



# Big Lessons from Little Places: Faithfulness and the Future in Small Congregations

*Kay Collier McLaughlin*

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- Highlights the ministry of the small congregation, a category into which 68% of Episcopal congregations fall
- Follows up on the author's *Becoming the Transformative Church* and continues the conversation about church re-structuring
- Reflection/Study Guide questions included

Churchwide discussions on structure and growth tend to focus on the importance of increasing “butts in the pews and bucks in the plates.” Suggestions have been made on merging smaller dioceses to create larger ones and closing the doors of congregations which do not have Sunday attendance of at least 200. This is a model of scarcity without consideration of the value and abundance to be found in small churches.

Discover the roles, possibilities, promise, and potential of being a small church! Travel with Kay Collier McLaughlin as she takes the back roads and byways of the United States, visiting small churches that are making a difference in their community. Each chapter tells a story about an example of faithfulness in the life of a small congregation and relates that story to the essentials of faithful living and being church. The book challenges the decision-makers in the Episcopal Church to think beyond traditional measures and short-term economic fixes to discover the life-giving opportunities and models presented by the smallest congregations.

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