

A surreal landscape with a large, dark, swirling tunnel-like structure in the sky, a path leading towards it, and a small figure in the distance.

Mapping Your Leadership Development Journey

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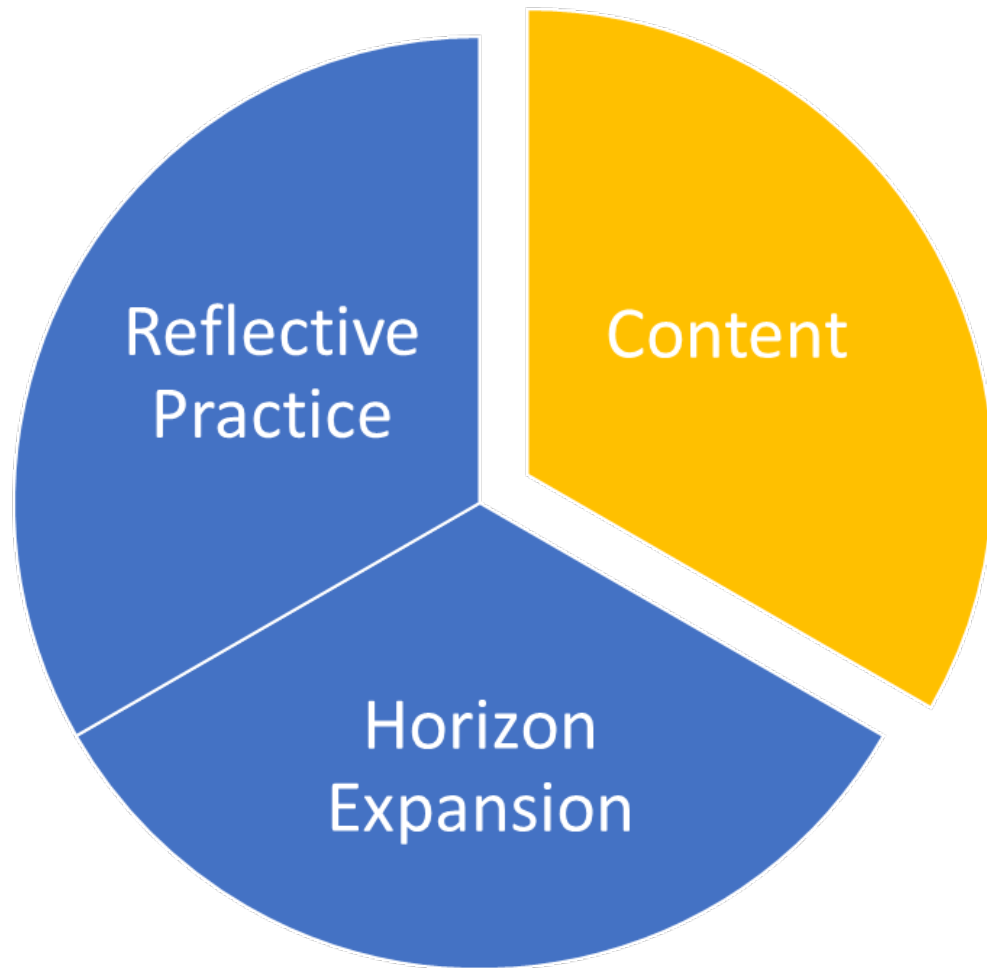
Session 1

September 18, 2023

This Three-Part Series: Outcome Hopes

- Attitude: Lifelong Leadership Learning (LLL) is normal and necessary; what would be weirder would be not needing and pursuing it
- Skill: leaders can make a plan that becomes a healthy habit
- Knowledge: leaders know intentional balance is needed between content, reflection, and expanded horizons





Today's Session

- Outcome focus: attitude
 - What would be really weird would be *not* needing LLL
 - The times demand it
 - So how can we approach it?
- LLL strategy: Content
 - Books
 - Classes
 - Consultations
- A survey with Megan Lukens

