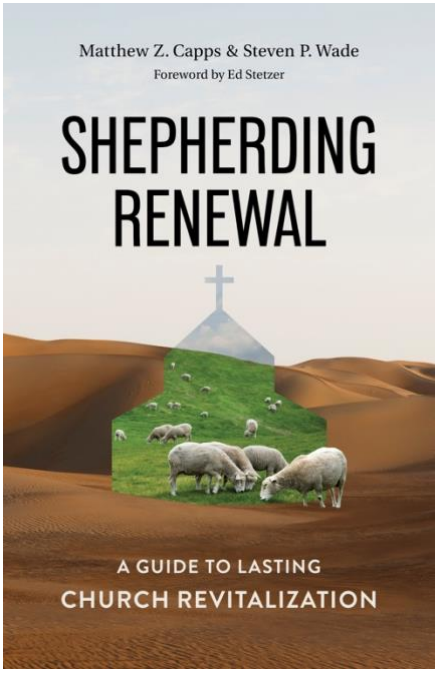
"Shepherding Renewal" by Matthew Capps and Steven Wade
Publication Date: May 12, 2026
Media Contact: jill.waggoner@lifeway.com

'Shepherding Renewal' Offers Hope and Practical Wisdom for Pastors Leading Churches Toward Health

Matthew Capps and Steven Wade provide biblically grounded guide for church revitalization



BRENTWOOD, Tenn., March 12, 2026 —In a time when more churches are closing than opening, according to Lifeway Research, pastors Matthew Capps and Steven Wade offers a clear, hopeful path forward for churches who feel uncertain about the future in their new book, "Shepherding Renewal."

Drawing from decades of experience, Capps and Wade address honestly the challenges pastors face in seasons of decline, conflict or change. Their book, "Shepherding Renewal: A Guide to Church Revitalization," equips church leaders to pursue lasting revitalization rooted not in quick fixes, but in biblical faithfulness and patient shepherding.

Rather than prescribing formulas or programs, "Shepherding Renewal" presents revitalization as a long, grace-filled journey. Capps and Wade guide pastors to diagnose church health, rely on God's Word and Spirit and lead people with courage, humility and love.

"In many ways, leading a church through revitalization is as much an art as it is a science," the authors write. "For this reason, we have not given you a list of things to do or an exact pattern to implement. In this book we simply offer thoughts from the trenches. Wisdom learned along the way."

Throughout the book, Capps and Wade emphasize that meaningful renewal flows from right preaching, faithful prayer, godly leadership and patient discipleship, reminding pastors that change truly moves at the speed of trust.

Written for pastors, elders and church leaders serving congregations of all sizes, "Shepherding Renewal" reminds readers that God has not abandoned His church and that He delights to breathe new life into dry bones through ordinary, faithful shepherds.

###

To request an interview, please contact Jill Waggoner at jill.waggoner@lifeway.com or 615.330.6821.

"Shepherding Renewal" by Matthew Capps and Steven Wade
Publication Date: May 12, 2026
Media Contact: jill.waggoner@lifeway.com

About the Publisher

B&H Publishing Group, an imprint of Lifeway Christian Resources, is a team that believes Every Word Matters®. We seek to provide intentional, biblical content that positively impacts the hearts and minds of people, cultivating lifelong relationships with Jesus Christ. We publish (print and digital) in the trade, church and academic markets, as well as the CSB translation. For more information, visit BHPublishingGroup.com.

About the Authors

Matthew Z. Capps has served as the lead pastor of Fairview Baptist Church in Apex, North Carolina, since 2015, and is an adjunct professor at Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary. Capps is also a graduate of Southeastern (MDiv with Biblical Languages), Gordon-Conwell Theological Seminary (DMin in Pastoral Theology), and is a PhD candidate at Ridley College in Melbourne, Australia. Matt and Laura have three children: Solomon, Ruby, and Abby.

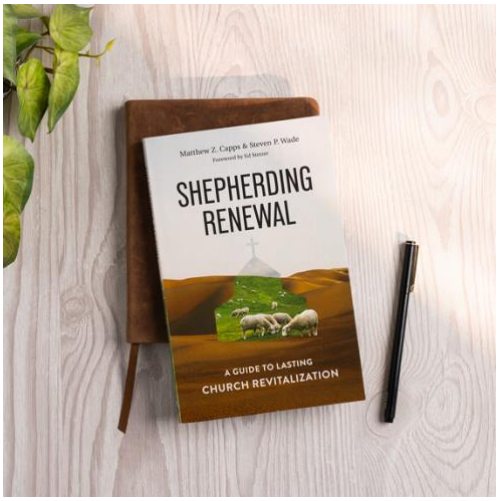
Steven P. Wade (Ph.D. Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary) has been in pastoral ministry for 25 years and currently serves as lead pastor of Faith Baptist Church in Youngsville, North Carolina. He is also a professor of pastoral theology at Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary. Steven and his wife, Jenny, have four children: Caleb, Sarah, Lydia, and Anna.

To request an interview, please contact Jill Waggoner at jill.waggoner@lifeway.com or 615.330.6821.

"Shepherding Renewal" by Matthew Capps and Steven Wade
Publication Date: May 12, 2026
Media Contact: jill.waggoner@lifeway.com

Possible Interview Questions

- What do you mean by "revitalization," and how is it different from simply trying to grow attendance or start programs?
- What are you hearing from pastors who are revitalizing churches across the country? What is the experience like for someone leading a church through a difficult time?
- In "Shepherding Renewal," you describe church revitalization as a long journey rather than a quick fix. Why is that emphasis so important for pastors to understand?
- Tell us about your friendship and how you encouraged each other during your own journeys to health at your churches.
- You emphasize that the goal is a *healthy* church, not just a bigger one. What are the key markers of church health you want leaders to pay attention to first?



- Many pastors feel discouraged or exhausted when leading struggling churches. What encouragement would you offer to leaders who feel like they're standing in a "dry land" season?
- Prayer and the Word are central themes in the book. Why must revitalization begin there rather than with strategy or structure?
- Change often brings resistance. What counsel do you give pastors who are trying to lead people faithfully while navigating fear, conflict, or pushback?
- You talk about developing and empowering leaders as essential to renewal. What mistakes do churches often make when it comes to leadership during revitalization?
- If a pastor or church leader could take just one next step after reading "Shepherding Renewal, what would you hope that step would be?