

# Synod Resource Center

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Margie Back, Acting Director

## **Welcome to Catherine Slabaugh,**

### **New SPS Communications and Connections Coordinator**

The Synod Resource Center has had three wonderful events in this summer season and we thank all who have joined us virtually for this enriching time together. As we welcome Bishop Megan Rohrer to the Sierra Pacific Synod staff, we are also delighted to welcome the other new staff to the Synod office. Catherine Slabaugh, our Synod's new Communications and Connections Coordinator, will be working directly with the Synod Resource Center as she connects individuals and congregations from across the Synod. Thus, the Synod Resource Center will be putting a pause on programs for the month of August as we re-imagine who we are and what we plan to offer to the Synod. We'll be engaging in conversations around our mission statement, target audience, and how we can best engage with people across the Synod and use the gifts of those people in the programs we host. We look forward to sharing our plan for the upcoming months with you all in September and ask for your prayers during this time of discernment.

**We found this timely and interesting-sounding Webinar on a couple synod websites.** The first session was this past Monday. They closed the registration at 500 people. But now they have re-opened registration and you are invited to jump in — register quickly if interested!

**Hybrid Church Webinar Series:** Forced to scramble to go online in just a few weeks during the COVID pandemic, the church has discovered the online world is far more than a replacement for the yellow pages. It is a place where genuine community and real ministry happens. These sessions will be an overview of several areas of congregational ministry and reflect on how to begin to move every aspect of church life to a dual platform – on-the-ground and online. This “hybrid” kind of ministry will be the new norm for the next season in most congregations' work. You will begin to reframe your thinking on a particular aspect of congregational ministry. Becoming a hybrid church is one path forward to both strengthen the church and reach new people with the gospel in bold, creative new ways. Congregations (**Rostered and Lay Leaders**) are invited to this 5-week **FREE** series on Monday evenings beginning July 26th at 7 p.m. (CDT) You will hear from Dave Daubert, Deacon Kenny Champagne, and John Roberto. The topics are:

July 26th *Introducing the Hybrid Church (completed)*..... **August 2nd** Designing Hybrid Faith Formation in the post-Pandemic World.....**August 9th** Hybrid Worship: how on-the-ground and online worship connect ..... **August 15th** Engaging People Online: it takes more than being there .....**August 23rd** Technology Options for the Hybrid Church.

Click to: **REGISTER**

**From Pastor Dave Mullen**

This Seattle area video features reflection by a white police chief and a black pastor on the conversations they have had in an effort to reach some understanding of their different lives and roles. It is a discussion between Edgewood resident Aundre Washington and Edgewood Chief of Police Micah Lundborg, moderated by Edgewood resident Jiquanda Nelson. The subject is building relationships through tough conversations, willingness to listen, and eagerness to understand. Police Chief Micah Lundborg is the son of a Lutheran pastor that Pr. Mullen is friends with. (The beginning of it has some technical struggles, but be a bit patient: it soon becomes the rather honest dialog and reflections of the two who courageously said Yes to actually getting to know and love each other over time.)

Here is the blurb that goes with the video.

[Mountain View Community Center - Edgewood WA](#)

Here is the link to the video: <https://youtu.be/VhQyr-zmi-k>

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**More new books at the RC: Email [resourcecenter@spselca.org](mailto:resourcecenter@spselca.org) to check one out.**

**“Without Flesh”** (Why the church is Dying Even Though Jesus is Still Alive) - Jonathan Fisk  
“Have times really changed? Is the Church actually dying? Is the only real difference a matter of our perspective? Is the only real change the fact that we have convinced ourselves that times have changed?”

**“Being the Church in a Post-Pandemic World”** - Kay Koten  
“Opportunity is born out of crisis. The global pandemic has been horrific. The church was catapulted into the digital age. We learned it is possible to engage people in online ministry who might never become involved in on-site ministry.”

**“Managing Congregations in a Virtual Age”** - John Wimberly Jr.  
“This book draws on the experience of the business community, and on a diverse group of skilled pastors and rabbis, as the author lays out the opportunities and challenges ... offering principles and best practices for remote ministries...”

**“Growing the Post-Pandemic Church”** - Bob Whitesel  
“The author looks at 12 radical changes coming to the American church and suggests now is the time to rethink how we do church.”

**“The Post Quarantine Church”** - Thom Rainer  
“From thousands of surveys of church leaders, Rainer and his team have gathered wisdom to face the challenges and opportunities that the quarantine crisis creates for the local church: new ways to lead the gathered church, an open door for growing the digital church, a moment to re-think facilities, strategies for growth...”

**“Faith-Based Organizing”** - Charles Fredrickson  
“...a congregational planning resource for addressing poverty, this book was prepared specifically for pastors and lay leaders who want to engage their congregation in addressing poverty and its root causes. A practical resource meant to motivate action.”

**“The Church Cracked Open”** by Stephanie Spellers  
“It is not surprising that a global pandemic and once-in-a-generation reckoning with white supremacy — on top of decades of systemic decline — have spurred Christians everywhere to ask who we are, why God has placed us here, and what difference that makes to the world.”