

New release from the Institute of Mennonite Studies

## *The Way of Wisdom in Pastoral Counseling*

**D**aniel Schipani's thesis is that "pastoral counseling must be reframed; it must be viewed, practiced, and taught in a new and different framework. Its normative biblical and theological base must be affirmed and stated afresh." He further proposes: "we can accomplish this reframing well by reclaiming wisdom (wisdom in the light of God, that is) as the master metaphor for pastoral counseling."

Praise for *The Way of Wisdom in Pastoral Counseling*:

**C**hallenging the temptation to fall back on secular mental health terminology in pastoral counseling, Daniel Schipani proposes *wisdom* as a powerful biblical alternative. Rich case studies illustrate how pastoral counselors can center their counseling around the good news of Jesus and deepen the moral and spiritual intelligence of those in need.

—Bonnie J. Miller-McLemore

*Professor of Pastoral Theology and Counseling  
The Divinity School, Vanderbilt University*

(See reverse side for more)

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*Institute  
of  
Mennonite  
Studies*

3003 Benham Avenue  
Elkhart, Indiana 46517-1999 USA

**Telephone:**

574 296-6239

**E-mail:**

[bngingerich@ambs.edu](mailto:bngingerich@ambs.edu)

**Web site:**

[www.ambs.edu/IMS](http://www.ambs.edu/IMS)

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Praise for

## *The Way of Wisdom in Pastoral Counseling*

by Daniel S. Schipani

Daniel Schipani's groundbreaking book relocates pastoral care and counseling where it rightly belongs—within the mainstream of the Christian theological tradition. He recovers a biblical understanding of wisdom and moves beyond a medical paradigm to an understanding of pastoral ministry that facilitates growth in wisdom in the context of the natural vulnerabilities and celebrations of lived experience. Bringing both biblical and psychological insights to bear on engaging case studies, this book embodies all that is best in contemporary practical theology.

—David Lyall

Senior Lecturer, *Christian Ethics and Practical Theology*, University of Edinburgh

*The Way of Wisdom in Pastoral Counseling* is a significant contribution to the pastoral counseling literature, a creative trajectory for future work. Daniel Schipani argues persuasively that pastoral counseling is problematic when separated from the norms and context of the church (as happens both in church and agency settings), and that it is best understood as part of the wisdom tradition of the Hebrew and Christian Scriptures. He shows us how to recover our roots by retrieving the wisdom tradition; in two constructive chapters he demonstrates that the way of wisdom functions effectively as a structure and context for doing pastoral counseling.

—James N. Poling

Professor of *Pastoral Care, Counseling, and Theology*  
Garrett-Evangelical Theological Seminary

Schipani's work takes us in the vitally important direction of deprofessionalizing pastoral care and moving beyond the predominance of the psychotherapeutic paradigm for its practice. His accent on wisdom will lead to a restoration of pastoral care as a theological endeavor, to a reframing of the discipline, and to a clearer understanding of competency in the field.

—Daniël Louw

Dean, Professor of *Practical Theology*  
University of Stellenbosch

Schipani's clearly written, useful book introduces *the way of wisdom* as an organizing metaphor and thus provides a theological rationale for pastoral counseling at all levels which it has hitherto lacked.

—Stephen Pattison

Head of Department  
*Department of Religious and Theological Studies*  
Cardiff University

I am especially impressed with how Schipani draws on the collective wisdom of contemporary authors in the field in order to develop his own *way of wisdom*. By highlighting words like “reframing” and “reenvisioning” he makes clear that pastoral counselors try to help troubled people look at their situations in new ways, from new perspectives, and that this is a very human thing to do. It opens up new possibilities!

—Donald Capps

William Harte Felmeth Professor of *Pastoral Theology*  
Princeton Theological Seminary

### **Contents include:**

Reflecting on the practice

Four windows to pastoral counseling  
An emerging vision for pastoral counseling

Reclaiming wisdom as the heart

The reign of God and wisdom in the light of God

Wisdom in the biblical tradition

Jesus and the wisdom of God

Interlude: Understanding and appropriating wisdom

Wisdom and pastoral counseling

Reframing pastoral counseling

Viewed and practiced pastorally

Contextualized ecclesialogically

Centered on Jesus Christ, the wisdom of God

Grounded in Scripture

Carried out as a re-creative process guided by the Spirit

Oriented toward the reign of God

Reenvisioning pastoral counseling

A distinctive way of walking with others

As they face life's challenges and struggles

That they may live wisely in the light of God

Bibliography

**DANIEL S. SCHIPANI** (Dr.Psy., Universidad Católica Argentina; Ph.D., Princeton Theological Seminary) is Professor of Pastoral Care and Counseling at Associated Mennonite Biblical Seminary, Elkhart, Indiana. He lectures widely and is the author or editor of twenty books on pastoral and practical theology, and education.