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LEAD ME, GUIDE ME: ENGAGING THE FAITH COMMUNITY IN NONPROFIT  
WORK: A SUPPORT THEOLOGY FOR ASSISTING CLERGYWOMEN TO CREATE  
COMMUNITY CHANGE.

By  
REV. DR. VALERIE OLIVER DURRAH

Within the methodology of social salvation as transformation, the leading and guiding of the Holy Spirit and the evidence of the Spirit's gifts and fruit is an essential asset for capacity-building. While there is value in any community development work, times of uncertainty become opportunities for faith-based leaders to preclude themselves from the rhetoric of social gospel to the actualization of community development work both biblically and theologically to re-envision Christ and His Great Commission to community-driven disciples.

During times of financial uncertainty, the local church and community are challenged to redefine their roles as social services providers. As founder of Neighborhood Technical Assistance Clinic (NTAC), a nonprofit serving the needs of philanthropic individuals and organizations, I am acutely aware that funding cuts to the nonprofit sector and the present financial climate necessitate pastors and their churches to become more engaged in nonprofit work. In particular, as the number of women senior pastors has increased there is no specific training available to assist them in implementing their social service mission in their communities. This **Capacity Building Resource Guide** seeks to assist clergy women or Senior Pastors and their churches to increase their skill capacity and to become more equipped to engage in community development efforts, specifically addressing the needs of women and girls.

Rev. Dr. Valerie Oliver Durrah, who earned a Doctor of Ministry from New York Theological Seminary in New York City has added a new theological paradigm - - Supporting Theology – to the academy. Dr. Durrah states, “This new theological paradigm -- **Support Theology** – draws from the foundations of both pastoral and practical theologies. It offers a synthesized nuance regarding the disconnected, disadvantaged but determined, distinctive faith-leader in any service-starved community. Under the definition of “Pastoral Theology” or “**Support Theology**” more resources are needed to prepare and equip pastors to lead in their service communities. Churches and their principal leaders have been asked to step up their involvement in addressing community needs but far too many lack the skill-set to seek funding for their mission work. **Support Theology** seeks to offer the Academy a viable, theological progression proven to: 1) address the needs of leaders serving disadvantaged communities in times of uncertainty; 2) change the process of capacity building for the faith-based leader; and 3) foster sustainability through support compassion, capacity and care. **Support Theology** seeks to address the needs of leaders serving disadvantaged communities in times of uncertainty, and also works to change the process of capacity building for the faith-based leaders. Ultimately fostering sustainability through support compassion, capacity and care. When asked to comment on the new theological paradigm called

“Support theology”, *The Reverend Right Barbara Austin Lucas had this to say: “I affirm and assert that “Support Theology” will fill the dearth of educational leadership and spiritual guidance needed by emerging leaders and recently structured or newly formed faith-based organizations: an umbrella under which varying theological understandings can converge.” Bishop Austin Lucas continued, “The challenge for Support Theology is to assist emerging leaders and newly formed faith-based organizations to envision, establish and erect ministries where the table envisioned by Moody-Shepherd can be placed.”* From the vantage of community development work, I confirm and link Support Theology to the prophecies of Moody-Shepherd’s “sitting at the table” and Bishop Austin-Lucas’ “umbrella under which varying theological understandings converge.” Support Theology is the umbrella under which varying theological understandings can connect – moving beyond particularities and/or limitations – to envision, create, build, and establish sustainability through support compassion, capacity and care. Upon this strong, united foundation, effective ministry can be provided with integrity for the faith-based leader sitting at the table of engagement in any given context.

