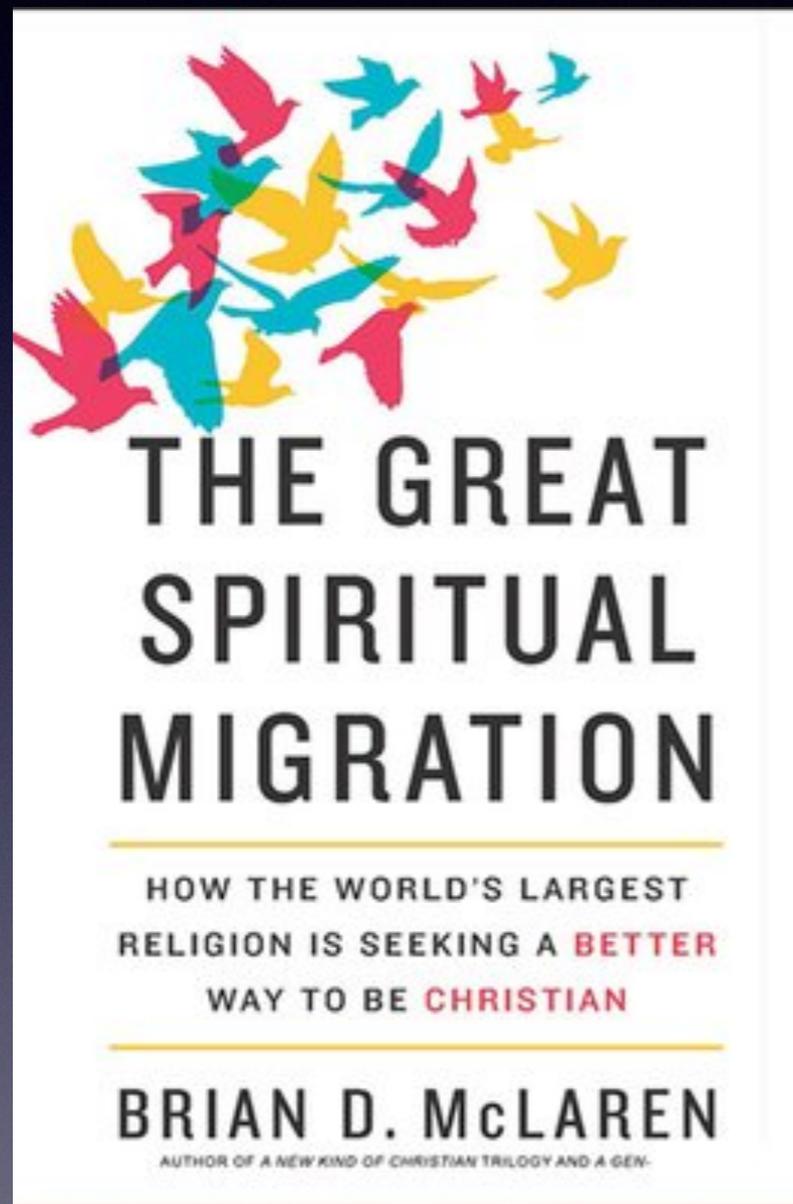


The Great Spiritual Migration



Holy Manners Bookstudy 42

ACTS

Winter 2019

St David's United Church
Calgary



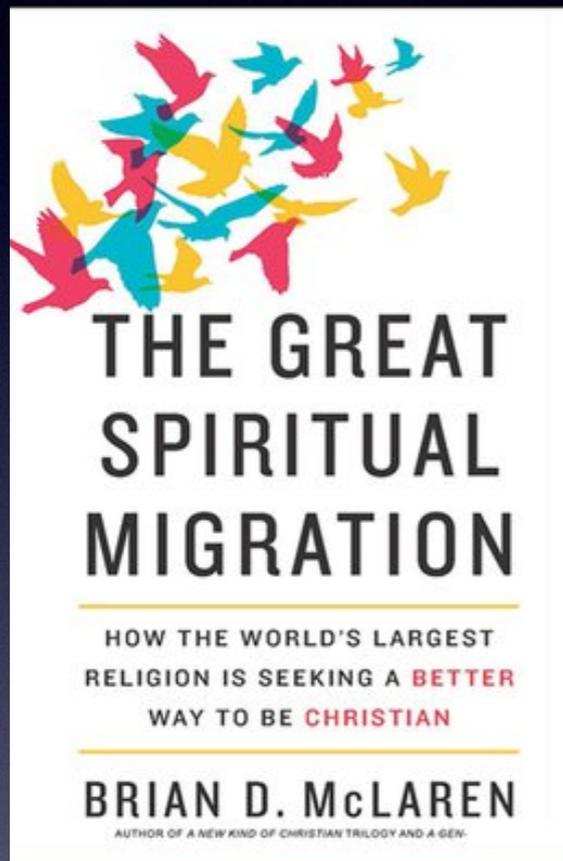
Opening Meditation

Session #6

- Opening
- Welcome & Housekeeping
- Peggy - The UCC in Migration
- Discussion Time
- Hospitality Break
- Brenda - Apx 3 - More on Beliefs
- Discussion Time
- Closing

SESSION 6

Welcomes & Housekeeping Handouts



Presentation - Peggy McDonagh

Being Faithful in a Time of Change

- How We Started
- Governance of the UCC - 1925-2018
- The 1st Migration: A Progressive Presence
- The 2nd Migration: From Outward to Inward
- The 3d Migration: The New Governance
- Personal Thoughts

Being Faithful in a Time of Change



- How We Started
- Governance of the UCC - 1925-2018

The 1st Migration: A Progressive Presence

- Methodist Social Gospel
- Seeking to transform injustice
- Rights of women and LGBTQ persons
- Progressive thought
- Expressing divine compassion
- New curriculums
- New statements of faith
- 1986 apology to First Nations
- Living faith experiences radical change

The 2st Migration: To an Inward Protection

- Severe pressures on religious institutes
- Complex secular milieu
- Society “spiritual but not religious”
- Loss of membership and finances
- Sexual orientation removed as barrier
- Migrated away from earlier zeal
- Focused on survival
- Membership declining
- Top-heavy church governance

