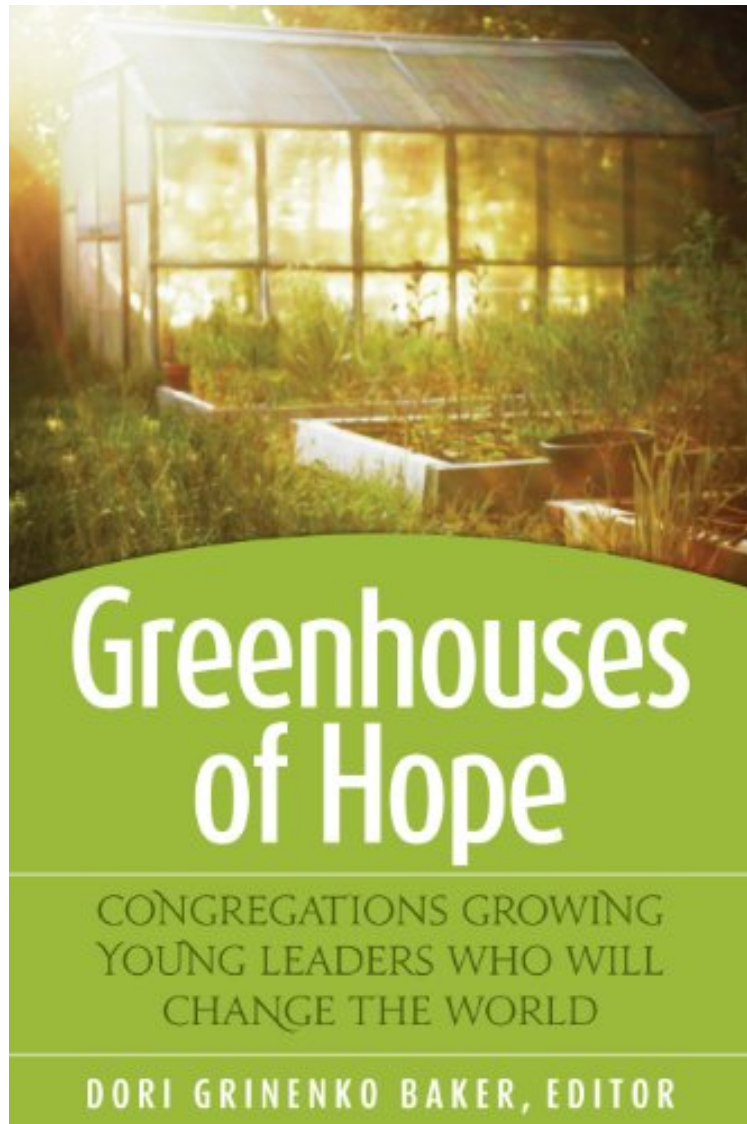


Greenhouses of Hope: Congregations Growing Young Leaders Who Will Change the World

Dori Grinenko Baker

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Dori Grinenko Baker : Greenhouses of Hope: Congregations Growing Young Leaders Who Will Change the World before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Greenhouses of Hope: Congregations Growing Young Leaders Who Will Change the World:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Essays to Ignite Hope in Faith CommunitiesBy thelifemosaicDori Grinenko Baker has cobbled together a selection of essays on Christian congregations that have freed themselves "to

