

HIGHLIGHTED BOOK

Reviews of *Realizing Our Intentions* by Albert J. Meyer

“Board members, administrators and faculty members of Mennonite educational institutions will want to read this book carefully. Al Meyer has invested years in studying the issues facing church schools. A foundational theme is that decisions and actions taken today frequently lead to unintended consequences which only become apparent many years later. Anabaptist Mennonites should be particularly interested in these topics because Meyer is deeply committed to our tradition and because we should understand that ‘how it is usually done’ does not sustain a church that is counter cultural in theology and practice. He passionately believes, as do I, that we have a special treasure that is distinctive and needed in our world. We also agree that a distinctive church will thrive to the extent that it supports church schools where our young adults can embody the vision.”

—Loren Swartzendruber, president, Eastern Mennonite University

“Meyer draws upon his long experience [and] locates his analysis in the larger scholarly discussion of the role of the church-related college in the American educational context. [His] proposals are very helpful as a way for college leaders to grapple with the type of commitment necessary to implement real change.”

—Charles Pollard, president, John Brown University

“After a spate of books that lament the unintentional secularization of many Christian colleges and universities, here—at last—is a book that offers concrete guidance for boards, faculties, and churches that wish to reclaim their colleges as distinctive, even counter-cultural, institutions. A rock-solid analysis from one of the grand old masters in the world of church-related higher education.”

—Richard T. Hughes, author of *How Christian Faith Can Sustain the Life of the Mind*

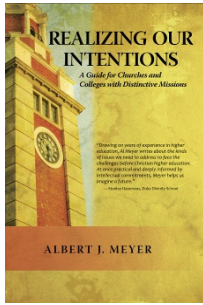
“Drawing on years of experience in higher education, Al Meyer writes about the kinds of issues we need to address to face the challenges before Christian higher education. At once practical and deeply informed by intellectual commitments, Meyer helps us imagine a future.”

—Stanley Hauerwas, Duke Divinity School and co-editor of *Schooling Christians*

From the publisher:

A welcome resource for those who help operate faith-based colleges and universities, *Realizing Our Intentions* offers comprehensive, practical strategies to administrators, educators, and supporters. Other books have documented the history and vision of faith-based institutions of higher learning, but in this volume, Albert J. Meyer draws upon his many years in education and administration to provide readers with concrete recommendations about how to structure initiatives, develop faculty and staff, and coordinate efforts to fulfill their missions.

(Continued on page 2)



Realizing Our Intentions by Albert J. Meyer **page 2**

Specific content includes procedures for board initiative in developing and implementing long-term goals that can guide short-term decisions, advice on appointing a top-level administrator for strategic faculty development, guidelines for structuring a higher education board that effectively represents the church and school in implementing a common mission, and much more.

The last paragraph of James T. Burtchaell's widely-cited work, *The Dying of the Light: The Disengagement of Colleges & Universities from Their Christian Churches*, states: "Readers may have expected instruction on how to avoid the failures of the past (and present). But that is not the purpose of this book." More than two decades later, readers still face a void when seeking such instruction. *Realizing Our Intentions* steps in to offer much-needed specific and practical strategies for healthy and long-term relationships between faith-based colleges and churches. It is an invaluable resource for any individual or group working to build a healthy, successful faith-based college or university.

About the author:

Albert J. Meyer is a seasoned leader in developing and overseeing colleges and universities, particularly those connected with faith-based groups of various traditions. Meyer served for many years as CEO of the Mennonite Board of Education and as a coordinator with the Committee on Liberal Arts Education of the North Central Association of Colleges and Secondary Schools. He has also been a Visiting Fellow at the Center for the Study of American Religion, Princeton University. His broad experience and practical insight make this book both reliable and thought-provoking.

The book will be available at the end of October; see www.acupressbooks.com or www.Christianbook.com for more details.