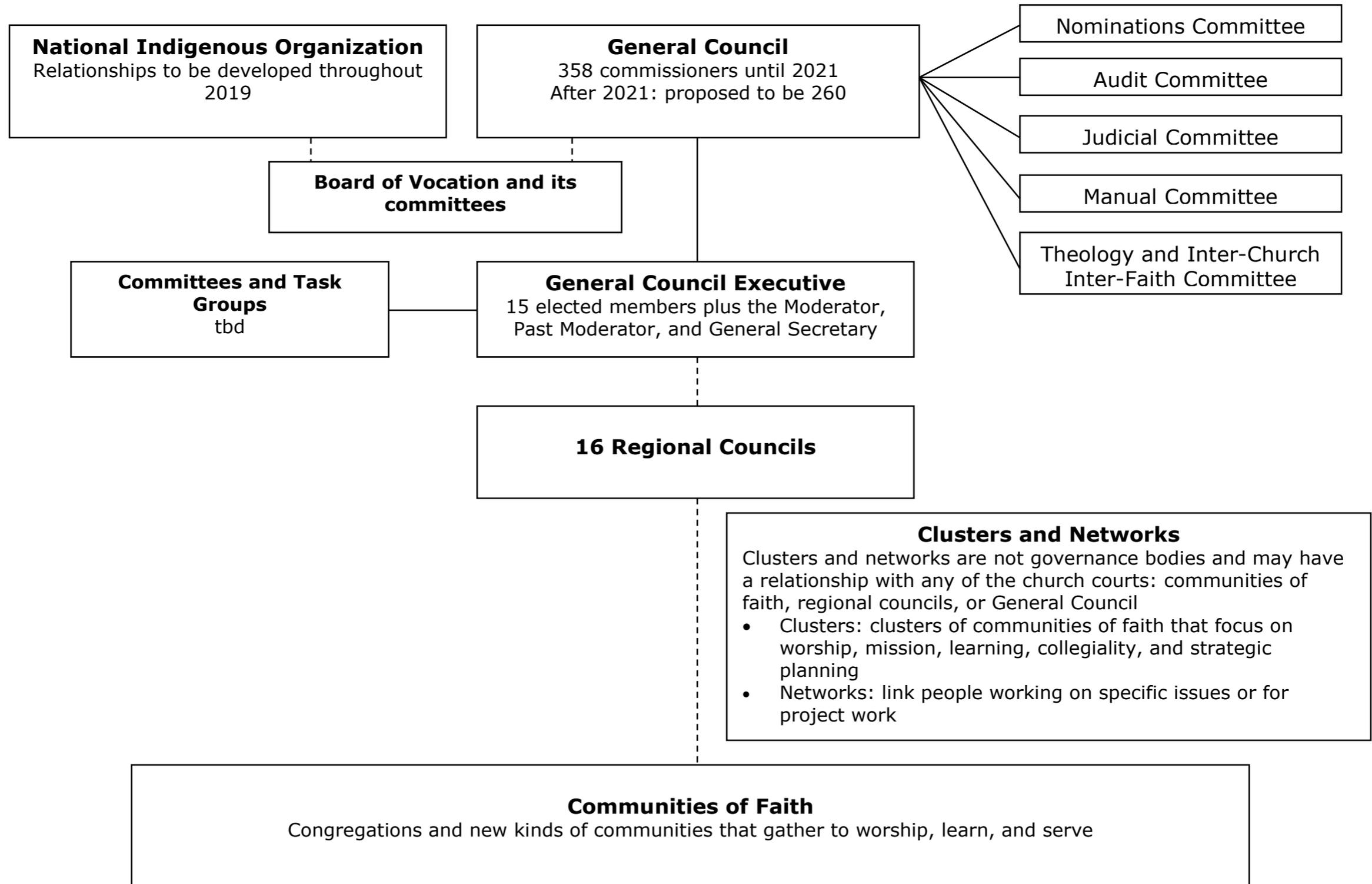
The 3d Migration: A New Governance

- Creating a new structure
- A new energy in 21st century
- 2000 communities of faith
- 16 regional councils
- General Council of 360 commissioners
- GC Office - Moderator, Secretary, Staff
- 4 Committees, 7 working units
- Task groups as needed



