

Spiritual Formation Resource Team Annotated Resource List

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Author	Title	Description	Type	Recommended by
Birch, Bruce, C. (Abingdon Press, 1992)	<i>To Love as We Are Loved: The Bible and Relationships</i>	Now out of print, this book articulates the radical freedom and, therefore, deep grace, of God's love. Spiritual formation is always about relationships: with God, with self, with others, with the world.	Book	Barbara Dick
Block, Peter (Berrett-Koehler, 1993)	<i>Stewardship: Choosing Service Over Self-Interest</i>	In this secular resource, Peter Block captures the biblical meaning of faithful stewardship in fresh ways. Block offers several definitions of stewardship that have to do with equitable distribution of power, including this one: Stewardship is "the exercise of accountability as an act of service" (p. 28). This book reminds us that spiritual formation involves the entire community.	Book	Barbara Dick
Block, Peter (Berrett-Koehler, 2008)	<i>Community: The Structure of Belonging</i>	As in his book, <i>Stewardship</i> , Peter Block reclaims a biblical concept through a business lens. When <i>how</i> we gather becomes as important as <i>why</i> we gather, our identity as community is transformed. Problems become possibilities; focus shifts from fear and fault to generosity, gifts, and abundance; accountability is a choice of freedom rather than a punitive obligation.	Book	Barbara Dick
Brown, Patricia D. (Jossey Bass, 2003)	<i>Paths to Prayer: Finding Your Own Way to the Presence of God</i>	Discover Your Prayer Type and Explore 40 Ways to Pray from 2000 Years of Christian Tradition. Each prayer type explained in detail: how, why and what as well as the author's reflections and questions for reflection.	Book	Karen Bankes
Buechner, Frederick (HarperCollins, 1991)	<i>The Sacred Journey; Then and Now; and Telling Secrets</i>	Buechner's autobiographical trilogy is spiritual guidance from the hands of an excellent story teller and words craftsman. He speaks from his heart and leads the reader into her/his heart.	Book	Thad Rutter, Barbara Dick
Cockburn, Bruce	<i>The music of Bruce Cockburn</i>	The decades of music from this Canadian singer-songwriter are always intelligent and insightful, and often challenge our comfort in regard to social justice.	Music	Barbara Dick
de Chardin, Teilhard (Harper & Row, 1960)	<i>The Divine Milieu</i>	What part of the world did God not create? Scientist and priest Teilhard de Chardin invites us into his exploration of the universal and divine in the microscopic. "It is no longer the atom which lives, but the universe within it" p. 73.	Book	Barbara Dick

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de Mello, Anthony, S. J. (Doubleday, 1988)	<i>Taking Flight</i>	More deceptively simple stories, anecdotes, and parables from a variety of traditions. Loosely grouped around prayer, awareness, grace, and love. May be read as simple diversion, but look out! Something may sneak up on you and stay around for a long time.	Book	Nancy Hood
Edwards, Tilden (Paulist Press, 2010)	<i>Embracing the Call to Spiritual Depth: Gifts for Contemplative Living</i>	This book is more for people who have walked a few miles on the spiritual path. I found reading the book was a contemplative experience for me. I think it is an important book.	Book	Thad Rutter
Foster, Richard J. (Harper & Row, 1971)	<i>Freedom of Simplicity</i>	A follow-up to the well-known <i>Celebration of Discipline</i> , this book explores in depth the single discipline of <i>simplicity</i> . This is not the romanticized, “back to the earth” idea, but seeking first the stillness in which we may hear God speak.	Book	Barbara Dick
Griffin, Emilie (Harper San Francisco, 1997)	<i>Wilderness Time, A Guide for Spiritual Retreat</i>	Chapter three on the “Inward Retreat,” was helpful for me in “being” in God’s presence and not just “doing.	Book	Wendell Williams
Harper, Steve (Upper Room, 1995)	<i>Devotional Life in the Wesleyan Tradition</i>	A workbook on John Wesley’s devotional practices: prayer, Bible study, worship, Lord’s supper, fasting, Christian conferencing.	Book	Connie Ziegler
Haruf, Kent (Alfred A. Knopf, 1999)	<i>Plainsong</i>	This novel about the lives of a community of small-town and farming folk offers some of the best examples of spiritual maturity I have seen outside of Acts 2. It reminds me that deep relationships, hewn and tested over time, are the true building blocks of spiritual formation.	Book	Barbara Dick
Hays, Edward (Forest of Peace Books, 1986)	<i>St. George and the Dragon, and the Quest for the Holy Grail</i>	Here is parable at its best. It is the diary of a 20th century man who retires to a hermitage in the family garage and meets a Chinese dragon and storyteller named Igor. The book is light, but ponderable reading for anyone who might consider a quest and would like to consider themselves “Sent” (Saint).	Book	Nancy Hood
Hays, Edward (Forest of Peace Books, 1989)	<i>Prayers for a Planetary Pilgrim</i>	A book of prayers for the journey. Includes morning and evening prayers for the seasons, as well as psalms for the seasons, personal seasons, and solidarity with usually invisible people; a survival manual for those the author calls “cosmic amphibians.”	Book	Nancy Hood

