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## Abingdon Press Publishes

### **Blank Slate: Write Your Own Rules for a 22<sup>nd</sup> Century Church Movement**

by Lia McIntosh, Jasmine Rose Smothers, and Rodney Thomas Smothers

March 19, 2019 (Nashville, TN)—Abingdon Press announced today the release of **Blank Slate: Write Your Own Rules for a 22<sup>nd</sup> Century Church Movement** by three innovative leaders in The United Methodist Church: Lia McIntosh, Jasmine Rose Smothers, and Rodney Thomas Smothers.

The church must get “unstuck” from its current context in order to address the context of younger generations. **Blank Slate guides leaders to envision, and actually design, the future church.**

Jacob Armstrong, pastor of Providence Church, Mt. Juliet, TN says, “In a time when so many of us want a blueprint for how to do ministry in a rapidly changing world, McIntosh, Smothers, and Smothers hand us a pencil and tell us to draw it ourselves. God has entrusted us to be the designers and visionaries for a new way. *Blank Slate* is the guide that you and your team need to design a new future together.”

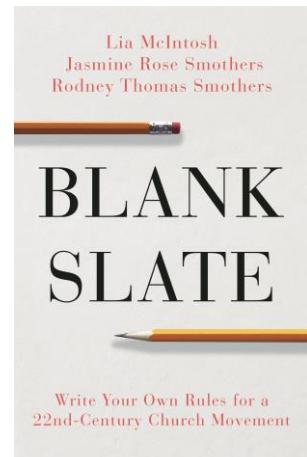
The authors start by describing each generational group currently living in the US, helping readers understand the varied context of people in every age group. Next, they explore five innovative secular organizations, drawing sharp lessons for the church. The last section includes a seven-step process for ministry leaders to engage current and upcoming generations. This book, with questions for individual and group reflection in each chapter, is a **powerful planning tool for ministry teams.**

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**Abingdon Press** is the primary publishing imprint for The United Methodist Publishing House and has a tradition of crossing denominational boundaries with thought-provoking and inspirational books. Abingdon Press titles include a wide array of quality Bibles, Bible studies, small group studies, Christian living, devotional, academic, professional, and reference books published each year to enrich faith communities across the globe. Learn more at [AbingdonPress.com](http://AbingdonPress.com).

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**Blank Slate**  
by Lia McIntosh,  
Jasmine Rose Smothers, and  
Rodney Thomas Smothers  
\$15.99 | 9781501876264  
March 19, 2019



**Lia McIntosh** serves as the Associate Director of Congregational Excellence for the Missouri Annual Conference (UMC) and is an International Coaching Federation coach. She collaborates with pastors and laity to launch new congregations and revitalize existing ones.

**Jasmine Rose Smothers** serves as the lead pastor of Atlanta First United Methodist Church in downtown Atlanta, Georgia. She is the first female, the first African American, and the youngest lead pastor of this historic congregation.

**Rodney Thomas Smothers** serves as the Congregational Development Resource Specialist for the Baltimore-Washington Conference (UMC). He coordinates new congregational development, leadership resourcing, coaching, continuous learning, and vital church strategy training for local congregations and leaders.