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Connections



Relationships
That Sustain
Vital Ministry

Judith Schwanz

Blessed Connections Relationships that Sustain Vital Ministry

By Judith Schwanz

No pastor sets out to fail, but statistics say 15 to 20 percent of pastors leave pastoral ministry within the first five years. One seminary administrator said that every person he had heard of leaving the ministry had done so because of a relationship failure. We cannot escape relationships in ministry, yet few seminaries offer courses in how to build healthy relationships. The assumption is that the type of person who is called to ministry will have all the “people skills” they need, which sadly is not always true.

In *Blessed Connections*, seminary professor Judith Schwanz focuses on the person of the minister and the relational system of the minister’s life. She spotlights three areas of connection—relationship with self, relationships with other people, and relationship with God. Attending to these three primary connections will strengthen the pastor and cushion her or him against the pressures and stresses of daily ministry. *Blessed Connections* is ideal for seminary students and new pastors and includes “Assessment Journal” questions at the end of each chapter for personal application.

Size: 6" x 9"

200 pp.

AL346

Paperback: \$17.00

ISBN 978-1-56699-356-2

ABOUT the AUTHOR

Judith Schwanz is Professor of Pastoral Care and Counseling at Nazarene Theological Seminary in Kansas City, Missouri. She holds a Ph.D. from Portland State University as well as degrees from Northwestern University and Western Evangelical Seminary. She is a Certified Administrator of the Myers-Briggs Type Indicator and has served in both the local parish and a private counseling practice.

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