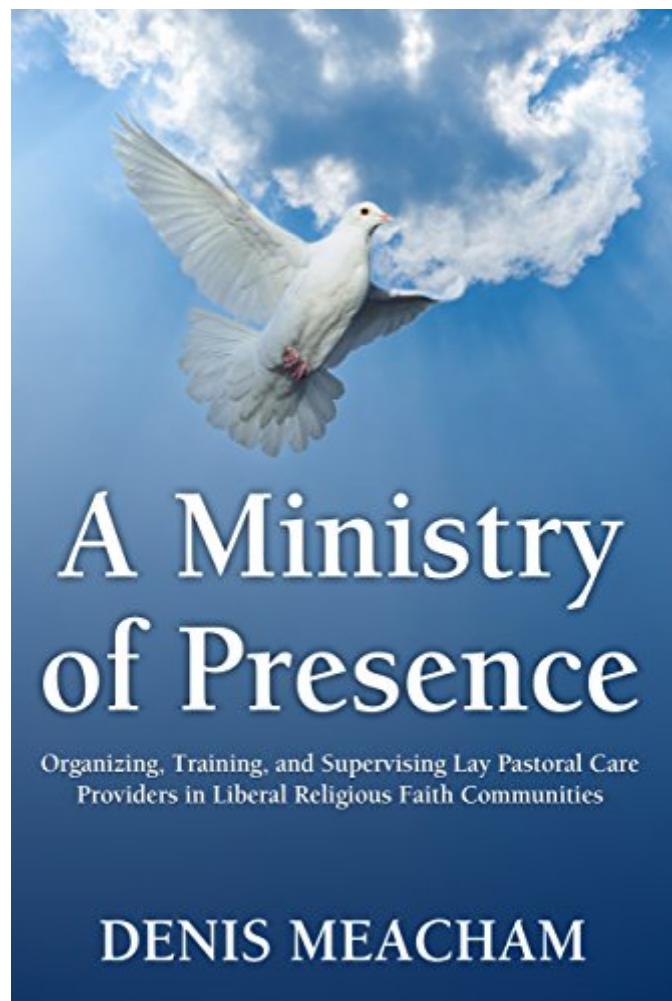


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# A Ministry Of Presence



## **Synopsis**

This book is a guide for selecting, training, and supervising lay pastoral care providers in churches and other faith communities. It was written primarily for liberal religious faith communities.

## **Book Information**

File Size: 516 KB

Print Length: 100 pages

Simultaneous Device Usage: Unlimited

Publisher: eBookIt.com (October 3, 2014)

Publication Date: October 3, 2014

Sold by: Digital Services LLC

Language: English

ASIN: B00O6APP50

Text-to-Speech: Enabled

X-Ray: Not Enabled

Word Wise: Enabled

Lending: Not Enabled

Screen Reader: Supported

Enhanced Typesetting: Enabled

Best Sellers Rank: #680,344 Paid in Kindle Store (See Top 100 Paid in Kindle Store) #57

in Kindle Store > Kindle eBooks > Religion & Spirituality > Other Religions, Practices & Sacred Texts > Unitarian Universalism #127 in Books > Religion & Spirituality > Other Religions, Practices & Sacred Texts > Unitarian Universalism #1453 in Kindle Store > Kindle Short Reads > Two hours or more (65-100 pages) > Education & Reference

## **Customer Reviews**

Rev. Dr. Denis Meacham wrote this book because he realized an important aspect of congregational life could not be adequately met by a lone parish minister. He says "a well-organized, trained and supervised cadre of lay ministers can ensure that no member of a congregation of any size ever falls through the cracks." This book lays out the motivation and characteristics of such a program in a very well-reasoned and thorough way. It covers the important characteristics to look for when choosing lay ministers for this assignment: the competencies of active listening, awareness of the presence of the sacred, and assessment. The overall management of the program within a congregation and how the lay care givers are

trained and supervised presents a very rigorous and theologically sound model. The supervision model he espouses is similar to that received by ministers-in-training in clinical pastoral education programs, and might be a stretch to implement in some congregations. He continually circles back to a simple truth that is one of the book's main premises: the most fundamental gift of lay ministry is presence - compassionate, nonjudgmental presence. It is as important to the lay minister as it is to the person being cared for. If congregations were to implement such a program, I believe it would be much less likely that anyone in the congregation would ÄfÄcÄ à ¬Ä Å“fall through the cracks.ÄfÄcÄ à ¬Ä Å• We are much indebted to the author for producing this program and documenting it so well in this book.

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