

Article Review

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What is one concept that stood out to you in this article?

The concept that stood out to me in this article, no matter the differences within the United Methodist Church (UMC) congregation with the split of the progressive wing (those with the money), and those of the conservative wing, which are mainly the delegates from Africa made an agreement on their separation, also called, a “no-fault divorce” concerning the issue in same sex or gay marriage. Rather, than making an attempt to resolve their theological differences, both groups decided to avoid a bad reputation of being talked about or become known as heretics to each other. Their agreement sets out a new church body created out of the ashes of the old, especially since they have been given \$ 25 million start up money to begin again.

This concept gave the congregants a chance to choose. There were three approaches used to deal with there controversies and disagreements. The acculturation approach, that conforms with the changing of the world, and therefore the church must learn to change along with it to best move into the future.

The next approach is politicization. This approach deals with the designs of the system by way of elections and candidates. The bottom line of winners and losers. This would be the political game of politics.

The last approach is separation. This is the approach when things get to crazy or out of control, one would leave and form their own church, or maybe join an existing group. This is how our American Context gave birth to Micro-Synods as a quick fix to theological conflict.

What I have learned from reading this article is that change is inevitable, and it would come from many perspectives of individuals and corporately truths even when it comes to

resolving theological conflicts. Most groups believe in true expression of the church. The bottom line a decision will have to be made whether favorable or unfavorable.

What implications does this concept have for leading in the church?

The implication this concept has for leading in the church is having the understanding that even the people of conviction can and will disagree with how a leader may or may not have handle a church problem. Even when it comes to whatever solution/s the leader comes up with. However, a decision must be made for the betterment of the congregation. In this article it shown throughout history decisions has been made in the church for different reasons. Meanwhile, no matter the reasons for the changes, or even the conflicts, changes help us to grow and develop in the skills we did not even know we had, until situations presented itself, and we as church leaders have to address.

What needs to change in your life as a result?

I oftentimes have a difficult time with change. Perhaps, it has to do with my age, or maybe it might be with my perspective of, if it isn't broke do not fix it. However, I do realize that this is not a good way for me to be. Just like I have mentioned before in this article review, that change is inevitable. Therefore, as a result; it is not good to get comfortable with things, nor take anything for granted because things do change. Often people would asked themselves the question is change good or bad; in which many will struggle with (depending on their current situation). Meanwhile, as I reflect over my life, I see change as being good. Though sometimes I may struggle with changes; but then I remember to ask God, "What he wants me to learn from this experience?" Then, God reveals it too me; or sometimes He doesn't. But, at the end of the day I know everything is going to be alright.

References:

Peperkorn A, T. (2021). *The Splintering of Missouri: How Our American Context Gave Rise To Micro-Synods as a Solution to Theological Conflict*. CTQ 85: 155-169.