THE GREAT SPIRITUAL MIGRATION

HOW THE WORLD’S LARGEST RELIGION IS SEEKING A BETTER WAY TO BE CHRISTIAN

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Let’s stay in touch!

1. brianmclaren.net
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2. Convergence Leadership Project:
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THE GREAT SPIRITUAL MIGRATION
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 missional migration

from organized religion (for self-protection)

to religion organizing for the common good

(institutions and movements in romance, forming & deploying spiritual activists)
1. Congregations need to identify themselves.

- Acknowledge who they are - to themselves
Working in our tribes

- PCUSA
- UCC
- UMC
- Episcopal
- Christian Church DoC
- ELCA

Historic Black, Ethnic/Immigrant, Progressive Roman Catholic, Progressive Evangelical, etc.
nostalgic

PCUSA  UCC  UMC  Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)  ELCA

Historic Black, Ethnic/Immigrant, Progressive Roman Catholic, Progressive Evangelical, etc.

creative

holding tension

eggshell
1. Congregations need to identify themselves.

- Nostalgic Churches
- Eggshell Churches [anxious]
- Holding the Tension Churches
- Creative/Progressive/Missional/Movement Churches [bold]

Why?

Belonging, Amplification, Public Figures, Shared Encouragement & Resources
Working in our tribes

PCUSA  UCC  UMC  Episcopal  Christian Church DoC  ELCA

Historic Black, Ethnic/Immigrant, Progressive Roman Catholic, Progressive Evangelical, etc.

A BOLD, VITAL SPIRITUAL MOVEMENT
2. Begin afresh with younger generations

- The reason an awakening takes a generation or more to work itself out is that it must grow with the young; it must escape the enculturation of old ways. It is not worthwhile to ask who the prophet of this awakening is or to search for new ideological blueprints in the works of the learned. Revitalization is growing up around us in our children, who are both more innocent and more knowing than their parents and grandparents. It is their world that has yet to be reborn. - Wm. G. McLoughlin
Begin afresh with younger generations

- An important scientific innovation rarely makes its way by gradually winning over and converting its opponents; it rarely happens that Saul becomes Paul. What does happen is that its opponents gradually die out, and that the growing generation is familiarized with the ideas from the beginning, another instance of the fact that the future lies with the youth. - Max Planck
3. Recruit leaders differently, train them differently, and organize them differently.

- MDiv - $40 - 80K

The Cuban Methodist model ...

The deployment problem
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
Working in our tribes

PCUSA  UCC  UMC  Episcopal  Christian Church DoC  ELCA

A BOLD, VITAL SPIRITUAL MOVEMENT

Historic Black, Ethnic/Immigrant, Progressive Roman Catholic, Progressive Evangelical, etc.
4. Recast mission as spiritual activism.

- Recruiting activists
- Neighborhood/Community activism
- Political activism
- Economic activism (boycotts, buy-cotts, divest/invest)
- Professional activism
- Social entrepreneurship
Along this path, popular movements play an essential role, not only by making demands and lodging protests, but even more basically by being creative. You are social poets, creators of work, builders of housing, producers of food, above all for people left behind by the world market... The future of humanity does not rest solely in the hands of great leaders, the great powers and the elites. It is fundamentally in the hands of peoples and in their ability to organize. It is in their hands, which can guide with humility and conviction this process of change. I am with you. - Pope Francis
5. Celebrate “liberation spirituality”

- song
- liturgy
- preaching
- practices
- inner work/outer work
- multi-faith collaboration
Putting it all together ...

- Helping churches identify themselves.
- Beginning with kids and youth.
- Recruiting, training, organizing leaders in new ways.
- Recasting mission as spiritual activism.
- Celebrating liberation spirituality
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