Understanding Your Congregation as a System: Congregational Systems Inventory

George D. Parsons, Speed B. Leas

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Parsons and Leas have created an important tool for congregational leaders in this application of systems theory to evaluating a congregation's life and readiness for change. Church leaders can explore the forces at work and examine the systemic implications in seven key areas: strategy, process, pastoral and lay leadership, authority, relatedness, and learning.

The *Congregational Systems Inventory* is a survey designed to sample the perspectives of church staff, governing board, and key lay leaders, enabling users to assess where their congregation falls in a continuum between two behavioral extremes for each of the key areas. *The Manual* provides an overview of systems theory, complete instructions for administering and scoring the Congregational Systems Inventory (CSI), and guidance for interpreting and explaining the inventory results using sample scores. Be sure to order *The Manual* along with this valuable resource.

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