

Calvin College and Calvin Theological Seminary  
Ministry Resource Center

A Message from the Manager

Welcome to the Ministry Resource Center!

As the manager of the Ministry Resource Center (MRC) at Calvin College and Calvin Theological Seminary, I'd like to briefly highlight a few aspects of the MRC that will help you quickly find the resource that will meet your ministry needs most effectively.

1. Begin with the "Search the MRC" button on the tool bar. Click on "Browse" first to see if the subject you are interested in is there. If it is, simply left click once on that subject, and you'll immediately be taken to the resource listing for that subject.
  - a. If your subject is not included in the "Browse" section, return to the tool bar and click on "Basic Search;" then type in the applicable word(s) and left click on "Search."
  - b. If you notice that there are many resources for your subject, return to the tool bar and select "Advanced Search." Type in the applicable words in the available fields and click on "Search," or press "Enter," to refine and speed up your search. For example, if you are looking for materials in youth ministry, you'll find (at the day I'm writing this message) that the MRC contains 182 youth ministry resources. It will take some time to look at all those resources to find the one(s) you need. You can speed up your search by using "Advanced Search" and typing in the other key aspects of youth ministry in which you are interested. Let's say you want to see what is available in youth ministry by Mark DeVries. In one field type in youth ministry as a "Keyword," and another field type in Mark DeVries and select "Author" in the drop down menu. Then click on "Search" and you'll see (as of this date) two resources by this outstanding leader in the field of youth ministry.
  - c. The MRC acquires new resources daily. Many are being processed regularly. Check back frequently to find the finest of new materials in each area of ministry.
2. As you've noticed in the feature, "Seven Uniquenesses of Calvin's Ministry Resource Center" in the upper left corner of the home page, the MRC collects the finest of resources from all Christian publishers. While that means the materials are consistent with the Bible, historic Christian theology, and sound pedagogy, it does mean that a particular resource may not contain the theological distinctives of your denomination. Most non-denominational Christian publishing companies are trying to sell as many materials as they can, so they eliminate such distinctives

in order to produce whatever will be purchased by as many Christians as possible, regardless of their church background. This means that you may have to supplement a given resource with the additional theological concepts your denomination espouses.

3. As you may have also noticed in the “Seven Uniquenesses” section, all the materials on the shelves (that have a Library of Congress Call Number) are being annotated. To locate the one(s) that will best match your ministry needs, left click on the title to obtain further information about any resource, specifically the annotation.
4. When you click on the title of a resource, you may see one that has a different Call Number; it has the acronym MRC followed by an Arabic numeral, for example MRC 19, the number for an article entitled “Teenagers and Church Music” by Barbara Resch. Such a Call Number indicates that the resource is located in one of the file cabinets (in that numerical order) along the east wall of the resource center.
5. The MRC is a full service resource center. If you’ve exhausted all the print, audio-visual, and digital resources available and still haven’t found what you need, proceed to the “Ask an Expert” section of the MRC, and we’ll put you in touch with a human resource, a key leader in the field in which you need help. Access the “Ask an Expert” section by going to the tool bar and selecting “Contact.”

We’re here to assist you in locating the finest materials to meet your ministry needs. If there is any way we can be of further service, please let us know, and we’ll always be glad to help.

Sincerely,

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