The United Church of Canada Governance 2019

January 18, 2019



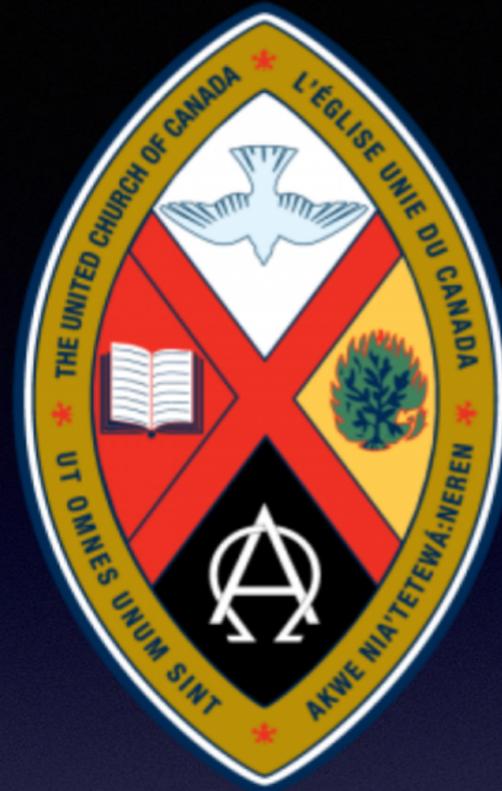
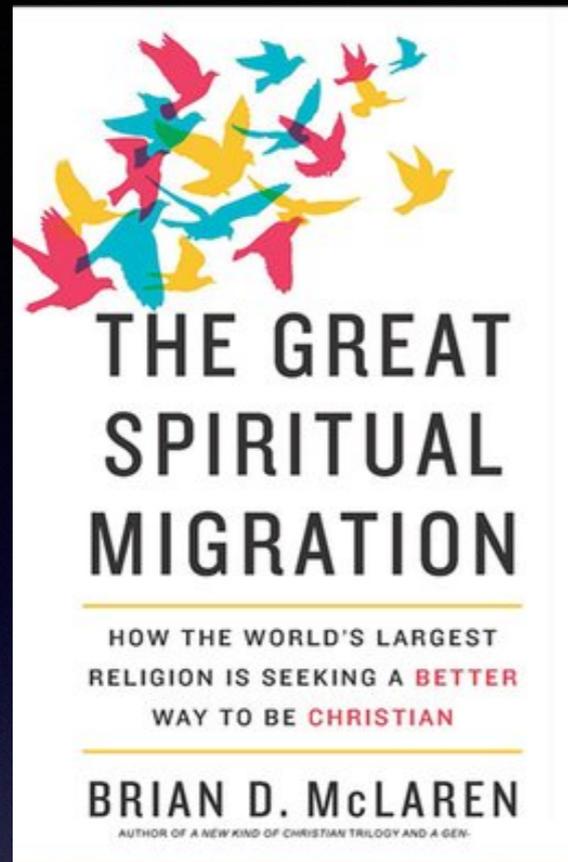
Personal Thoughts

- New governance will lend well to a new way of being in the world
- Calgary - The NW Cluster “Spark”
- Communities of faith
- Love - the most radical of all
- Be creative
- Be thoughtful
- Be effective
- Be faithful

Practical Points

from Dr. Stephen Harper's "They're Just Not That Into You - The Church's Struggle for Relevancy in the 21st Century"

- Focus on mission
- Invite people to belong, not believe
- Be culturally aware
- Love one's neighbour
- Friendliness
- Be Intentional
- Engage community
- Beware busyness
- Be a blessing



Discussion

The Theme of Migration & The United Church of Canada





Time now. Please return.

