One day you finally knew
what you had to do, and began,
though the voices around you
kept shouting
their bad advice --
though the whole house
began to tremble
and you felt the old tug
at your ankles.

"Mend my life!"
each voice cried.
But you didn't stop.

You knew what you had to do,

though the wind pried

with its stiff fingers

at the very foundations,

though their melancholy

was terrible.
It was already late enough, and a wild night, and the road full of fallen branches and stones.
But little by little,
as you left their voice behind,
the stars began to burn
through the sheets of clouds,
and there was a new voice
which you slowly
recognized as your own,
that kept you company
as you strode deeper and deeper
into the world,
determined to do
the only thing you could do --
determined to save
the only life that you could save.
THE GREAT SPIRITUAL MIGRATION
HOW THE WORLD’S LARGEST RELIGION IS SEEKING A BETTER WAY TO BE CHRISTIAN
BRIAN D. MCLAREN
AUTHOR OF A NEW KIND OF CHRISTIAN TRILOGY AND A GENEROUS ORTHODOXY
A spiritual migration

from system of belief to way of life/
way of love
A theological migration

from violent Supreme Being
to nonviolent Holy Spirit/Spirit of Christ
A spiritual migration
A theological migration
A missional migration
I used to be friendly on airplanes.
for what purposes

should the church ... your church ...

be organized?
A missional migration
from organized religion (for self-protection)
to organizing religion:

religion organizing for the common good
WE NEED A THEOLOGY OF

INSTITUTIONS, MOVEMENTS, AND COMMUNITIES.
Communities

Families, individuals, and organizations linked to a common environment, collaborating for the common good.
Institutions:

Organizations which **conserve** the gains made by past social movements to serve communities.
Social Movements

Organizations which make proposals or demands to current institutions to make progress towards new gains for communities
Both movements and institutions...

Organize for their purpose
Need one another
Are frustrated with one another
Benefit or harm communities
Some movements successfully inject their values into the institutions they challenge.

Other movements create their own institutions, or fade away.
Vital movements call people to passionate, sacrificial personal commitment.

Sustainable institutions create loyalty across generations through evocative rituals & traditions.
movements can be progressive, conservative, or regressive
From Greg Leffel
Faith Seeking Action: Mission and Social Movements
A movement is born when …

- 2 or more people agree what’s wrong (critical conversation stage)

- They agree on what should be done: proposals/demands (vision/planning stage)

- They agree to do it. (movement stage)
Jesus Movement

Problem: Church is out of date for young people.

Proposal/Demand: Let us play guitars & drums and wear blue jeans in church.

Action: Church planting, Jesus festivals, music companies, radio/TV stations, publishing
Progressive Movement in Mainline

Problem: Church is patriarchal/racist

Proposal/Demand: Let women, POC, and LGBTQ people lead as equals

Action: Organizing, votes, ecclesial disobedience, ID symbols, affirmative action, etc.
Religious Right

Problem: Church & world are becoming “liberal,” i.e. less patriarchal, white-supremacist, nationalistic, traditionalist

Proposal/Demand: Reject liberals, gain political control, change laws

Action: Widespread systemic change through unprecedented alliances across silos, agreement on priorities, long-term commitment, clear leaders/heroes, redundant communication, boldness
Us, Right Now

Problem: How would we define the problem succinctly, powerfully?

Proposal/Demand: What proposals/demands, and to whom?

Action: What will we do?
Us, Right Now

Problem: We must move forward into a just, generous, and sustainable way of life, but many are moving backwards.

Proposal/Demand: Churches - stop complicity, stop walking on eggshells, and become leaders!

