


“Envisioning Your Church In Five Years”

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Envisioning Your Church in 5 Years

Introduction

Change is:

- Constant
- Increasing in speed
- Not always predictable
- Contextual (similar but unique)
- Not more powerful than the God who has made us and called us to be His own through the Gospel.

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The Church is: (although not true of individual Christians or individual congregations)

- Un-stoppable
- Expanding (growing)
- Resilient (even anti-fragile)
- Always relevant
- Has unlimited creative resources as God provides

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Two Critical Considerations for Envisioning Your Ministry's "Preferred Future:"

1. A clear sense of personal identity by the leader
2. A clear sense of identity by the congregation

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Why is the identity of the leader so critical?

- **It all comes down to "leadership"**
 - Leadership is influence
 - Influence assumes relationships
 - Relationships grow from shared experiences
 - Shared experiences take time

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Why is the identity of the leader so critical?

- **It goes beyond competence and skills**
 - It means approaching one's life from a creative as opposed to a reactive viewpoint. (Senge)
 - "It is playfully instructive to note that the word 'reactive' and the word 'creative' are made up of exactly the same letters. The only difference between the two is that you 'C' (see) differently." (John Adams)

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Why is the identity of the leader so critical?

- **Several basic characteristics of effective leaders**
 - A special sense of purpose
 - See the present ‘reality’ as an ally, not an enemy...working with change rather than resist it.
 - Deeply inquisitive

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Why is the identity of the leader so critical?

- **Several basic characteristics of effective leaders**
 - Connected to others, but losing none of their uniqueness
 - Recognize that they are part of a much larger creative process, which they can influence but not unilaterally control
 - Deeply confident and acutely aware of their ignorance (Paradox? Indeed!)

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- **Why is the identity of the congregation so critical?**

- **Unique history**
 - Its initial reason for existence
 - Its learned habits

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- **Why is the identity of the congregation so critical?**
- **Unique cluster of God's people (gifts)**
 - Cultural affinity
 - Socio-economic
 - Education

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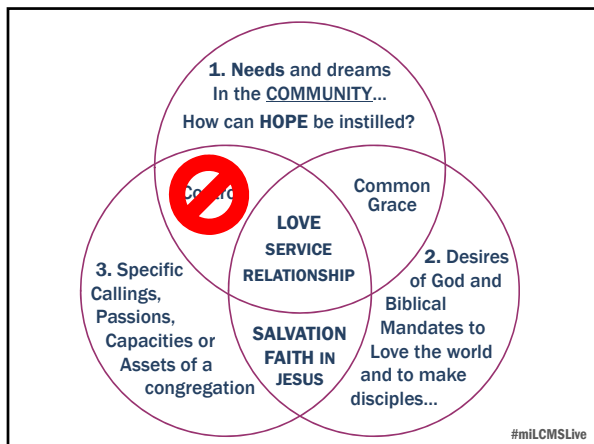
- **Why is the identity of the congregation so critical?**
- **Unique passions/values (calling from God)**
 - Theological spectrum
 - Looking in/Looking out
 - Facility leads to function/Function leads to facility

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- **Why is the identity of the congregation so critical?**
- **Unique context of ministry**
 - Two congregations may have the same theological foundations and have strikingly different approaches to ministry in their respective communities.
 - Does the congregation “reflect” the community?

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- Six keys to “staying the course” with an intentional ministry mindset:

1. Spend time with the God who calls you
 - a. Scripture reading/study
 - b. Prayer

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- Six keys to “staying the course” with an intentional ministry mindset:

2. Seek affirming fellowship
3. Be a life-long learner
4. Resist cynicism: don’t convert ideals into expectations

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- Six keys to “staying the course” with an intentional ministry mindset:

5. Keep an accurate view of human nature, our potential and limitations.

6. Long-range goals can keep you from being frustrated by short-term failures.

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Resources:

- Center Church, Timothy Keller
- Church Unique, Will Mancini
- The Fifth Discipline, Peter Senge
- To Transform a City, Swanson/Williams
- Antifragile: Things that Gain from Disorder, Nassim Nicholas Taleb

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A webinar with:
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