



CENTER *for*
CONGREGATIONAL
RESOURCES
AT SAMFORD UNIVERSITY

HELPING CHART A COURSE TO THRIVING MINISTRY

Our long-time
pastor is
How do we get
ready for this
transition?

RETIRING.

**We have an
"ELEPHANT IN THE ROOM"
situation that's dividing our
church. Can you recommend
someone to help us work
through this?**



I HAVE NEVER TAKEN A
sabbatical
leave.

WHAT DO I NEED TO DO
TO MAKE BEST USE OF
THIS TIME?

My denomination
doesn't offer
continuing education
designed for
*female
pastors*
like me.
Can you help?

A silhouette of a hiker with a backpack stands on the edge of a cliff, looking through binoculars. The background is a vibrant sunset sky with warm orange and yellow tones and scattered clouds. The text is centered in the right half of the image.

**YOU HAVE
QUESTIONS...
WE'RE HERE
TO HELP.**

Our longtime pastor is retiring. How do we get ready for this transition?

We provide trained strategists to work with congregational leaders before, during and following transitions, and help churches choose the path of *response* rather than *reaction*.

We have an elephant-in-the-room situation that's dividing our church. Can you recommend someone to help us work through this?

Several of our team members have direct experience working with churches and clergy facing conflict situations. When an expert is needed, we refer congregational leaders to consultants and agencies with proven experience helping deal with congregational conflict.


I have never taken a sabbatical. What do I need to do to make best use of this time?

Congregations and clergy benefit from periodic sabbaticals for their ministers. We help clergy design sabbatical plans that allow them to take full advantage of their time for renewal. We offer grants to help make these experiences possible.

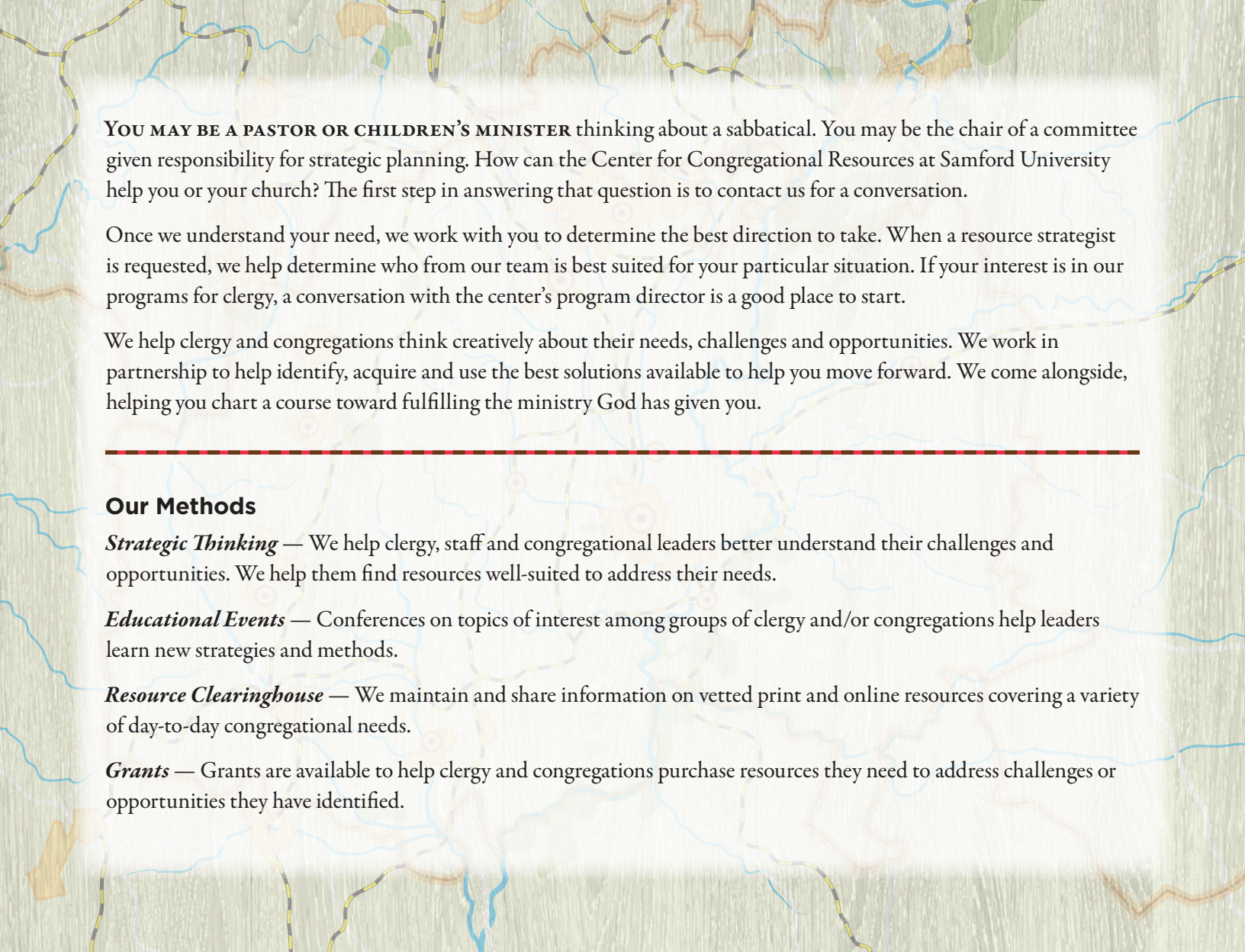
My denomination doesn't offer continuing education designed for female pastors like me. Can you help?

