Transforming Self-Concept for Leader Development

David D. Reedy

Omega Graduate School

10/18/2023

Professor

Dr. Curtis McClaine, Ph.D., D.Min., M.Div.

Assignment #1 – Core Essential Elements

1. Select One (1) Core Essential Element from the Syllabus Outline:

a. Weekend Residency: Create a 350-word original discussion paper (with cited

sources) during the week of the residency. Be prepared to discuss and engage

with other students during the live sessions. Post this document in DIAL.

b. Professor will check for quality of content and word-count requirements. Grade

assigned will be Credit or No Credit (CR/NC).

The Church stands at the threshold between the past and the future in a rapidly changing world requiring effective leadership. Susan Beaumont’s “How to lead when you don’t know where you’re going: Leading in a liminal season” provides insight for leader development. She emphasizes the Church is currently passing through a liminal epoch. This is resulting in the ongoing destruction of traditional Church models and processes, and the emergence of new paradigms while accompanied by uncertainty surrounding future forms of institutional religion. (Beaumont, 2019, p. 8) Leadership within this context takes on a particular flavor. Liminal seasons are moments of heightened spiritual presence and encourage faith communities to deepen their collective discernment during these times. (p. 16) In this context, she emphasizes the importance of presence over functionality for leaders. A ministry of presence and openness helps to propel congregations forward in the midst of uncertainty and chaos toward a faithful and effective identity. (p. 134) The goal is to navigate the uncertainty and chaos rather than seek to eradicate them. The challenge for leaders during liminal seasons is to embrace the inherent ambiguity and chaos, standing with people amidst their confusion. (p. 134) Rather than eradicate the liminal to preserve a status quo, she advocates for the leader to encourage the group to remain in and engage the liminality. (p. 19) Throughout the book, Beaumont introduces the concept of "Presence" as a leadership approach rooted in authenticity, free from ego, and guided by a divine connection. (p. 23) Leadership in liminal times needs both adaptive and spiritually grounded approaches within the changing times that are the landscape for the Church. (p. 134) Leaders also need to be the lookout for the “trickster”, or those who appear to be charismatic leaders but thrive on sowing discord, as liminal times are already times of high anxiety. (p. 16) By attuning to the liminal time and being open to being led by Christ, a new way of thriving that is not yet clear, may become clearer. (p. 58)

WORKS CITED

Beaumont, S. (2019). *How to lead when you don’t know where you’re going: Leading in a liminal season*. Rowman & Littlefield.