and which may be difficult for those trying to see the wood for the trees. The insights that the author offers as to the psychology of congregations discerning their gut reactions from their considered responses was particularly valuable to me. I found the advice helpful, and the case studies very useful. The reason I have not given this book 5 stars is that I felt that the author had more to say, but chose not to, for whatever reason. For example, I think there could have been more case studies, and that these were likely more wide-ranging than the few given. But that is nit-picking, and should not detract from the value that this book does give.

This was a great book that challenged me a great deal to think through my leadership style and tendencies. I am still trying to figure out what it means to be a "self-differentiated" leader, but this book made me do a great deal of evaluation of some of the leadership decisions I have made and help me to understand why sometimes my solutions led to more complicated situations rather than to help untangle them. I would highly recommend this book for anyone in leadership of any type.

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