

MELVIN JOURNAL

Melvin J. Steinbron



(week 6)

Sailing the 7C's of Congregational Care [I]

We call this lay-clergy partnership decentralized pastoral care.

To the elders among you, I appeal as a fellow elder, a witness of Christ's sufferings and one who also will share in the glory to be revealed: Be shepherds of God's flock that is under your care, serving as overseers – not because you must, but because you are willing, as God wants you to be; not greedy for money, but eager to serve; not lording it over those entrusted to you, but being examples to the flock. And when the Chief Shepherd appears, you will receive a crown of glory that will never fade away. 1 Pet.5:1-4

THE CALLED: *"The elders among you"* God **calls** every Christian to be a minister, **assigns** specific ministries, **gives** spiritual gifts for the ministry, **requires** equipping, and **holds** each accountable for quality and completion.

THE CALLER: *"a fellow elder"* Peter—a disciple, an apostle and an elder— is the Caller...along with Jesus, who, having ascended into heaven, sent his Spirit to *"take what is mine and make it known to you."*

THE CALL: *"Be shepherds"* **Jesus is Lord**— He has authority to summon and issue orders to individuals, who, if they obey, *"have life, and have it to the full,"* but if they disobey, do so at their own peril.

THE CONGREGATION: *"God's flock"* God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son...to be the Savior of the world and the Head of his Church. His command to Peter, *"Take care of my sheep,"* revealed the passion of his heart—or selected followers to love and care for his people.

THE CARE: *"Under your care.... Entrusted to you"* The ministry leaders are to define shepherding, develop strategy and design a structure which gives form to the definition and a program to activate the strategy. The caregiver's task is P A C E —Pray, Available, Contact, Example. The triad, *willing-eager-exemplary*, is the hallmark of a pastoral care giver(shepherd).

THE CHIEF: *"When the Chief Shepherd appears"* Someone has to be in charge—It's Jesus, Lord overall, who is also Chief Shepherd, Good Shepherd, Savior of the world, Head of the Church, and the Coming One.

THE CROWN: *"You will receive a crown of glory"* This is a treasured intangible award of incalculable worth which will not tarnish, which is in the same genre as faith, hope and love, and which will be cherished aeons after all material and physical valuables have returned to dust.●

from Short Paper



How do you see this commentary? Can you follow what is that mean?
Can you get these 7C as the church's most valuable assets?
Byeong