



Gentle Shepherding: Pastoral Ethics and Leadership

By Joseph E. Bush Jr.



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Named "One of the Top Ten Books for Parish Clergy" for the year 2006 by the Academy of Parish Clergy! Gentle Shepherding offers a rare balance in an introduction to pastoral ethics, one that identifies deeply with the pastoral vocation and brings it into conversation with a developed body of ethical theory. The goal of the book is to equip seminarians and pastors with conceptual resources for clarifying moral responsibility in the practice of ministry. This responsibility includes three levels: the minister as a moral agent in offering care; the minister as a moral enabler in encouraging virtue in others; and the minister as a moral leader in facilitating congregational life and witness in society. Helping ministers and seminarians to think anew about their responsibilities and the moral quandaries in pastoral practice, Gentle Shepherding integrates theory with practice, providing case material for further reflection and discussion and at least one case study or exercise associated with each chapter.

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Gentle Shepherding: Pastoral Ethics and Leadership By Joseph E. Bush Jr. Bibliography

- Sales Rank: #518458 in Books
- Published on: 2006-11-01
- Original language: English
- Number of items: 1
- Dimensions: 9.00" h x .50" w x 6.00" l, .60 pounds
- Binding: Paperback
- 224 pages

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Editorial Review

Review

"A comprehensive and illuminating account of professional ethics for practicing ministers,

From the Back Cover

"A comprehensive and illuminating account of professional ethics for practicing ministers. *Gentle Shepherding* creatively combines insights from scholarly studies of professional ethics with practical wisdom gained from concrete experiences in pastoral ministry. A valuable resource for pastors and for seminary students preparing for ordination."

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"*Gentle Shepherding* tackles a critical topic in an era when entrepreneurial ministries increasingly dominate the imagination of American Protestant clergy. In this timely and pertinent study Bush probes challenging ethical issues in the professional lives and work of contemporary clergy and provides thoughtful guidance to clergy practice through a thoughtful examination of relevant ethical theories, lively case, studies and diverse cultural perspectives."

--Charles R. Foster, The Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching

About the Author

Joseph Bush Jr. has taught ecumenically and internationally in the subjects of pastoral ministry, ethics, church leadership, and practical theology. He was Head of the Department of Church Ministries at the ecumenical Pacific Theological College in the Republic of Fiji. At the Presbyterian School of Ministry in New Zealand, he taught in the area of "The Ministry of the Whole People of God in Church and Society." In Minnesota, at United Theological College of the Twin Cities, he has taught in the area of "Life and Leadership of the Congregation." Currently, he is Director of the Practice in Ministry and Mission Program at Wesley Theological Seminary in Washington, DC. Ordained in the United Methodist Church, Joseph Bush has served congregations in New Jersey, Fiji and New Zealand. His book with Chalice Press, *Gentle Shepherding*, was named one of the top ten for the year of 2006 by the Academy of Parish Clergy.

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