Trends and issues

- (Write in the chat: changes you're noticing)
- Membership decline across institutions
- Except the one-way kind (example: streaming services)
- Individualism in information consumption
- Anti-Black racism laid bare
- Systemic misogyny too
- Loss of innocence re. institutions
 - None is too big to fail
 - No blanket, automatic trust
- Covid intensified all these trends



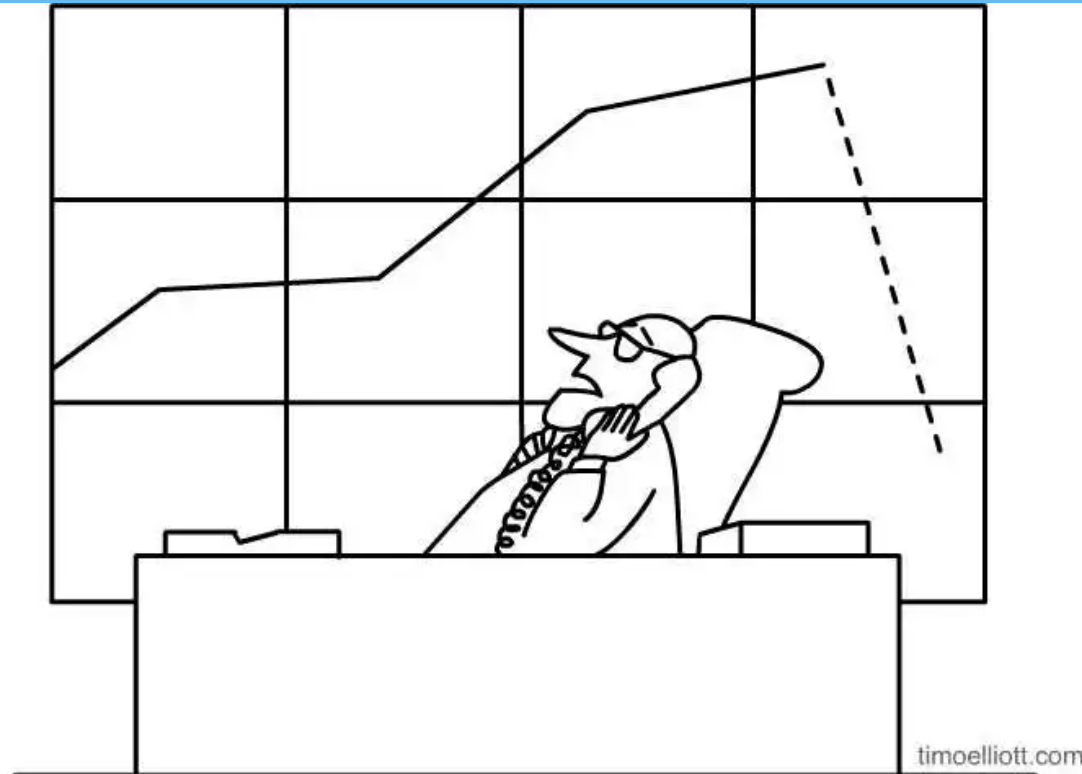
Some acceleration to the good



- Acceptance that people are different from each other
 - Gender is fluid
 - Race matters
 - Prejudice and privilege exist
- Appreciation for community
 - Loneliness, burnout recognized as mental health crises
 - Community's importance no longer taken for granted
- "Success" requires reassessment
 - The Great Resignation
 - "Self-care" understood as necessary

We can get away with saying...

- The old ways of leading aren't working anymore
- Therefore, the old ways of developing our leadership won't work either
- That's not an indicator of failure



"It turns out that failure WAS an option after all..."

Season of Reimagining Leadership

- The great untethering of spiritual life
 - Individuals from churches
 - Churches from denominations
- Orlando Costas
 - *Christ Outside the Gate*
 - Maybe today's untethering is a correction
- “But how in the world am I supposed to lead amidst the untethering?”



