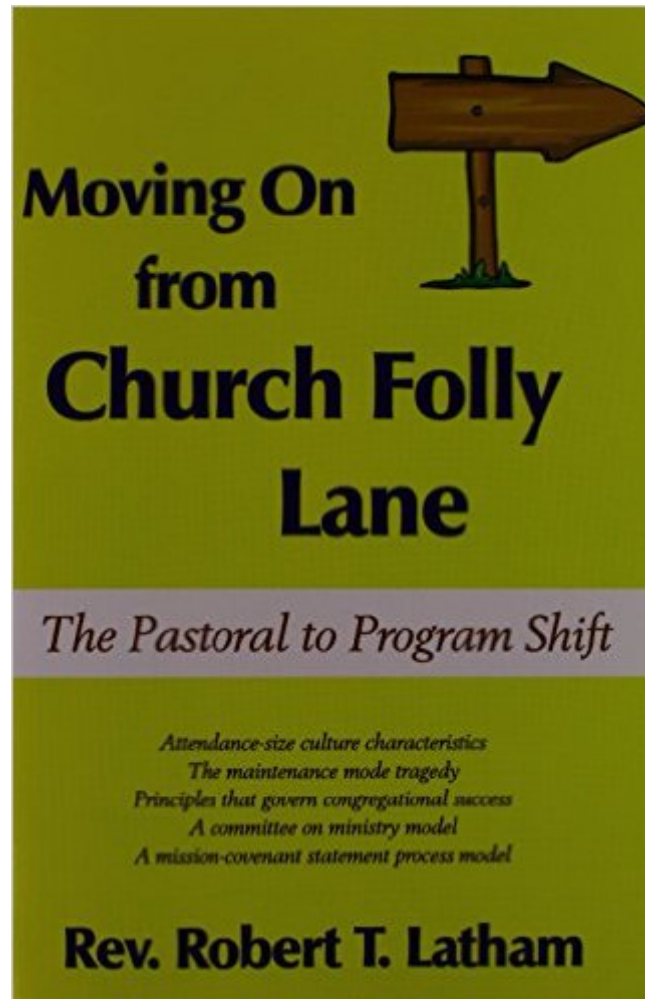


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# Moving On From Church Folly Lane: The Pastoral To Program Shift



## Synopsis

Is your congregation stuck in a holding pattern? In transition without a blueprint? It may be that you have reached your attendance-size plateau. This book outlines four major attendance-size cultures while focusing on the critical shift that occurs between the Pastoral Congregation and the Program Congregation. If you are dealing with your congregation's stuckness or transition, this book can help you move forward and weather the changes more effectively.

## Book Information

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Average Customer Review: 4.1 out of 5 starsÂ Â See all reviewsÂ (11 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #608,054 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #67 inÂ Books > Religion & Spirituality > Other Religions, Practices & Sacred Texts > Unitarian Universalism #2700 inÂ Books > Christian Books & Bibles > Christian Living > Self Help #11012 inÂ Books > Self-Help > Personal Transformation

## Customer Reviews

I thought long and hard before getting copies of this book to give to our church's board (almost went with Alice Mann's *The In-Between Church: Navigating Size Transitions in Congregations*. Mann's book is shorter, much more succinct and better edited, but Latham's book is for UUs and has more details so eventually we went with this book. The title comes from an obscure road in Bermuda named for a church abandoned when the congregation failed to make the transition (apparently the pastoral to program transition). The book rambles, repeats itself, has no index (a pet peeve), and the author doesn't seem to come up for air (thesis sentence, argumentation, concluding sentence, PAUSE). I frequently find myself rereading paragraphs because I have completely blanked out on what the heck he is saying. Stylistically, I am not a big fan. I am reminded of the line in "A River Runs Through It" where Maclean's father keeps telling him to "write it again, half as long." I wish Latham had had this training. What keeps you reading and eventually sold this to the board is that Robert Latham really knows his stuff. He offers far more particulars than Mann and spends more

time reviewing other work than Mann. He offers more particulars than Mann for churches of any religion. But he is a UU and writes from a UU perspective about what is uniquely wrong with most UU churches (loss of connection to mission, Joys and Concerns, etc.). At times his assessments are bleak and his description of the loss of community in transition to a pastoral church may give the board pause.

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