Let’s stay in touch!

1. brianmclaren.net
   slides, blog, books, social media, email newsletter

2. Convergence Leadership Project:
   Send a Text to 38470
   In the message line, type SPIRIT
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
I used to be friendly on airplanes.
A missional migration
from organized religion (for self-protection)
to religion organizing for the common good
(institutions and movements in romance,
forming & deploying spiritual activists)
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.
Social Movements

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

Organize for their purpose
Need one another
Are frustrated with one another
Benefit or harm communities
Without movements ... 

Institutions stagnate ... 

Without institutions ... 

Movements evaporate ...
Some movements successfully inject their values into the institutions they challenge.

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

Sustainable institutions create loyalty across generations through evocative rituals & traditions.
movements can be progressive or regressive
Parker Palmer’s 4 stages of social change

1. Divided no more
2. Communities of congruence (conversation)
3. Going public (movement)
4. Alternative Rewards
From Greg Leffel

Faith Seeking Action: Mission and Social Movements
A movement is born when 3 things happen:

- 2 or more people agree what’s wrong
- They agree what should be done
- They agree to do it.
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 says the kingdom of God is like gardening (an organic movement) not warfare (institutional action): It spreads through seeds ... sown into systems to grow.

The seeds of the message.

The seeds of people who personally embody the message.

The seeds of communities who socially embody the message.
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, hope, creativity, courage, service, willingness to suffer, nonviolence.
He provides his disciples challenge, rest, retreat, encouragement, recovery after failures. They testify that their participant biographies have been forever changed for the better.
What spiritual movement is trying to be born among us today?

What are its demands/proposals?

What role might we play in its emergence?
The Holy Spirit movement to ... protect the planet liberate the poor/oppressed build pre-emptive peace help people everywhere thrive teach and embody a way of life, a way of love
A joyful new evangelism ...

Do not merely try to bring others to where you are, as wonderful as that place might be.

But do not leave them where they are either.

Instead, go with them to a place neither you nor they have ever been before.

Fr. Vincent Donovan (adapted)
You have one job or calling. You may also have a second.

One: to be an institutional & community leader, providing for the spiritual needs of your community.

Two: to be a movement leader in and from (or apart from) your congregation to the community and world.

I am encouraging you to complicate your life by accepting this dual calling.
your face here
May we feel in our innermost being a beautiful and holy dissatisfaction.

May that holy dissatisfaction ignite in us a holy refusal
To remain stuck where we have been.

May that holy refusal break open our hearts to a holy hope,
So that the wind, wine, and fire of the Holy Spirit will fill us all.
May we learn to live in the way of revolutionary love,
And may we experience and embody God as Jesus did,
As the radiant light of perfect compassion for all creation.

And may we find or form our flocks,
And may ten thousand flocks and more arise together
In a great spiritual migration of justice, joy, and peace.

But first,
May we feel in our innermost being a beautiful and holy dissatisfaction.