

Book report on Christian Chaos by Thomas Bandy

A brief outline of its contents

Anarchy and chaos can be managed. It is what life is like outside the church. Learn to surf the waves rather than tend the pond. Move from prescriptive to proscriptive thinking. Then turn laity loose and change the organization through cell groups and mission teams.

The Pastor's role is defined as: 1) Imagining possibilities and articulating boundaries {classical term is ministry of the sacrament; current term: visionary} 2) Focussing mission and motivating sacrifice {classical term is ministry of the word; current term: synthesizer} 3) Training ministers and equipping ministers {classical term is ministry of pastoral care; current term: trainer} 4) Birthing missions and coaching missionaries {classical term is ministry of service; current term: midwife} (p163-174).

The agenda of the official board needs to dramatically change its habits (p125).

Comparing Cell group ministry and traditional ministry. Use metaphor of breeding dogs versus breeding rabbits (p179-258). P.A.L.S. Groups: Prayer, Activity, Learning, Sharing (p204f)

A reflection on its relevance to my ministry

Wonderful exegesis and ideas for a series of sermons on Corinth and the Chaotic but enabled church (p16-17). Not imposing a hierarchy of authority, a bureaucracy of management, or prescriptive mandates and job descriptions to precisely what everyone should do.

Two places where consensus is crucial: 1) In the definition of core values, beliefs, vision, and mission which together form the congregational identity 2) Crucial to the ministries that emerge from the interaction of the church and culture. Declining Churches use consensus for management (oops! For us in UCA) (p38). Consensus management is simply a form of control (p94).

Midwife image for a minister is creative and useful (p172). Always hands the baby back, etc.

Dance metaphor for CC ... (p329f).

The learnings I have achieved by working with this book.

Reflect on proscriptive thinking and redefining my role as minister/pastor (p101).

“Every Christian is called into ministry” (p127).

Small congregation leaders often use lack of volunteers to retain control (p145).

Chris Crause