

## ***A 2026 Summer Reading List on Mission and Evangelism (Girdwood Chapel)***

1. Mortimer Arias, *Announcing the Reign of God: Evangelization and the Subversive Memory of Jesus*

A passionate, prophetic argument that true evangelism is inseparable from the announcement of God's reign — and that this announcement has always been subversive to empire. Arias writes from Latin America, and it shows in the best way.

2. Paul Chilcote and Lacey Warner (eds.), *The Study of Evangelism: Exploring a Missional Practice of the Church*

A comprehensive, scholarly collection that maps the landscape of evangelism theology across many traditions. Excellent for understanding the breadth of the conversation.

3. Elaine Heath, *The Mystic Way of Evangelism: A Contemplative Vision for Christian Outreach*

Heath recovers the contemplative, interior dimension of witness. Evangelism, she argues, begins not with a technique but with a soul that has been formed by encounter with God. A quietly transformative book.

4. Scott Jones, *The Evangelistic Love of God and Neighbor: A Theology of Witness and Discipleship*

Rooted in Wesleyan theology, Jones makes the case that evangelism is not a program but a dimension of the church's basic life — inseparable from loving God and loving neighbor.

5. Lesslie Newbigin, *The Open Secret: An Introduction to the Theology of Mission*

A classic. Newbigin asks what it means to proclaim the gospel in a pluralist world — with intellectual honesty, theological depth, and genuine humility. If you read only one book on this list, this is a strong candidate.

6. Bryan Stone, *Evangelism After Pluralism: The Ethics of Christian Witness*

Stone argues that how we share the gospel matters as much as what we share — that witness must be noncoercive, communal, and ethically formed. A rigorous and important book for our moment.

## **FURTHER READING**

These are excellent companions for those who want to explore further:

1. Priscilla Pope-Levison, *Models of Evangelism*

A clear, accessible survey of eight distinct models of evangelism — from proclamation to social action to small-group witness. Helpful for understanding the range of approaches the church has taken.

2. Eddie Fox and George Morris, *Faith-Sharing: Dynamic Christian Witnessing by Invitation*

A practical, warm-spirited book on the art of sharing faith in everyday life — not as argument, but as invitation. Grounded in Wesleyan sensibility.

3. Stephen Gunter and Elaine Robinson (eds.), *Considering the Great Commission: Evangelism and Mission in the Wesleyan Spirit*

A collection of essays exploring what the Great Commission means when read through the lens of Wesleyan theology — with attention to grace, freedom, and justice.

4. Brad Kallenberg, *Live to Tell*

Kallenberg draws on Wittgenstein to argue that Christian witness is a form of life, not merely a message. Dense but rewarding for those interested in the philosophical underpinnings of witness.

5. Henry Knight and Douglas Powe, *Transforming Evangelism: The Wesleyan Way of Sharing Faith*

A clear and accessible account of evangelism as transformation — of individuals, communities, and the social order — drawing on the Wesleyan revival tradition.

6. Douglas Powe, *New Wine New Wineskins: How African American Congregations Can Reach New Generations*

Powe writes from and for African American congregational life, asking how the church transmits living faith across generations. Rich with insight that speaks well beyond its immediate context.

*Questions? Want to talk about any of these books?*

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