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having clarity of purpose and mission, and building a culture open to change are three antidotes to conflict.

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For a list of resources on congregational conflict see this newsletter sidebar or go to the [Congregational Resource Guide](#).

The Compassionate Congregation -An Effective Approach to Outreach and Vitality



Congregations involved in social outreach programs often discover multiple benefits: the potential for faster growth, an enhanced sense of vitality, and the satisfaction of expressing the congregation's compassion through direct service to those in need.

A systematic approach -- and some thoughtful matchmaking -- can help ensure long term success. Initial steps should include an assessment of the congregation's interests and its financial and human capabilities. Then, by identifying and prioritizing external needs (locally, nationally or internationally), the congregation can find the best fit for its work among a broad range of social and human services, social justice and social witness programs.

The possibilities for personal and congregational enrichment are almost endless, as are the opportunities for sustained and meaningful service to others. The full FACT publication "*INSIGHTS Into the Compassionate Congregation*", which also includes a list of reference materials, is downloadable now in a PDF for [FREE](#).

For further information about FACT, or to learn how to join the Cooperative Congregations Studies Partnership (CCSP), contact David Roozen at roozen@hartsem.edu

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