*Dr. Durrah stated, “I am committed to creating and engaging faith leaders who are interested in creating community change benefitting women and girls across the globe.*

The research, narratives and surveys from leading clergywomen and theologians concerning Biblical women and faith-based leaders (female and male) both confirmed and critiqued this feat in social, economic, political, and spiritual truth for Academy, Church and Society. Of the ten VOD leadership criteria, the crux lies in the individual leader’s transformation into a missional community-changer who is unshackled from every explicit fear, and ultimately the implicit fear of change itself. From its theological and social action roots, Oliver-Durrah’s Support Theology provides a synthesized nuance concerning disparaging support often supplied from the disconnected, disadvantaged but determined and distinctive faith-leader in any service-starved community.

The design of this **Lead Me: Guide Me Capacity Building Resource Guide** is to facilitate an ecclesial revocation of the provision and promotion of quick fixes for low-income, service-starved neighborhoods. The goal of this resource guide is to provide strategic direction for substantive outcomes in all areas of human and financial investment. While as the pathway to Christ insists a believer is to acquiesce to the transformative power of God over a life-time; such a similar commitment must be made for the transformation of communities.

Clergywomen, who are Senior Pastors of their churches, are strategically posed for such a time as this to have a positive impact on empowering the lives of women and girls. In general, the church is a viable community stakeholder doing important work and is well positioned to do even more in their churches community.

This self help guide, designed for clergy women who are interested in engaging in nonprofit work, provides some important information described in seven chapters:

**Chapter I:** Provides a checklist for getting to know your neighborhood/community. The reader is encouraged to become more familiar with everything in their neighborhood/community - from knowing their local schools and hospitals to knowing their local politicians.

**Chapter II:** Features a nonprofit incorporation guide, which instructs individuals on how to establish New York State Incorporation of a 501 c 3. Tax exemption information and instructions are also provided, along with instructional materials from Lawyers Alliance. Included in their materials is a sample (3) year budget.

**Chapter III:** Provides board development tips on everything from primary board responsibilities to the board leadership selection criteria. This chapter also examines fundraising as it relates to the board, staff, and an individual's role in fundraising.

**Chapter IV:** Provides a checklist for nonprofit start-ups, and then quickly moves to a fundraising readiness checklist. Also included in this chapter are guidelines for evaluating the appropriateness of fundraising costs and a list of the 20 biggest fundraising mistakes. A glossary of fundraising terms is also provided to help individuals understand the entire process of fundraising. Almost everything you need to know about fundraising is presented in this chapter.

**Chapter V.** Introduces resources and referrals that support nonprofit work. Readers also learn about the resources utilized by a selection of Clergywomen. Everything from the books they read to the theologians they most listen to are revealed. This chapter also presents a listing of E-mail addresses at every nonprofit should know as well as a listing of the resources and technical assistance providers that were compiled by the Foundation Center.

**Chapter VI.** Identifies professional and technical assistance support needed to help Clergywomen to develop and carry out mission's work in their communities.

**Chapter VII.** Presents scriptures that confirm the need for community service, volunteer work, leadership in the church, and women helping in the community.

This is what Clergy women, who are senior pastors of their churches, had to say about this self help guide:

*“I have great Godly respect for Rev. Durrah, her mission, character, and her voice. Over the years, she has served as a source of inspiration to me and the ministry work God has willed to my hands.”*

**Rev. Pamela L. Ward, Founder/CEO, Redeemed Outreach Ministries, Inc.**

*“What a valuable resource! When I was new to my church’s community, this easy-to-use guide to the institutions, services, and officials in my neighborhood helped me. Every church needs a resource book like this.”*

**Rev. Dr. Kanyere Eaton, Senior Pastor, Fellowship Covenant Church**

*“The Self Help Book was extremely useful because it challenged you to become more familiar with your own neighborhood. There is even a neighborhood checklist in the guide that encourages you to know the key resources and community leaders in your local community. This reminder is helpful because it brings attention to what we often take for granted, but usually do not know.”*

