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


