

# Pastoring in the Age of Conspiracies and Disinformation

## Contacts and Resource List

### **CONTACTS:**

#### **Panelists:**

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#### **Moderators:**

Kerri Parker, Executive Director of the Wisconsin Council of Churches: [wcoc@wichurches.org](mailto:wcoc@wichurches.org);

Wisconsin Council of Churches website: <https://www.wichurches.org/>

Wisconsin Council of Churches Facebook Page: <https://facebook.com/WisconsinCouncilOfChurches>

Wisconsin Council of Churches Youtube Channel: <https://youtube.com/wisconsincouncilofchurches>

Leah Schade, Co-founder of the Clergy Emergency League: [clergyemergencyleague@gmail.com](mailto:clergyemergencyleague@gmail.com)

Clergy Emergency League website: <https://www.clergyemergencyleague.com/>

Clergy Emergency League Facebook Page: <https://www.facebook.com/ClergyEmergencyLeague>

Clergy Emergency League Facebook Group (clergy only): <https://www.facebook.com/groups/3268854966534981>

### **RESOURCES**

#### **Churches dealing with radicalized members**

QAnon and other conspiracy theories are taking hold in churches. Pastors are fighting back (article)

[https://www.latimes.com/world-nation/story/2021-03-03/la-na-church-qanon-conspiracy-theories?fbclid=IwAR1I2O\\_lI4AK19uVa7NLsV-SA2IPpdusFvQcqGfQPntea96Ew3\\_JZmrlnYQ](https://www.latimes.com/world-nation/story/2021-03-03/la-na-church-qanon-conspiracy-theories?fbclid=IwAR1I2O_lI4AK19uVa7NLsV-SA2IPpdusFvQcqGfQPntea96Ew3_JZmrlnYQ)

Pastors are leaving their congregations after losing their churchgoers to QAnon

<https://www.businessinsider.com/pastors-quit-after-qanon-radicalize-congregation-2021-3>

“His pastors tried to steer him away from social media rage. He stormed the Capitol anyway.”

<https://www.washingtonpost.com/religion/2021/02/19/michael-sparks-capitol-siege-jan-6-christian/>

The Liturgists on Spiritual Trauma (podcast): [https://theliturgists.com/podcast/2017/5/16/spiritual-trauma?fbclid=IwAR1oMggqMbM\\_UsdKle38H0P25XQx25L7B881Zu5RO46NXkJOUW0qIPkCLA8](https://theliturgists.com/podcast/2017/5/16/spiritual-trauma?fbclid=IwAR1oMggqMbM_UsdKle38H0P25XQx25L7B881Zu5RO46NXkJOUW0qIPkCLA8)

#### **Organizations and other resources for understanding cults:**

Indoctrination with Rachel Bernstein (podcast)

<http://www.rachelbernsteintherapy.com/indoctrination-podcast/>

Steve Hassan's BITE Model (webpage): <https://freedomofmind.com/bite-model/?fbclid=IwAR2JX5o37bTdpq3ufdUoNR3tCNk-AITYHKly2xR493GhpvHtzB49aYPhz9Q>

International Cultic Studies Association (website): <https://www.icsahome.com/>

CLEANING UP THE MENTAL MESS with Dr. Caroline Leaf (podcast)

<https://anchor.fm/cleaningupthementalmess/episodes/Why-People-Join-Cults--the-Difference-Between-Sociopaths-and-Psychopaths--Tips-On-Healing-from-Abusive-Relationships-with-Therapist-Rachel-Bernstein-ei1ddn>

Why people join cults. Interview with Rabbi Edward Feinstein: <https://youtu.be/rVNzNsOPdSI>

## Specific cults:

QAnon -

<https://www.salon.com/2021/03/14/cult-recovery-experts-explain-how-to-deprogram-qanon-adherents/>

Former QAnon follower speaks out (newspaper article):

[https://www.washingtonpost.com/technology/2020/10/24/qanon-believer-conspiracy-theory/?fbclid=IwAR0diPzPmEoGTcDoiuOG\\_xHcRN2WDUSqw3rWhxvbMPQWMw79luDW4O12jyA](https://www.washingtonpost.com/technology/2020/10/24/qanon-believer-conspiracy-theory/?fbclid=IwAR0diPzPmEoGTcDoiuOG_xHcRN2WDUSqw3rWhxvbMPQWMw79luDW4O12jyA)

