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Park's "Develop intercultural competence: How to lead cross-racial and cross-cultural churches" (book review)

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Book Reviews



Park, H. R. Y. (2018). *Develop intercultural competence: How to lead cross-racial and cross-cultural churches*. USA: General Board of Higher Education and Ministry, the United Methodist Church. 181 pp. \$16.99. ISBN 9781945935336

Park is a member of the United Methodist Church's (UMC) General Board of Higher Education and Ministry (GBHEM) and wrote this book under its auspices as its first published aid to UMC pastors and church leaders seeking to be a cross-racial and cross-cultural (CR-CC) local church in its leadership or its active attendees. This footnoted work cites many UMC documents and uses many UMC terms, but defines them well, and does include surveys and non-UMC publications so that this introductory book is useful to non-UMC people and churches too. Most of the chapters end with discussion questions, which aid this book in achieving its objective of creating dialog furthering the number of CR-CC churches. Park's mix of survey results and stories from others allow this work to both introduce CR-CC ministry and apply this work to create a CR-CC church, while the writing style makes it engaging to all post-secondary readers. The lack of a bibliography limits its usefulness in research-oriented classes.

Park covers many aspects of ministry, starting with the foundation of the modern context for CR-CC ministry in Protestant Christianity in general and UMC specifically. Next, using empirical research, Park describes what styles of leadership are effective in CR-CC situations. Using the foundation of what works, the work moves into how to be a leader and how to build a CR-CC faith community that is representative of its greater community. The longest chapter, almost a third of the book, covers CR-CC preaching and worship. It includes both sample sermons and a sermon preparation schedule, and discussion questions so that the samples promote higher-level learning and application. The final chapter consists of reflections from five CR-CC clergy, further aiding this work in applying the research presented in the earlier chapters. The short conclusion (three pages) gives four thought and action points, aimed at taking the lessons of this book into a local congregation or personal plan.

Park's repeated calls to application and lists of application questions help the work achieve its thesis of preparing local churches to grow with CR-CC clergy and congregants. The work is adequately cited for its intended audience of church clergy and lay leaders. It is recommended for general collections, especially for those of UMC or other Wesleyen-heritage institutions.

Reviewer

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