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Job, Rueben P. (Abingdon Press, 2009)	<i>When You Pray: Daily Practices for Prayerful Living</i>	It is designed to give us a weekly structure to our prayer life and who seek to be faithful followers of Jesus Christ. The book seeks to provide a guide to prayer that follows the pattern that Jesus taught.	Book	Tom Lindahl, Thad Rutter
Job, Rueben, and Shawchuck, Norman (Upper Room Books, 1983; 1994; 2006)	<i>A Guide to Prayer for Ministers and Other Servants (VI); A Guide to Prayer for All God's People (VII); A Guide to Prayer for All Who Seek God (III)</i>	Thad: This prayer book series has been a lifeline to me. Each contains an order of prayers, a daily Scripture reading and rich spiritual writings. I feel volume VI was what drew me into a life of prayer and learning to read the Bible spiritually. Karen: I enjoy the daily <i>lecto divina</i> format. The guide for ministers and other servants also includes monthly retreat formats.	Book	Thad Rutter, Karen Bankes
Lewis, C.S. (MacMillan, 1946)	<i>The Great Divorce</i>	Of all of Lewis's accessible books on the life of faith, including <i>Mere Christianity</i> and <i>The Screwtape Letters</i> , this fable about the outcomes of our choices comes to mind whenever I begin to wrestle with concepts of reward and punishment. We do not accomplish our salvation, but we participate in it.	Book	Barbara Dick
Lindahl, Kay (1st Skylight Paths, 2004, 3rd printing)	<i>Sacred Art of Listening: Forty Reflections for Cultivating a Spiritual Practice</i>	There are 40 short writings on the art of listening; also includes drawings of various mandellas. Most of us do not listen to others because we spend too much time thinking about how we will respond!	Book	Connie Ziegler
Loder, Ted (Augsburg, 1985, rereleased in 2005)	<i>Guerillas of Grace</i>	Prayers for those who sometimes feel themselves doing battle with established powers and repressive institutions, both "out there" and "within." The "guerrillas" are people attempting to live out their lives in free and more joyful ways. It is a breath of fresh air.	Book	Nancy Hood
McNeal, Reggie (Jossey-Bass, 2003)	<i>The Present Future: Six Tough Questions for the Church</i>	This book does a very good job of challenging all of us to take a look at our church life and what it is saying about our Christianity. This book causes one to look at the things we feel are so important and then realize it may not speak at all to those who have no history in the church. It will shake up one's thinking of what we believe the church is and should be in the world we live in today.	Book	Tom Lindahl
Miller, Herb (Abingdon Press, 1994)	<i>Connecting with God</i>	I love the section on worship. I love the chapter on the worship team providing a space for those who come to meet with God. What does that look like? Are we meeting people where they are at?	Book	Wendell Williams

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Morton, Nelle (Beacon Press, 1985)	<i>The Journey Is Home</i>	A collection of essays and other writings from a pioneer in feminist theology. The concept that has stayed with me is “hearing to speech,” offering space for story to emerge in what we often interpret as awkward silence.	Book	Barbara Dick
Norris, Kathleen (Paulist Press, 1998)	<i>The Quotidian Mysteries: Laundry, Liturgy, and “Women’s Work”</i>	This is a tiny jewel of a book (89 pages), helps us see the sacred in the world of the mundane.	Book	Barbara Dick
Nouwen, Henri J.M. (Image/Doubleday, 1979)	<i>The Wounded Healer</i>	Nouwen calls us to bring our frail and vulnerable humanity to the life of ministry. That requires that we first acknowledge our own woundedness.	Book	Barbara Dick
Packer, J. I. (InterVarsity Press, 1975/1993)	<i>Knowing God: Study Guide</i>	This book can be purchased with a study guide. The book does a good job of referencing the Bible and helping build a better understanding of the God whose world we live in. It does make one think and builds a greater understanding of the God we believe in and worship. It will deepen ones faith.		Tom Lindahl
Peacock, Larry James (Upper Room, 2003)	<i>Openings: A Daybook of Saints, Psalms, and Prayer</i>	Each day lifts up a saint, spiritual leader, theologian or martyr, a psalm reading, a thought to ponder, and a prayer/practice. The prayer/practice includes practicing various forms of prayer, developing a rule of life as well as development of other spiritual disciplines.	Book	Karen Bankes
Ruiz, Don Miguel (Amber-Allen, 1997)	<i>The Four Agreements</i>	Drawing from Toltec wisdom traditions, this book offers a simple and profound guide for living with integrity: Be Impeccable with Your Word, Don’t Take Anything Personally, Don’t Make Assumptions, Always Do Your Best.	Book	Barbara Dick
Stair, Jean (Fortress Press, 2000)	<i>Listening For the Soul</i>	I especially liked the section on “practicing soul inquiry: Basic life questions.” Not only did it make me think but helps guide spiritual discussions so that we may hear beyond the words.	Book	Wendell Williams
Thompson, Marjorie (Westminster-John Knox, 1995)	<i>Soul Feast</i>	It is an excellent introduction to the Christian Spiritual Life with wonderful spiritual wisdom and important spiritual practices	Book	Thad Rutter

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Wiederkuhr, Macrine (Harper Collins, 1988)	<i>A Tree Full of Angels</i>	Macrina, as her readers come to know her, writes vividly of her encounters with God and of God's impact on her life. Ever gentle and nurturing, this little-great-one writes about baptism, about frailty and lostness, about vulnerability—and in it all is the living God who reminds us of our splendor.	Book	Nancy Hood
Williamsen, Thomas P. (Alban Institute, 1997)	<i>Attending Parishioners' Spiritual Growth</i>	Covers four areas: Theological reflections, Fostering spiritual growth, Spiritual leadership, and the gift of spiritual life. This book contains a good section on how to do spiritual retreats.	Book	Wendell Williams