**Rev. Marva D. Usher-Kerr, Senior Pastor, Tremont United Methodist Church**

*“As a founder of two organizations, Jesus Saves Back to Life Ministries, and C.O.R.E. (Community Organization Reliable for Everyone), this self help guide book will be of great value for those who are in the process of starting their own not for profit organization or thinking about starting one. When I began the process for Jesus Saves, my first not for profit experience, I had “no clue” what I was doing. And I found that out when I began working with my accountant on the 501c3 for the church. Because I had not filed the paper work correctly for the incorporation I had to have the incorporation amended which was a tedious process and also an additional cost. I even had questions for the second not for profit I was working on. Had this guide been available I am sure the process would have gone much smoother.”*

**Prophetess Dr. Wanda D. Lang, Senior Pastor, Jesus Saves Back to Life Ministries, Inc.**

*“During my twenty years of supporting and leading global community development for God's daughters and their families, **Rev. Dr. Valerie Oliver-Durrah** has produced an undeviating voice, pioneering work and valient witness that conjoins her austentacious ability to pose questions and the sublime savoir faire to produce provision for every vision -- show you the \$\$\$\$ **Dr. Oliver-Durrah's** Self Help Capacity Building Resource Guide is a timeless treasure for peoplebuilders called to build and rebuild sacred spaces within public places. Those who read and implement her step-by-step guide echo her voice, work and witness until all of God's daughters are supported effectively "to do greater works for the Lord" in service, in community.”*

**Prophetess Dr. Kemba Jarena Lucas, Chief Designing Officer, Two Jarenas Designing Firm**

*“The giftings possessed by **The Reverend Dr. Valerie Oliver-Durrah** and her ability to translate ideas and vision into tangible ministries that effectively empower families, fellowships and communities is phenomenal. As a long time community partner, Dr. Valerie Oliver- Durrah and NTAC have played a major critical role in building and supporting Judah international Christian Center both nationally and abroad. We congratulate her on this extraordinary self help presentation and resource. Continued blessings.”*

***The Reverend Dr. Cheryl Anthony, Senior Pastor, Judah International***

*“Rev. Dr. Durrah is a proven quintessential strategist in the area of community organizational development. Her most recent self-help guide book contains a plethora of actionable information that one can profit from for those that are thinking about starting up a 501c3 for their church--as well as those that are in the infancy stages of any newly developed 501c3 organization. **Rev. Durrah** has been instrumental in proving me with organizational and marketing strategies that have had a positive impacted on my 501c3 organization; The Worldwide Association of Small Churches, Inc. I will continue to seek her counsel in taking my organization to the next level.”*

***Bishop Dr. Ebony Kirkland, President, Worldwide Association of Small Churches/Worldwide Professional Chaplains***

*“We were blessed to have **Rev. Dr. Valerie Oliver-Durrah** consult with Greater Works, Inc., a nonprofit organization I founded that is devoted to philanthropy and ministry development. A gifted and creative strategist, Dr. Durrah has guided many congregation members from different ministries to perfect their vision and outreach goals. She provided invaluable assistance and technical support to Greater Works. Her visionary abilities during that time earned her the name of "Prophet to Non-Profits". The topics outlined in **Dr. Durrah's Lead Me: Guide Me: Self Help Capacity Building Resource Guide** was instrumental in helping to achieve our mission goals. I believe Dr. Durrah's resource guide and consultation workshops will provide emerging nonprofits with the tools they will need to create community change. Her mastery of such topics, as nonprofit board development and board compliance, fundraising, grant writing, and community partnership building fosters clergy women's ability to develop and carry out their mission's work in their respective communities.”*

***Rev. Dr. Gina M. Stewart, Founder, Greater Works Inc. Memphis, Tennessee***

I hope you, too, will find this self help guide useful as you take on the challenge of reaching out to serve those in need, women, and girls through your ministry work.

Copy of resource guide is book is \$35.00. For more information on how to obtain a copy of **Lead Me: Guide Me Capacity Building Resource Guide**, contact **Rev. Dr. Valerie Oliver Durrah** @dr.durrah@neighborhoodclinic.org or 9179527696.