experiment with both newly imagined and time-honored ways of following the path of Jesus," a phenomenon she gives the name "Greenhouses of Hope. (2) Thus, each chapter is an essay from someone in each congregation's community who can write from such an experience and offer insight into how their context came about, what has worked, what hasn't worked, and how others might be inspired to try something similar. In a way, it's a collection of examples of ways to do meaningful ministry, as if each writer offers, "This worked for us and there might be inspiration here for you" and invites the reader to come and see. The faith communities explored here are all very different than the traditional-style Christian congregations I grew up in and readers must be open to learning about contexts and cultures outside of their own. In fact, Chapter 2 describes precisely this situation in "Staying Awake: When God moments echo in community" as as United Methodist Church must reconcile the demographics of persons within its doors with the different demographics of those immediately outside to understand how unity might occur in healthy, powerful ways through ministries such as mission trips (spoiler alert: it totally does!). Persons who are interested in congregations seeking to be LGBT allies may be interested in Chapter 6, "Calling Amid Conflict: What happens to the vocations of youth when congregations fight?" I also found it helpful to review a set of processing questions at the end of each essay to more pointedly reflect on what I just read so I might apply it better to my own context. If a group was reading this book together, I can see how these questions could help spur excellent dialogue. Close readers will be able to get something out of each essay though obviously people will find some essays more appealing than others. I personally connected best with Chapter 3: Mozying, exploring how young persons mentor even younger persons in a Korean Presbyterian Church in a style similar to an older sibling; "mozies" is in fact Korean for older siblings and writer Sinal Chung explores ways to empower young people to give this sort of care a try. (58) The other essay which most appealed to me is about an interfaith congregation in Berkley, California that began (and still maintains) in UCC roots yet embraced "convivencia," a practice of living in a mixed multitude of multi-religions and cultures which enhances everyone's story. (85). This essay has a wonderful piece on what it is to have gifts noticed, named, and nurtured within a faith community that is worth consideration by any paid or volunteer church staff person. (91-92) Finally, the sixteen page bibliography at the end of the collection will help you get lost in a world of excellent cited sources for more reading. Thank you for reading. thelifemosaic

Do you know a church where young people regularly shape the liturgy with words that speak their truth in ways that also inspire their elders? Do you hear about congregations that reach out in quirky new ways to their ailing neighborhoods, instead of locking doors and shipping out to a suburb? Do you find churches creating hospitable space that invites the live wriggling questions and doubts of young people in unhurried, unworried ways? Do you see congregations where young people's gifts are not stored in the basement or bracketed into 'contemporary' worship services but are brought forth and celebrated? The authors who collaborated on this book launched a quest for such vibrant, life-giving, greening congregations and observed the diverse practices that grow there. They named these churches 'Greenhouses of Hope.' A Greenhouse of Hope is a Christian congregation freeing itself to experiment with both newly imagined and time-honored ways of following the path of Jesus. Its members respond to God's love through practices that genuinely embrace the gifts of youth and young adults. Out of these greenhouses emerge young leaders who want to change the world. In Greenhouses of Hope, Dori Baker and six contributors tell the stories of these remarkable congregations, helping others think about how they can create space for the dreams of young people to be grafted into God's dreams for the world.

This collection of essays by young church folk is a primer on how to recover the vitality and fidelity of the church. These writers are deeply grounded in gospel hope, passionate about gospel inclusiveness, and convinced of a people-to-people gospel ministry. The 'bottom up' perspective of this book is one to which attention must be paid. --Walter Brueggemann, Columba Theological Seminary This timely, vital and well-written book shatters two destructive myths: that the current generation of young adults lacks moorings, purpose and passion; and that mainline churches are doomed because of their failure to connect with the young. Read a few chapters, and you will feel a new sense of hope for the church and the world. Read the whole book and you will have a set of well-tested 'greenhouse' approaches to growing young adults who can help all of us flourish in this struggling world. --Parker J. Palmer, author of Let your Life Speak, A Hidden Wholeness, and The Courage to Teach Where better for the church to find a fresh imagination for ministry than to stop, look, and listen to the words and lives of young people? And where better for young people in an age of isolation and disconnect to find a coherent life than in a worshipping, serving congregation? The authors invite us here into the language and practices of diverse congregations across the United States in which young people have a place to find themselves and their vocations, and having given us a sense of what it's like to be a young person in this congregation, provoke us to discover possibilities in our own. --Thomas E. Frank, Wake Forest University About the Author Dori Baker joined The Fund for Theological Education as scholar-in-residence to the Calling Congregations in 2008 after a decade of teaching practical theology at various seminaries. Dori is the author of Doing Girlfriend Theology: God-Talk with Young Women and the forthcoming Kick Off Your Flip-Flops: A Barefoot Guide to Awakening Our Purpose and co-author of Lives to Offer: Accompanying Youth on the Quest for Vocation.

Dori is an ordained United Methodist elder who served congregations before receiving her PhD in religious and theological studies from Northwestern University