Leadership theory today

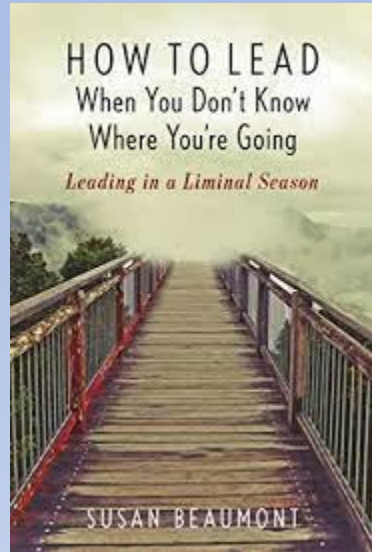
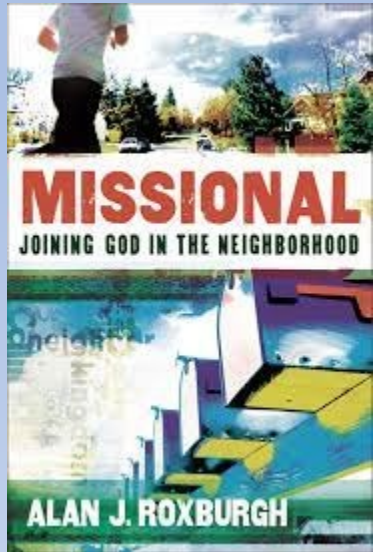


- Debunking “ladder theories of progress”
- Dismissing “Great Man”-style leadership development
- Offering new models to describe success, forward movement



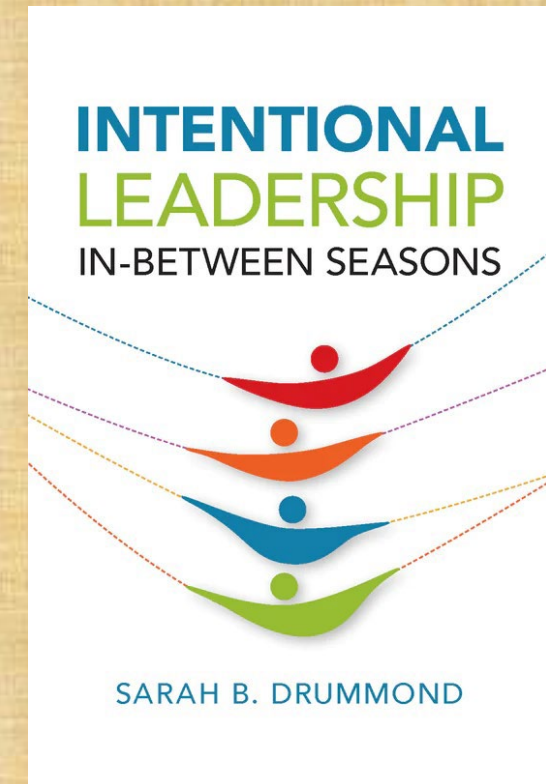
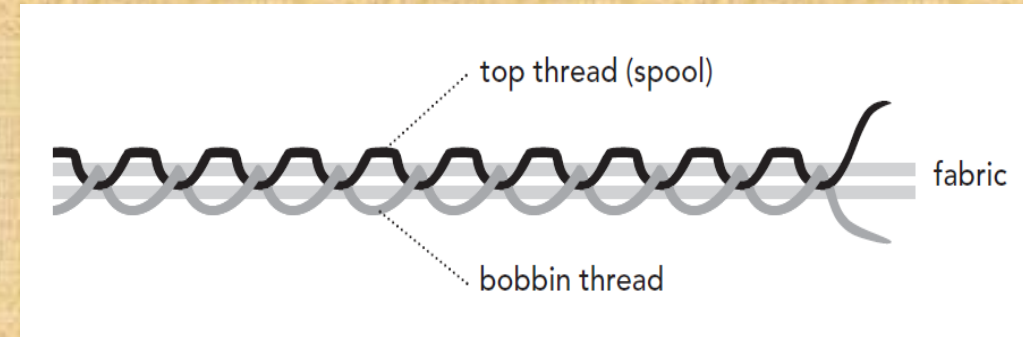
What is emerging in Christian leadership?