Heaven's Gate - <https://youtu.be/Smtl7d5ZUeE>

International Church of Christ - <https://youtu.be/4XERkG42IW4>

Scientology - <https://youtu.be/TFQ4S2yGtqM>

Jehovah's Witness - <https://youtu.be/Z4ogiCDH0bl>

## How to talk with people who are in cults

How To Talk With—And Maybe Help—Someone Who Believes In QAnon And Other Conspiracy Theories

<https://www.forbes.com/sites/lisettevoytko/2020/08/26/how-to-talk-with-and-maybe-help-someone-who-believes-in-qanon-and-other-conspiracy-theories/?sh=6a39d492412d>

I've been talking to conspiracy theorists for 20 years – here are my six rules of engagement

<https://theconversation.com/ive-been-talking-to-conspiracy-theorists-for-20-years-here-are-my-six-rules-of-engagement-143132>

How to Talk to Friends and Family Who Share Conspiracy Theories

<https://www.nytimes.com/2020/10/25/opinion/qanon-conspiracy-theories-family.html>

## Cults and Trumpism

The Cult of Trump: <https://bookshop.org/books/the-cult-of-trump-a-leading-cult-expert-explains-how-the-president-uses-mind-control/9781982127336>

Breaking Hate: <https://bookshop.org/books/breaking-hate-confronting-the-new-culture-of-extremism/9780316522939>

Trump's Use of Mind Control (podcast): [https://slate.com/podcasts/trumpcast/2020/03/trump-mind-control-madness?fbclid=IwAR0t-k\\_kz5oB56N7Z7XAeQZBDvvljzfd4QbijOpb06EXx2LZp0luUB8oyP0](https://slate.com/podcasts/trumpcast/2020/03/trump-mind-control-madness?fbclid=IwAR0t-k_kz5oB56N7Z7XAeQZBDvvljzfd4QbijOpb06EXx2LZp0luUB8oyP0)

## Exiting Cults

12 Step Programs- <https://youtu.be/DoBYjWjBIA>

Coping after Leaving the Cult (YouTube video):

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nXiO935gJVw&list=PLvbdQ8F8DTwc5\\_clnf3HXwkgTdwylOupV&index=2](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nXiO935gJVw&list=PLvbdQ8F8DTwc5_clnf3HXwkgTdwylOupV&index=2)

The Effects of Trauma (YouTube video): <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=m9Pg4K1ZKws> (CW: some "casual" sexism; otherwise very good)

**RESOURCES CURATED BY**  
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**○ Fake News/Disinformation**

<https://www.lifeafterhate.org/blog/2020/5/7/how-to-fight-fake-news-during-covid-19>

<https://youtu.be/g2AdkNH-kWA> (5 Ways To Spot Fake News)

[https://youtu.be/kIBW\\_LMPZvE](https://youtu.be/kIBW_LMPZvE) (The Seven Most Common Types of Information Disorder)

<https://www.bbc.com/news/blogs-trending-42724320> (The (Almost) Complete History of 'Fake News' - BBC News)

<https://www.politico.com/magazine/story/2016/12/fake-news-history-long-violent-214535> (The Long and Brutal History of Fake News - POLITICO Magazine)

[https://www.ifla.org/files/assets/hq/topics/info-society/images/how\\_to\\_spot\\_fake\\_news.pdf](https://www.ifla.org/files/assets/hq/topics/info-society/images/how_to_spot_fake_news.pdf) (How To Spot Fake News)

**○ Exiting Hate Groups/De-Radicalization**

<https://youtu.be/OrAo8rvHV2I> (There Is Life After Hate PSA)

<https://www.npr.org/2018/01/18/578745514/a-former-neo-nazi-explains-why-hate-drew-him-in-and-how-he-got-out>

<https://youtu.be/jve0OaOXv2k> (Can You Change the Mind of a Racist?)

<https://amp.usatoday.com/amp/4160249001> (Capitol Riot, Conspiracies, Extremism: Understanding De-radicalization)

<https://static1.squarespace.com/static/5a906d96b105989526c1ec08/t/5fd7b78e085ac14bd121ab92/1607972753899/What+to+do+when+a+loved+one+sides+with+white+supremacists.pdf?fbclid=IwAR0dJHHwbVf4Qv-exj6SKLUWS5vRIUE0qRIHIGNe9fFJnkunpEvKgdIPf4> (What To Do When A Loved One Sides With White Supremacists)

<https://www.deseret.com/indepth/2020/7/13/21292134/racism-prejudice-white-supremacist-daryl-davis-conversion-change-conversation> (Can People Be 'Converted' Out of Racism?)