appendix iii

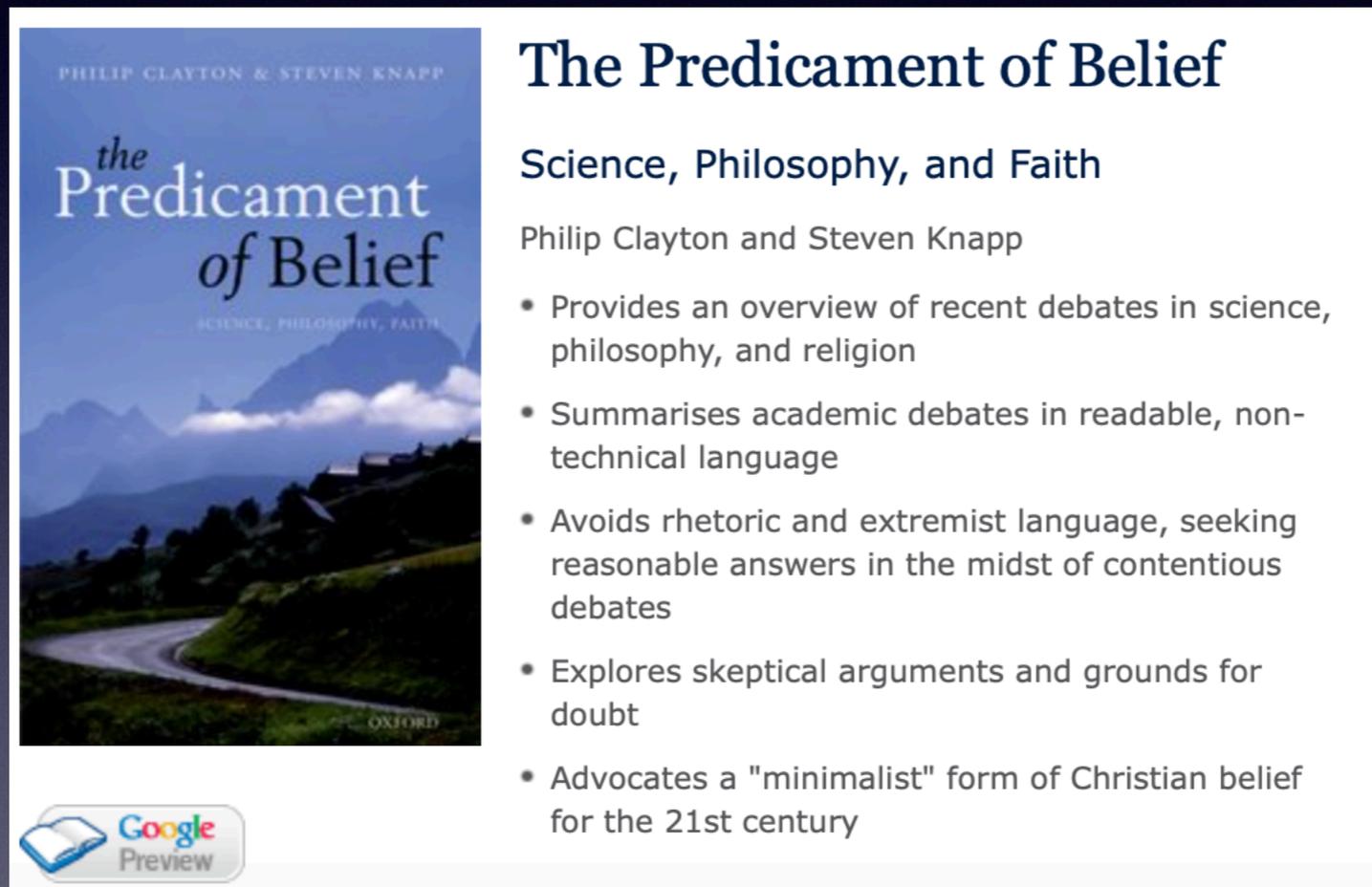
MORE ON BELIEFS

- **CONCEPTUAL (NOTIONAL) BELIEFS -**
- **beliefs that something exists**
- **RELATIONAL BELIEFS:**
 - **demand statements of conceptual beliefs as proof of loyalty or requirement for belonging.**
 - **object of belief provides rewards and punishments based on conceptual beliefs**

“We are caught between relational and conceptual belief, between personal loyalty to a community and personal intellectual integrity.” We say:

“Straining out gnats while swallowing camels.”

