Relational and Incarnational Leadership: A Flattening of the Congregational Hierarchy and a Shared Journey of Faith

Timothy D. Ozment

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Abstract
The problem addressed in this paper is: How can mainline congregational leadership move a church forward toward health in a postmodern world wherein the mainline Church as a whole is in such serious decline? This problem will be addressed by proposing a model of pastoral leadership that lives relationally and incarnationally with the congregation, flattens the hierarchy, and nurtures key lay leaders who are empowered to: answer their personal call, cultivate intentional relationships, and nurture the congregation into a missional and incarnationally focused living organism. Pastoral leadership, as we will argue, is, therefore, primarily living incarnationally and relationally with a congregation by helping indigenous people find innovative answers to their local and global problems. To present the importance of this style of relational leadership, we will look at: Chapter I - an introduction, by means of a familiar church dialogue and the current state of the mainline Church; Chapter II - The Trinity as a relational model of leadership; Chapter III - Moses as a communal model of leadership; Chapter IVNehemiah as a spiritual leader; Chapter V- Nehemiah as an emotionally intelligent community leader; Chapter VI- John Wesley's leadership as a flattening of the hierarchy and a model of relational leadership, and in Chapter VII - we will investigate corporate leadership as a spiritual model and a flattening hierarchy.

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correlation between a person's philosophy of life and one's understanding of the nature of leadership. *(37)* Nature of leadership, theology of the Church, Emerging trends in culture, & Philosophy of life are interrelated. *15* Leadership/philosophy/theology Manager=materialism/institutionalism Boss=Hierarchy/sacramental hierarchy Enabler=Developmentalism/process Charismatic=Apocalyptic/Covenant community. *16* Discussion Questions How do you balance pastoral ministry and missional leadership?