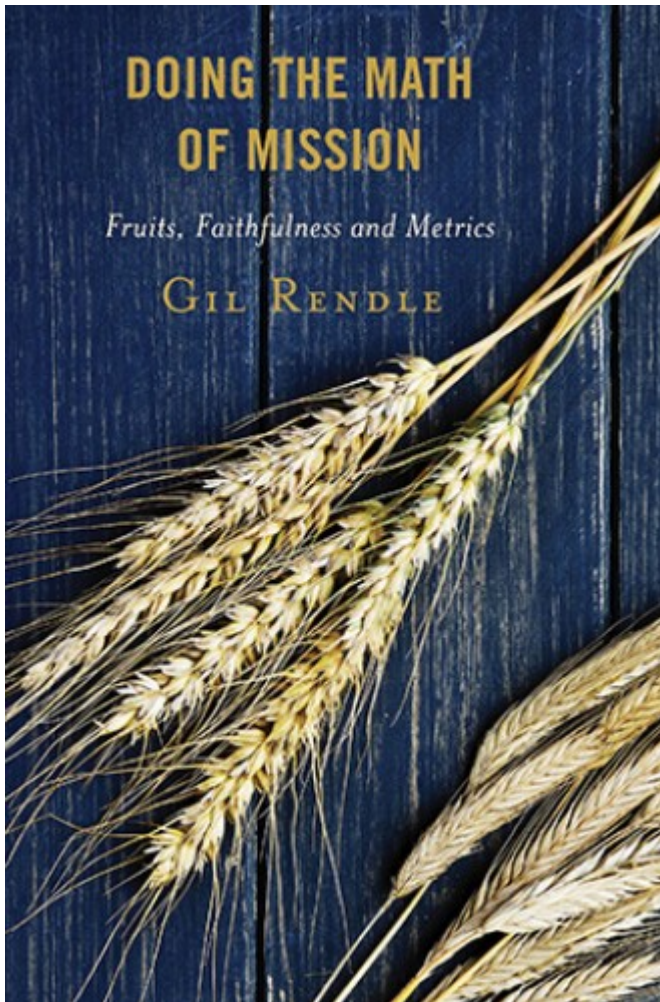


Doing the Math of Mission, by Gil Rendle

Books in the [April 15, 2015](#) issue

In Review



Doing the Math of Mission

By Gil Rendle

Roman & Littlefield

To the old debate about faithfulness versus effectiveness in ministry, Rendle offers another possibility: fruitfulness. But to ascertain whether leaders and congregations are fruitful, some form of measurement is needed. On the basis of work done in the

United Methodist Church, church consultant Rendle introduces metrics for measuring fruitfulness in congregations, judicatories, and denominational structures. He anticipates that some readers will be defensive. Rendle suggests membership is not the most salient measure of fruitfulness. Ministry is about changed lives, changed congregations, changed communities because of the presence of Christ. Such outcomes demand to be measured, not counted—a metric involving description rather than quantification.