- IN ESSENTIALS, UNITY; IN NONESSENTIALS, LIBERTY; IN ALL THINGS, CHARITY

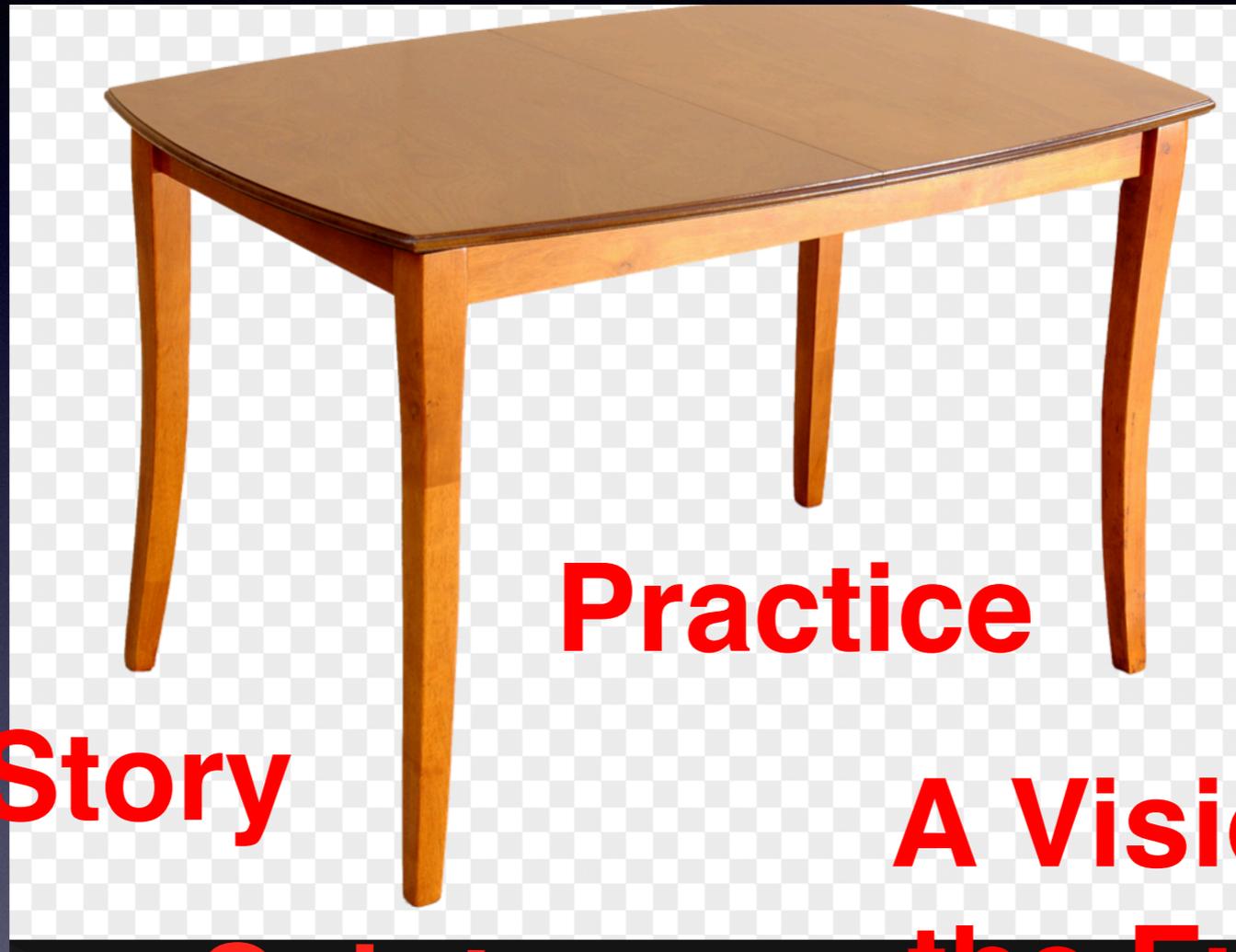


SIX
LEVELS
OF
BELIEF

Can Christianity of the future convene around something other than a list of conceptual beliefs?

We say:

McLaren's Fourfold Alternative to the Centrality of Conceptual Beliefs



A Story

Practice

**A Vision of
the Future**

Saints

THE CONVENING TABLE

LEG 1: A STORY

CONVENTIONAL VERSION

- perfect creation
- the fall
- human history in a sinful, damned world
- salvation
- perfect redemption in heaven
- perfect damnation in hell