<https://www.nbcnews.com/news/us-news/ex-klk-member-denounces-hate-groups-one-year-after-rallying-n899326> (Ex-KKK Member Denounces Hate Groups One Year After Rallying in Charlottesville)

<https://www.theatlantic.com/politics/archive/2015/03/the-audacity-of-talking-about-race-with-the-ku-klux-klan/388733/> (The Audacity of Talking About Race With the Ku Klux Klan - The Atlantic)

<https://www.americamagazine.org/politics-society/2019/12/03/polarized-world-dialogue-radical-act> (In A Polarized World, Dialogue is a Radical Act | America Magazine)

<https://theconversation.com/five-films-you-need-to-watch-to-better-understand-radicalisation-122225>

<https://www.euopris.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/11/Recognizing-signs-English.pdf> (Recognizing Signs of Radicalization Leading to Extremism)

<https://www.climatechangecommunications.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/03/ConspiracyTheoryHandbook.pdf> (Stephan Lewandowsky & John Cook.)

<https://lithub.com/how-did-conspiracy-theories-come-to-dominate-american-culture/> (How Did Conspiracy Theories Come to Dominate American Culture?)

[https://www.washingtonpost.com/lifestyle/wellness/why-uncertain-times-make-us-susceptible-to-conspiracy-theories--and-how-to-protect-yourself/2020/10/16/21becf08-0f1a-11eb-8a35-237ef1eb2ef7\\_story.html](https://www.washingtonpost.com/lifestyle/wellness/why-uncertain-times-make-us-susceptible-to-conspiracy-theories--and-how-to-protect-yourself/2020/10/16/21becf08-0f1a-11eb-8a35-237ef1eb2ef7_story.html)

<https://www.scientificamerican.com/article/people-drawn-to-conspiracy-theories-share-a-cluster-of-psychological-features/> (People Drawn to Conspiracy Theories Share a Cluster of Psychological Features - Scientific American)

<https://mashable.com/article/qanon-conspiracy-theory-help.amp> (Some People Are More Likely to Believe Conspiracy Theories. Here's How to Know if You're One of Them.)

## ○ **Exiting Homegrown Radicalization, Extremism; Support Groups; Creating Resilient, Respectful Communities**

<https://weareweavers.org> (Aspen Institute, Social Fabric Project: Building connected, supportive communities, weaving a rich, diverse social fabric.)

[www.lifeafterhate.org](http://www.lifeafterhate.org) (To help people leave far-right groups, particularly white supremacy groups.)

[www.Parents4Peace.org](http://www.Parents4Peace.org) (Empowering families, friends, and communities to prevent radicalization, violence and extremism.)

[www.freeradicals.org](http://www.freeradicals.org) (A disengagement platform that helps individuals, and their families, or communities, in exiting hateful and violence-based extremism.)

<https://moonshotcve.com> (Specialize in finding vulnerable audiences demonstrating interest or advocating for violent extremism and terrorism online. Develop online campaigns, interventions; connect vulnerable individuals with safer content, counsellors).

<https://dhs.gov/cve/resources> (Dept of Homeland Security Countering Violent Extremism Task Force)

<https://cve.fbi.gov> (FBI – excellent extremism site with sections for teenagers)

<https://www.reddit.com/r/ChangeMyView/> (Online forum challenging about radical opinions.)

<https://www.reddit.com/r/QAnonCasualties> (Online forum for QAnon survivors, family members needing support.)

<https://www.splcenter.org> (Southern Poverty Law Center: longstanding nonprofit working in partnership with communities to dismantle white supremacy and strengthen racial justice.)

<https://onepeoplesproject.com> (Combats right wing groups and individuals by exposing fascists threats.)

<https://www.theforgivenessproject.com/> (Shares stories of forgiveness, empathy and understanding from around the world; offers courses to provide tools to build resilience, empathy; reconciliation.)

<https://beyondconflictint.org> (Applies insights from neuroscience, cognitive and social psychology, and behavioral science to bridge social divides in US and around the world. To understand and address the causes and consequences of conflict to revolutionize the fields of conflict resolution, peacebuilding, social justice & reconciliation.)

<https://greatergood.berkeley.edu> (Explores the roots of happy and compassionate individuals, strong social bonds, and altruistic behavior – the science of a meaningful life.)

<https://oneamericamovement.org> (Appalachian-based, started by Pastor Joel Rainey of WV's Covenant Church; nonprofit to confront toxic polarization in our country, focusing on faith communities.)

<https://www.racialequitytools.org> Tools, research, tips, curricula and ideas for people who want to increase their understanding and to help those working for racial justice at every level - in systems, organizations, communities, and the culture at large.