Action: Widespread systemic change through unprecedented alliances across silos, agreement on priorities, long-term commitment, clear leaders/heroes, redundant communication, boldness
Leffel’s 6 Characteristics of Vibrant Social Movements
1. Opportunity Structure
2. Rhetorical framing
3. Protest (messaging) strategy
4. Mobilization strategy
5. Movement culture
6. Participant Biography
Jesus seizes the opportunity structure provided by conflicted elites (Pharisees/Sadducees; Herodians/Zealots) and struggling masses (Galilee/Judea)
He provides rhetorical framing on hillsides, in houses, on retreats, in public teach-ins, in debates, through parables, through rituals and practices. He repeats key themes — commonwealth of God, life to the full, life of the ages, liberation — rooted in dynamic tension with tradition.
His protest (messaging) strategy includes public demonstrations (healings & miracles), teach-ins (sermon on mount), civil disobedience (turning tables), guerilla theatre (exorcisms), festivals (feasts & feedings), naming evil (woes), naming heroes (blessings).
He develops a mobilization strategy based on 3, 12, 70, and multitudes. He entrusts freely with responsibility and expresses high confidence in his agents (greater things shall you do ...
He associates his movement culture with love, joy, justice, risk, boldness, hope, creativity, courage, service, willingness to suffer, nonviolence, healing, hospitality.
He provides his disciples challenge, rest, retreat, encouragement, recovery after failures. They testify that their participant biographies have been forever changed for the better.
Where can I apply?
What will the salary be?
What are the percs?
What's the pension plan like?
Where can I apply?
What will the salary be?
What are the perks?
What’s the pension plan like?

Who/How can I help?
What gifts/talents can I offer?
What sacrifices am I prepared to make?
What’s the overall strategy?
Vision: God’s will being done on earth as in heaven: a more just and generous world, where people love God, self, neighbors (no exceptions), and earth.

Mission: In the US, build a progressive Christian movement that works with parallel faith-based and secular movements to build a just and generous consensus and address issues critical to the common good. (Parentheses indicate organization that could potentially take the lead in coordinating others)

Goals:
1. Develop a movement of churches and faith-based organizations that articulate, embody, and enact our vision in American society and beyond. (All)
   A. Articulate: Provide books, organizations, and other resources that define the vision, root it theologically, and inspire people to embrace it. (Lists curated by Convergence, used by any and all.)
      2. Organizations including Faith in Public Life, Auburn Seminary, Sojourners, Center for Action and Contemplation, Convergence, Network of Spiritual Progressives
      3. Websites associated with the people and organizations above.

   B. Network: Build a movement among networks of progressive congregations & organizations whose spirituality, community life, and mission are in alignment with our just and generous Christian vision, and help make leaders in these networks household names as America’s moral leaders.
      1. Help congregations and cohorts within congregations go public (identify themselves) and form multiple overlapping, aligned networks: (Convergence/OPEN)
         - Native American, African American, Latino, Asian
         - Evangelical & Charismatic, Mainline Protestant, Catholic, Orthodox, Other
         - Regional Networks (especially in key swing states)
         - Young adults, young leaders, Senior citizens, young families, LGBTQ
         - Non-church, “free-range”

      2. Help organizations go public (identify themselves) in an ecosystem of generosity by profiling/celebrating their work before they have affiliated:
         Sojourners, Blessed Tomorrow, Faith in Public Life, Auburn Seminary, Network of Spiritual Progressives, PICO, IAF, FAST, Just Faith, Convergence, etc.
C. Recruit: Recruit and equip leaders, congregations, and cohorts within congregations to participate in this movement.
   1. Develop an on-ramp to help existing congregations transition and align as members of this movement. (Convergence Leadership Project)
   2. Accelerate new church development to create new members of this movement. (Convergence/CPR)
   3. Equip these churches to deploy people who will embody and practice our shared vision in their families, neighborhoods, communities, professions, economies, and political systems. (Convergence/CPR)

D. Mobilize: Create means of organizing and mobilizing people in and around these churches for prioritized and sustainable action (resistance, protest, creative solutions).
   1. Through existing organizations like Faith in Public Life, Sojourners, PICO, Auburn/Groundswell, Faithful Democrats, Christian Left, Blessed Tomorrow, etc.
   2. Create church-based mobilizing strategies (e.g. Youth Group Activists, Retired Senior Volunteer Program, Multi-Racial Fellowship Circles, etc.).