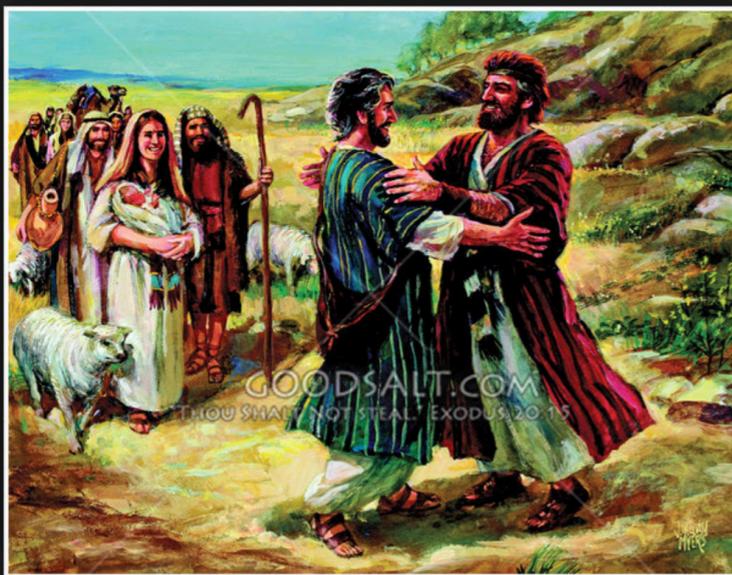
CONTEMPORARY VERSION

- Jesus and news of the kingdom of God (the table top)
- evidential approach to revelation - other ways of knowing
- story of God, present with creation, present to every event in deep solidarity

These stories:

- move from exclusivity to inclusivity
- lead from violence to peace

Engaged with the story in an integral or literary way of reading the Bible.



1 Kings: 18 to
Luke 9: 53-55

Elijah, Baal and fire
from God

“Now when his disciples James and John saw this, they said, “Lord, do you want us to call fire to come down from heaven and consume them?” But Jesus turned and rebuked them, and they went on to another village.”

LEG 2: SAINTS

Heroes of Faith & Living Elders

- “For the saint, the meaning of life is love... Life (has) a purpose (which is) love...
- Saints play a prominent role in Christian history
 - moral authority, Christlike character, authentic spirituality and self-giving service
 - Thomas Aquinas, Francis of Assisi, Patrick, Teresa of Avila
 - “(we) consider the outcome of their way of life and imitate their faith” Hebrews 13:7
 - Elders are tried and tested people whose words are backed up by their way of life and... challenge us to grow in faith, hope and love.

LEG 3: PRACTICE

**“SHARED RITUALS , HABITS AND BEHAVIOURS
BY WHICH WE BOND TO MEANING AND JOY”**

McLaren says: “When faith is completely replaced by creed, worship by discipline, love by habit; when the crisis of today is ignored because of the splendour of the past; when faith becomes an heirloom rather than a living fountain; when religion speaks only in the name of authority rather than with the voice of compassion — its message becomes meaningless.”

WE SAY:

LEG 4: A VISION OF THE FUTURE

“USING THE BIBLE TO DEEPEN OUR MORAL IMAGINATION SO WE CAN, WITH THE SPIRIT’S GUIDANCE AND EMPOWERMENT, ENVISION AND CO-CREATE A DESIRABLE FUTURE.”

What current elements of human society would we like to leave behind?

- Nuclear war
 - war in general
 - unsustainable destruction
 - ecological destruction
 - terrorism
 - global warming
 - religious discrimination
 - extreme poverty
 - overpopulation
 - drug addiction
 - racism
 - government corruption
- AND:....**

THE CONVENING TABLE

“Now is the time to ... come together around (the convening table) upheld by four legs, with bread and wine in the centre, speaking to us of Jesus.

- **we will celebrate the meaning and joy of the loving way of life embodied by Jesus**
- **we will commune and be filled with the non-violent, liberating Spirit of God embodied by Jesus**
- **we will organize people for mission so more and more of us can become embodiments of Christ in our world, working for the common good.”**

McLaren says: “This is the good news of great joy for all people — good news to believe in, good news to share, good news to launch a great spiritual migration”

WE SAY:



Closing

Next Readings

Session 7- February 25, 2019

Chapter 8 - Salvation from the Suicide Machine

Chapter 9 - You are Social Poets p. 166

Study Website Postings

sduc.ca