

**MINISTRY IN TIMES OF CHANGE:
CHALLENGES, OPPORTUNITIES,
BLESSINGS**

Reflection & Interaction
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INTRODUCTION

What's in a word?

What is the etymology of the word minister(y)?

The word *minister* has the general meaning of "one who acts upon the authority of another"

WORD ASSOCIATION GROUP THERAPY

What reaction do you have to the word Change?

What reaction do you have to the word Transition?

What determines the difference between these two?

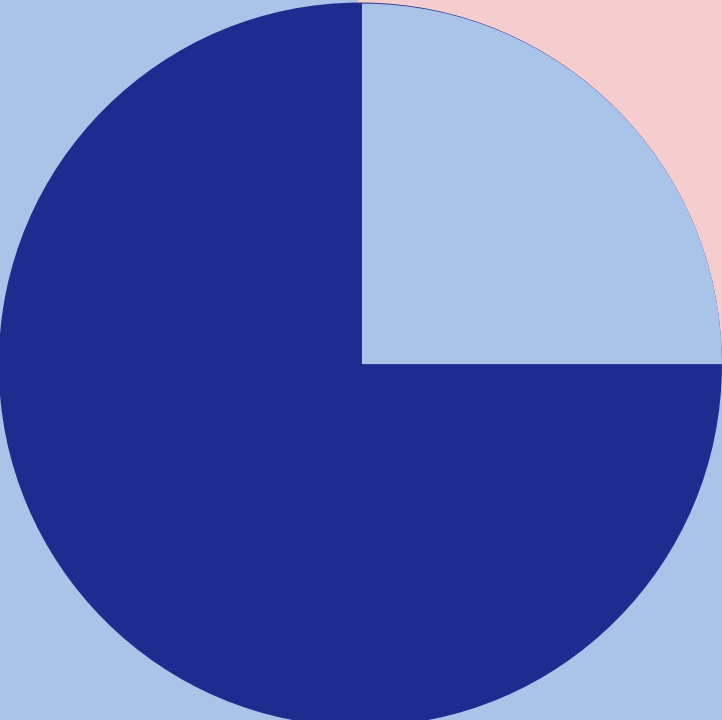
***“CHANGE (TRANSITION) IS LIKE THE CITY
BUSSES.”***

“THERE'S ALWAYS ANOTHER ONE COMING.”

Adaptation of the words of
Richard Branson

**YOU CAN CHOOSE
TO GET RUN OVER**

**OR JUMP ON
FOR THE
RIDE**



“

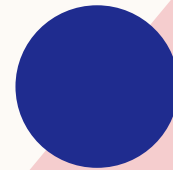
**See, I am doing a new
thing! Now it springs up;
do you not perceive it? I
am making a way in the
wilderness and streams in
the wasteland.**

ISAIAH 43:19

“

And we know that for those who love God all things work together for good, for those who are called according to his purpose.

ROMANS 8:28



PRACTICAL INSIGHTS

Navigating Change

THE JANUS APPROACH



LOOKING BACK- BEING IN THE PRESENT-LOOKING AHEAD

- Postured to:
 - **Appreciate** the past, bring into the present all that is good: the wisdom and lessons of the past
 - **Engage** the Present Opportunities
 - **Envision** the Future

THE GRACE OF LIMINAL SPACE





WHAT WILL BE YOUR PRAYER AS YOU NAVIGATE CHANGE?

Psalms 51:12

Let my passion for life be restored, tasting joy in every breakthrough you bring to me. Hold me close to you with a willing spirit that obeys whatever you say.

OWNING YOUR GIFTS

“Our deepest fear is not that we are inadequate. Our deepest fear is that we are powerful beyond measure. It is our light, not our darkness that most frightens us. We ask ourselves, 'Who am I to be brilliant, gorgeous, talented, fabulous?' Actually, who are you not to be? You are a child of God. Your playing small does not serve the world. There is nothing enlightened about shrinking so that other people won't feel insecure around you. We are all meant to shine, as children do. We were born to make manifest the glory of God that is within us. It's not just in some of us; it's in everyone. And as we let our own light shine, we unconsciously give other people permission to do the same. As we are liberated from our own fear, our presence automatically liberates others.”

— Marianne Williamson, [A Return to Love: Reflections on the Principles of "A Course in Miracles"](#)

ASPECTS OF GRATITUDE FOR GIFTS RECEIVED

“

Being gifted doesn't mean
you've been given something.
It means, you have something
to give.

GRACIOUSQUOTES.COM

“

The meaning of life is to find
your gift. The purpose of life
is to give it away.

DAVID VISCOTT

GRACIOUSQUOTES.COM

“

Expressing gratitude to
others is a gift to them.
Experiencing gratitude is a
gift to yourself.

MICHAEL JOSEPHSON

GRACIOUSQUOTES.COM

“

The best gift you can give
yourself is the gift of
possibility.

PAUL NEWMAN

GRACIOUSQUOTES.COM



GIFTS AND GAPS INVENTORY

- ✓ Grateful Acknowledgement of the Gifts That God Has Bestowed on You
- ✓ Recognition of the Gifts of Others
- ✓ Seeking Synergy

HOW THEN SHALL WE MOVE AHEAD?

Gently and Patiently With Ourselves and Others

Utilize a “Janus-like” view: Look Back, Look Around, Look Forward!



First: Self-Care and Advocacy of Self-Care for the Others You Lead

Self-care \neq Selfishness

Love Your Neighbor As You Love Yourself = Self-Care and Care For Others!



“You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your mind, and with all your strength.’ The second is this: ‘You shall love your neighbor as yourself.’ There is no other commandment greater than these.” Mark 12:30-31

HOW THEN SHALL WE MOVE AHEAD?

Some of Stephen Covey's "Habits for Highly Effective Leaders" may be helpful. Let's "baptize them" with our ministry perspectives!

- **Seek First To Understand**
 - Through personal and communal prayer, respectful dialogue and discernment
 - Maybe now is not the time for some people, some projects...that's OK.
 - Analyze the impact of staff changes and changes within the community and society. Allow for mourning, reconciliation and re-focus in light of these realities
- **Put First Things First**
 - Leading in your area of responsibility means ministering to those you lead first, so that they can in turn minister for and with others.

HOW THEN SHALL WE MOVE AHEAD?

Be Proactive:

- Focus and act on what you can control or influence instead of what you can't.

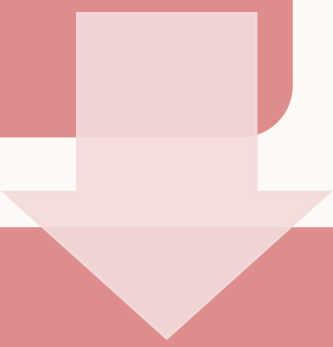
*“God Grant Me the **Serenity** to Accept the Things I Cannot Change, the **Courage** to Change the Things That I Can, and **Wisdom** to Know the Difference.”*

Begin With the End in Mind:

- The “End” may not be full replication of programs and services.

HOW THEN SHALL WE MOVE AHEAD?

Synergize: Don't try to go it alone, with whom do you need to partner, to whom do you need to delegate, from whom do you need advice and guidance?



Sharpen the Saw: Don't omit preparing the skills of all whom you lead so that you don't try to "get the job done" with skills that are rusty and dulled by time, fear, loss...

OPTIONAL HOMEWORK

See Handout

THANK YOU MAY GOD BE WITH YOU

Be Assured of My Prayers for You Today and
As You Navigate Your Life & Profession.
May You Nurture Joy and Openness to
Change For Yourself and Those For Whom
and With Whom You Minister & Work!

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