



Leading Through Challenges

April 2016

The State of the Church

¹⁶(I did baptize also the household of Stephanas; beyond that, I do not know whether I baptized anyone else.) ¹⁷For Christ did not send me to baptize but to proclaim the gospel, and not with eloquent wisdom, so that the cross of Christ might not be emptied of its power. (1 Cor. 1:10-17)

The State of the Church

¹⁰ Now I appeal to you, brothers and sisters,* by the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that all of you should be in agreement and that there should be no divisions among you, but that you should be united in the same mind and the same purpose. ¹¹For it has been reported to me by Chloe's people that there are quarrels among you, my brothers and sisters.*

Challenging Times

The State of the Church

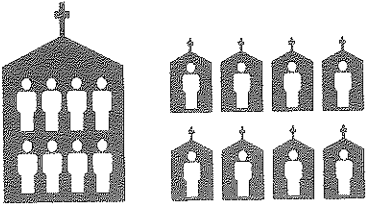
¹²What I mean is that each of you says, 'I belong to Paul', or 'I belong to Apollos', or 'I belong to Cephas', or 'I belong to Christ.' ¹³Has Christ been divided? Was Paul crucified for you? Or were you baptized in the name of Paul? ¹⁴I thank God* that I baptized none of you except Crispus and Gaius, ¹⁵so that no one can say that you were baptized in my name.

People are increasingly concentrated in very large congregations.

The average *congregation* in America is small - and getting smaller, down from a median of 80 regular participants in 1998 to 70 in 2012 - but the average *churchgoer* attends a larger congregation, and one in 10 churchgoers worships in a multi-site congregation.

National Congregations Study, 2012

About half of all churchgoers belong to the largest 7% of congregations.



SOURCE: NATIONAL CONGREGATIONS STUDY

What is happening in your community?

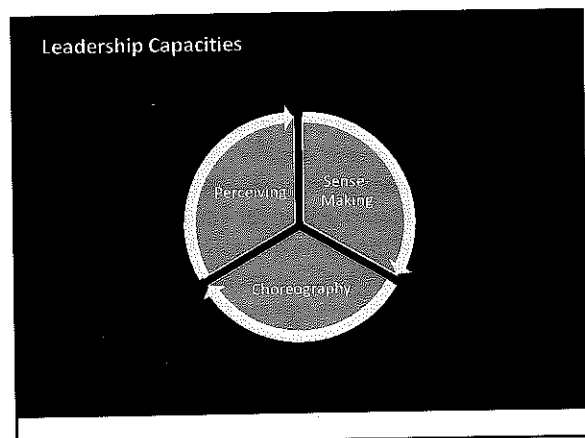
Look at the elementary school
Talk to the sheriff or social services

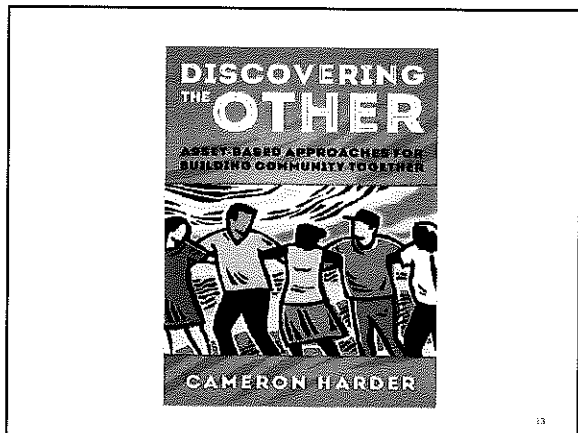
1/3 of pastors hold another job

Duke Corporate Education 2013 CEO Survey

- Challenges are less foreseeable
- Knowledge is less reliable

People in smaller churches give more money to their churches than do people in larger churches





Alan Deutschman
Change or Die

<p>Three Fs</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Facts • Fear • Force 	<p>Three Rs</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Relate • Reframe • Repeat
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Maggy Barankitse

At your tables

- What are the great challenges facing your community?
- Who is already working on those challenges?
- How could you develop (or strengthen) relationships with those who are experiencing those challenges?
- What can you celebrate about what you are already doing?

What is required to develop imagination?

Jeremy Begbie on Improvisation

Resources

- Dawnings (<http://cbfdawnings.org/>)
- Sourcing Innovation (<http://leadership.divinity.duke.edu/what-we-offer/programs/sourcing-innovation/>)
- Who is my neighbor? (<https://www.faithandleadership.com/who-is-my-neighbor>)
- Maggy Barankitse – Love made me an inventor <https://www.faithandleadership.com/multimedia/love-made-me-inventor>
- Jeremy Begbie - <https://www.faithandleadership.com/multimedia/jeremy-begbie-theology-through-the-arts>