Female senior and solo pastors typically have few opportunities to interact with other female pastors. We offer special events just for them.

As you look around your congregation, you know there are fewer ready answers or easy solutions to the kinds of opportunities and challenges faith communities and their leaders face. How do you find the kind of help you need to discover and respond to your opportunities? To your challenges? Where can you turn for help as you pursue mission and ministry that *thrive*, not just survive?



**WE HELP
YOU CHART
A COURSE
TO THRIVING
MINISTRY.**

The background of the page is a stylized map with various colored lines representing roads and rivers. The colors include yellow, blue, brown, and green. The map is overlaid on a light beige background.

YOU MAY BE A PASTOR OR CHILDREN'S MINISTER thinking about a sabbatical. You may be the chair of a committee given responsibility for strategic planning. How can the Center for Congregational Resources at Samford University help you or your church? The first step in answering that question is to contact us for a conversation.

Once we understand your need, we work with you to determine the best direction to take. When a resource strategist is requested, we help determine who from our team is best suited for your particular situation. If your interest is in our programs for clergy, a conversation with the center's program director is a good place to start.

We help clergy and congregations think creatively about their needs, challenges and opportunities. We work in partnership to help identify, acquire and use the best solutions available to help you move forward. We come alongside, helping you chart a course toward fulfilling the ministry God has given you.

Our Methods

Strategic Thinking — We help clergy, staff and congregational leaders better understand their challenges and opportunities. We help them find resources well-suited to address their needs.

Educational Events — Conferences on topics of interest among groups of clergy and/or congregations help leaders learn new strategies and methods.

Resource Clearinghouse — We maintain and share information on vetted print and online resources covering a variety of day-to-day congregational needs.

Grants — Grants are available to help clergy and congregations purchase resources they need to address challenges or opportunities they have identified.



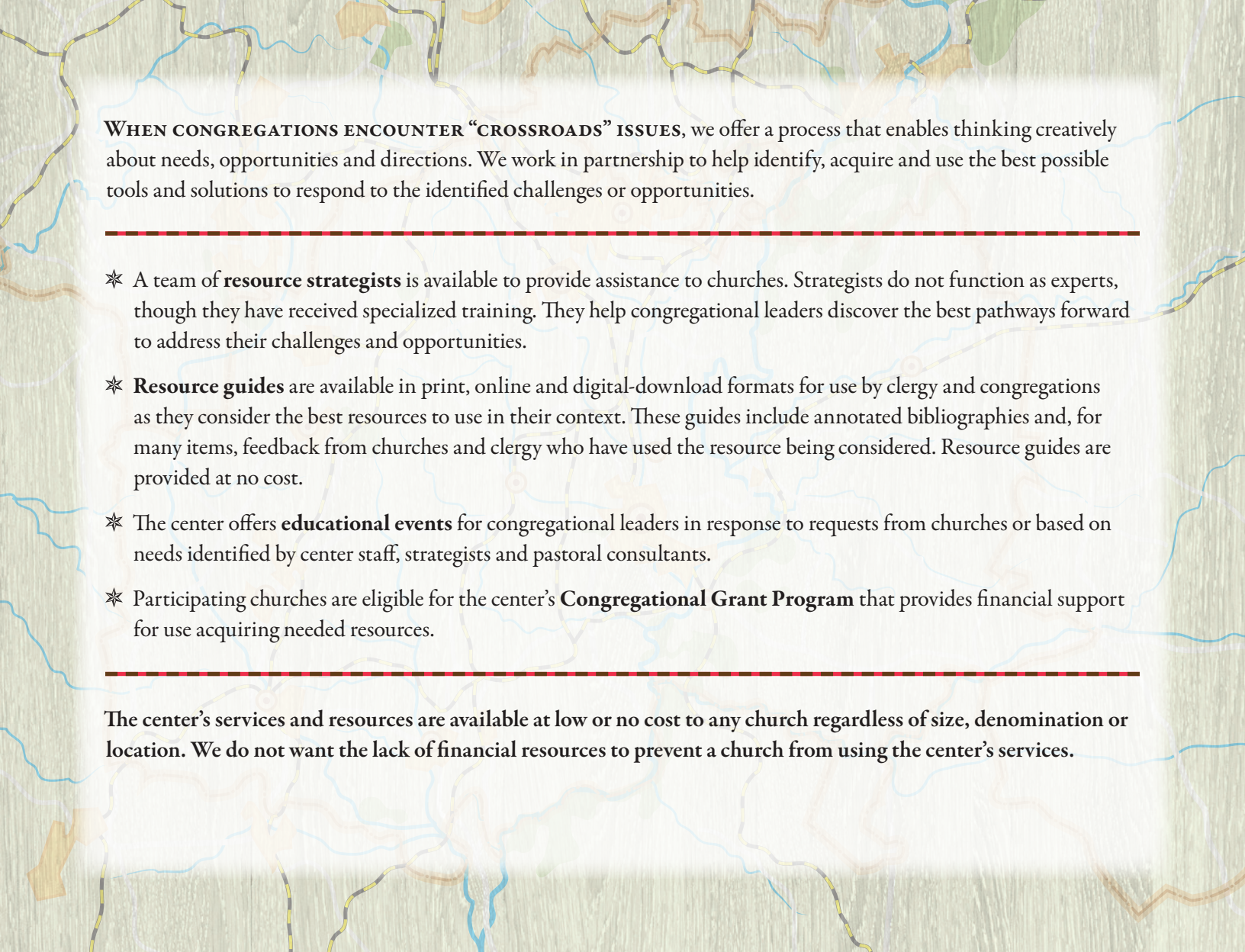
**CHARTING
A COURSE
TO CLERGY
WELLNESS.**