E. Communicate: Build a network of complimentary social and mass media outlets, and promote, synergize, and align podcasts, blogs, vlogs, etc., to support this expanding network and its goals.
   1. Develop and maintain list of key influencers, journalists, and media experts. (Auburn ?)
   2. Develop social media plan. (Auburn?)
   3. Develop mass media plan. (FPL?)

F. Resource: Facilitate the development of additional needed resources for the well-being and growth of this network.
   1. Children’s ministry resources
   2. Youth ministry resources
   3. College ministry resources
   4. Young adult, adult, family, and senior ministry resources
   5. Music, art, and liturgy resources
   6. News, literary, and entertainment resources
   7. Speakers bureau
   8. Network of lectureships, conferences, etc.

G. Fund: Raise and manage funds to build, sustain, and refresh these networks and resources through staff and technology.

H. Bridge: Connect progressive Christian networks with colleagues in other faith traditions. (Auburn)
2. Build political resistance and creative momentum. (Faith in Public Life)

   A. Articulate, publicize, and uphold standards of civil Christian discourse.

   B. Create effective points of contact between progressive faith leaders and Democratic Party leadership.

   C. Build relationships with key opponents in the Religious Right and Republican Party.
      1. Identify common goals and threats for potential collaboration whenever possible.
      2. Model Christlike civility and outreach.

   D. Strengthen mutual awareness and respect among progressive faith organizations.

   E. Mobilize church leaders to serve as talent scouts seeking potential candidates for political leadership locally, regionally, and nationally.

   F. Develop an annual activism plan with a critical few achievable goals, mobilizing and enhancing key organizational partners.

   G. Create and maintain lines of communication among relevant organizations - including PICO, IAF, FAN, Convergence, Auburn, FPL, etc.

   H. Build supportive relationships with and among local, state, and national political leaders who share our values.

3. Provide movement leadership by convening a multi-organizational team with both long-term and short-term members who will:
   A. Assess and monitor conditions and opportunities.
   B. Frame our message, and continually improve that framing.
   C. Develop, work, and improve a messaging plan.
   D. Attract, train, support, and mobilize more, more diverse, and younger leaders.
   E. Monitor and enhance movement culture.
   F. Contribute to the personal and spiritual development of all participants.
Understanding America
“84% of Americans now live in or around urban areas. But I’m United Methodist, so I speak out of the context of what I know best. 74% of our capital resources (that’s our buildings) are where only 16% of the American population lives. The Methodist Church flourished in the 1800’s and early 1900’s in small towns and rural areas. But now we continue to send pastors to church buildings instead of populations. And if we’re really going to reach people, we’re going to have to radically rethink our paradigms of what it’s going to mean to be missional.” - Rev. Mike Slaughter

More here: http://www.ministrymatters.com/all/entry/1227/interview-w-mike-slaughter
Progressive & Post Evangelicals

Missional Mainliners

Prophetic Black Base Communities, 2nd Gen. Immigrant

Peace Churches

Progressive & Contemplative Catholics
Progressive & Post Evangelicals

Missional Mainliners

Progressive & Contemplative Catholics

Peace Churches

Prophetic Black Base Communities, 2nd Gen. Immigrant
What spiritual movement is trying to be born among us today?

Where would I like to make a contribution?

Who do I know whom I could recruit?

What are my next steps?
1. Migrate in your heart. Switch teams.
2. Find 2 or 3 who share your diagnosis and dream.
3. Do what’s doable right now, this week, each week.
4. Work relentlessly toward alignment: sermons, songs, prayers, holidays, benedictions, etc.
5. Organize and delegate (planet, poverty, peace, people)
6. Identify & associate with allies.
7. Self-differentiate and go public.
your face here
Soon, there could be a vital, aligned, uplifting, inclusive, multi-racial, multi-denominational movement of progressive Christian congregations and leaders working in harmony with parallel multi-faith movements in a shared vision for the common good.

Interested in staying in touch about this? brianmclaren.net