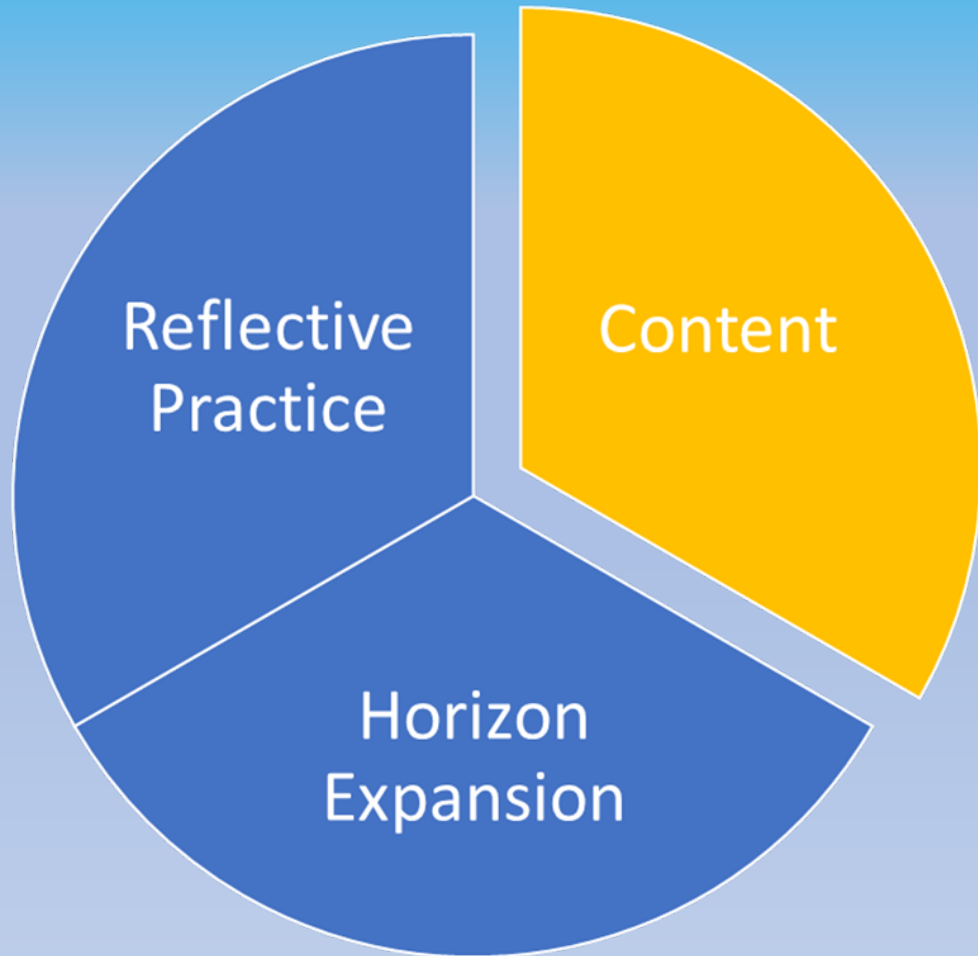
- (In the chat: share your recommendations for leadership books that have helped YOU)
- Leadership practices for liminal times (Beaumont)
- Following God into the neighborhood (Roxburgh)
- Being together *Another Way: Living and Leading Change On-Purpose* (Lewis, Williams, and Baker)



Intentional Leadership

- Individuals vs. Community
- Planning vs. Nimbleness, Creativity
- Structure vs. Creativity
- Inclusivity vs. Clear Identity
- Affiliative vs. Authoritative Leadership Styles





Content-Oriented LLL

- Identify an area where you wish to learn
 - Find books
 - Seek out courses
 - Find experts
- Sound easy? It's all about intentionality
 - Tendency to “go fishing”
 - Capture strategy
 - Question drives method
- Example: spinning off a nonprofit from a faith community
 - How-to, mistakes to avoid
 - What are others doing?
 - What is specifically relevant to this context?

Bibliography

- Beaumont, Susan. *How to Lead When You Don't Know Where You Are Going*. Rowman and Littlefield, 2019.
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- Roxburgh, Alan. *Joining God in the Great Unraveling*. Logos Press, 2021.