EVEN CONSCIENTIOUS MINISTERS find they are vulnerable to the daily-ness of pastoral leadership. Their energy and creativity wane. Focus becomes a challenge. For some, a sense of fulfillment in ministry is lost. We offer services intended to be pathways for renewal of mind, body and spirit that help sustain effective ministry.

- ✧ When clergy experience a need for spiritual, emotional, physical and intellectual renewal, we offer help planning and funding time away from ministerial duties through the **Sabbath Leave Program**.
- ✧ Ministers who desire time on Samford's campus to pursue a project of their choosing can apply for funding for up to two weeks of **Study Leave**.
- ✧ Enrichment and continuing education for women senior pastors are provided through **Day Apart**, one-day retreats offered twice annually.
- ✧ Many clergy face issues and opportunities beyond their ability or capacity to respond. We offer **consultative** services led by center staff and pastoral consultants.
- ✧ We are interested in addressing unique needs of **bivocational ministers** and their churches. Resources are provided in a variety of formats, and through partnerships with the Bivocational and Small Church Leadership Network and other organizations.
- ✧ Presentations on the intersection of life and faith and the role of congregations and clergy at this intersection are offered through the **James A. Auchmuty Lectureship** at Samford University.
- ✧ **Workshops and targeted seminars** are provided for small groups of clergy to address topics relevant to them.

A gravel path leads through a lush green landscape with trees and a fence. The path starts in the foreground and splits into two paths that lead into the distance. The trees are vibrant green, and the sky is overcast. A wooden fence is visible on the right side of the path.

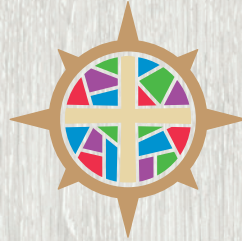
**WE HELP
CONGREGATIONS
THRIVE.**



WHEN CONGREGATIONS ENCOUNTER “CROSSROADS” ISSUES, we offer a process that enables thinking creatively about needs, opportunities and directions. We work in partnership to help identify, acquire and use the best possible tools and solutions to respond to the identified challenges or opportunities.

- ✧ A team of **resource strategists** is available to provide assistance to churches. Strategists do not function as experts, though they have received specialized training. They help congregational leaders discover the best pathways forward to address their challenges and opportunities.
 - ✧ **Resource guides** are available in print, online and digital-download formats for use by clergy and congregations as they consider the best resources to use in their context. These guides include annotated bibliographies and, for many items, feedback from churches and clergy who have used the resource being considered. Resource guides are provided at no cost.
 - ✧ The center offers **educational events** for congregational leaders in response to requests from churches or based on needs identified by center staff, strategists and pastoral consultants.
 - ✧ Participating churches are eligible for the center’s **Congregational Grant Program** that provides financial support for use acquiring needed resources.
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The center’s services and resources are available at low or no cost to any church regardless of size, denomination or location. We do not want the lack of financial resources to prevent a church from using the center’s services.



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AT SAMFORD UNIVERSITY

Helping Chart a Course to Thriving Ministry

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