

STRATEGIC LEADERSHIP FRAMEWORK *Preparing for a post-COVID world*

"The world in front of you is nothing like the world behind you."

"We are called to adapt to a changing world because we are called to reach that changing world...We are to lead the people of God into the mission of God."

"Conceptionally stuck [churches] cannot be unstuck simply by trying [the same things] harder."

"The first responsibility of a leader is to define reality."

"Defining the urgency is critical to starting people on a new adventure."

Tod Bolsinger, Canoeing The Mountains (2015)

"The appropriate response to the emerging world is a rebooting of the mission, a radical obedience to an ancient command...."

"Until we bless people who "go out" from us to reach people who may not come to us, we will continue to have a kingdom vision that is shrink-wrapped to church programs and church real estate."

We need transitional leaders who will help the church find a new expression in the emerging world."

Reggie McNeal, The Present Future (2003)

What are we learning in this pandemic that can help us remain faithful and effectual in advancing the gospel, equipping the saints, making disciples and providing robust pastoral care?

What are we learning in this pandemic about technology, social media, use of facilities and the purpose and nature of larger inperson worship gatherings?

How are we preparing our people NOW for the *urgent* significant changes of the future?

"Let us fix our eyes on JESUS, the author and perfector of our faith..." Hebrews 12:2a

ACCEPT the urgent need for change

• Address present fractures, failures and fears

ADOPT as a priority a prayer posture

• Allow for the Holy Spirit to transform

ANCHOR everything to Scripture

• Attach all aspects of a strategic plan to God's Word

ADVANCE the gospel

• Assert the missional centrality of making disciples

AMP-UP equipping of the saints

• Apply Ephesians 4:11,12 as a core value

ALIGN with new partners

• Ask like-minded collaborators for help

ADJUST for the long-haul

• Affect robust incremental changes

LEADERS must reflect the MISSION

The 'STAGE' must reflect the MISSION

The BUDGET must reflect the MISSION

Prepared by Phil Gunther, March 2021 SASKATCHEWAN CONFERENCE MENNONITE BRETHREN CHURCHES