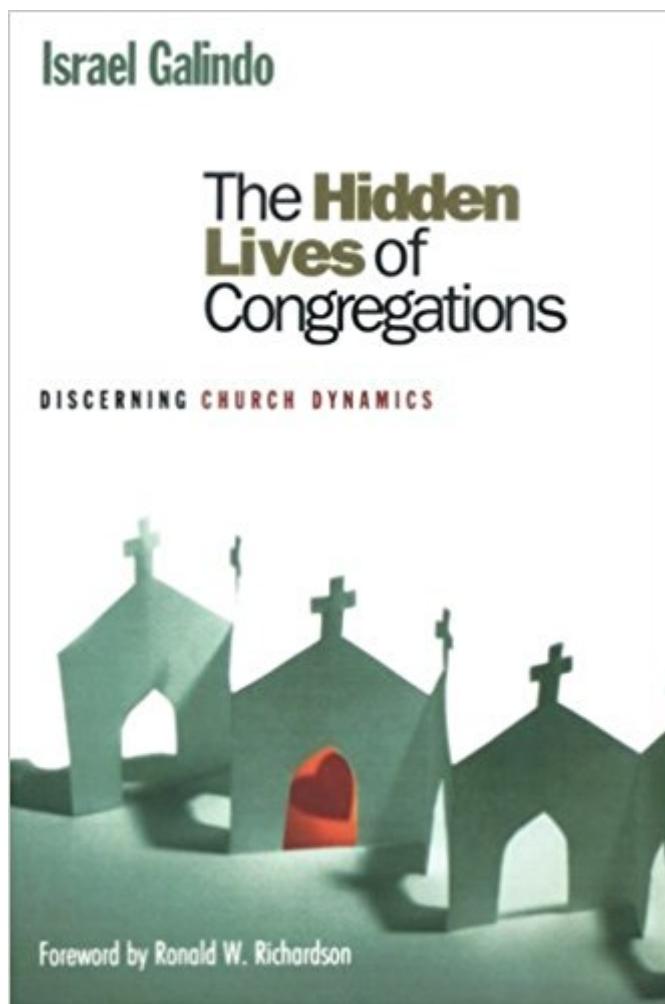


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# The Hidden Lives Of Congregations: Discerning Church Dynamics



## Synopsis

Faced with crisis, lack of direction, or just plain "stuckness," many congregations and their leaders are content to deal only with surface issues and symptoms—only to discover that the same problems keep recurring, often in different, and more serious, ways. In *The Hidden Lives of Congregations*, Christian educator and consultant Israel Galindo takes leaders below the surface of congregational life to provide a comprehensive, holistic look at the corporate nature of church relationships and the invisible dynamics at play. Informed by family systems theory and grounded in a wide-ranging ecclesiological understanding, Galindo unpacks clearly the factors of congregational lifespan, size, spirituality, and identity and shows how these work together to form the congregation's hidden life. He provides useful tools for diagnosing and understanding how one's congregation fits into the various categories he names and suggests what leadership skills are necessary to get beyond the impasse of surface issues and help the congregation achieve its mission. *The Hidden Lives of Congregations* provides one of the most far-reaching looks into the invisible nature of faith communities written in recent years. For seminaries and divinity schools, it provides a standard text for getting a solid start in congregational practices; for experienced pastors, it provides support for renewing ministry; for lay leaders and committees, it offers insight to deepening mutual ministry. Israel Galindo has written an indispensable manual that leaders will return to repeatedly for new wisdom and guidance

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

"Israel Galindo offers a resource to clergy and lay leaders that is both practical and theological, based on his wide experience as a leader and teacher of leaders." -- Margaret J. Marcuson

Israel Galindo is Associate Dean at Columbia Theological Seminary. Formerly he was Dean at the Baptist Theological Seminary at Richmond, VA. Galindo serves on the Advisory Committee of the Wabash Center for Teaching and Learning in Theology and Religion and is available as consultant through the Center in the areas of curriculum development and assessment, leadership, and teaching and learning in theological education.

Congregational conflict can be overcome through finding ways of dealing with the hidden agendas. Book is recommended to help the religious to deal with conflicts and find the underlying causes that no one wants to talk about.

I fond this to be so insightful when serving a congregation that had unusually strong sets of issues under the surface.

A must read for any minister who is human, fallible, and really wants to please God!

This is good read. Easy to understand. Recommend this to all students who are in a region class. Price good. Turn around great. is the best place to get requied books when not avaiable in college book stores.

Great book. Clear and insightful. Helpful to pastors in understanding what members need at certain stages of church growth. Members are not being "unchristian" but have high anxiety and are not having their needs met.

A good book that looks at many dimensions of Congregational life. It works well when used with other books for comparison.

After 20 years in pastoral ministry, preparing for retirement, I wish I were back in seminary, with Galindo's book. He has given me a hugely helpful way to understand what goes on in churches. I'm buying a copy for my district superintendent, and my friend who's just starting seminary. I do have a question: if a pastor canot "cast a vision" for a church until she's been there five years, how does

that work for us United Methodists and our brief-tenure itinerant system? And I wish Galindo had used a few more examples, real-people illustrations of his observations. Other than that, I'm unequivocally enthusiastic - and I do plan to start over, reading the book again!

Helpful look at congregational dynamics

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