



the *Way*
Truth* comes to *Life

**The Millennial Generation
meets the Mennonite
Church**

Meghan L. Good

The Stats

- ★ 15% of Americans claim no religion

Study by LifeWay Christian

Resources,

The Stats

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- ★ 46% of Americans age 18-34 claim no religion

Study by LifeWay Christian

Resources,

The Stats

- ★ 15% of Americans claim no religion
- ★ 46% of Americans age 18-34 claim no religion
- ★ 65% of Americans age 18-34 rarely or never attend church

Study by LifeWay Christian

Resources,

The Stats

- ✦ 40 yrs ago, 54% of the Mennonite church was under age 45

Conrad Kenagy, Road Signs for the Journey:
A Profile of the Mennonite Church USA (June

2007)

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- ✦ Today, 30% of the Mennonite church is under age 45

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- ★ Today, 30% of the Mennonite church is under age 45
- ★ 16% of Mennonite pastors are under 45

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“Jesus is the Way as well as the Truth. *The way the gospel is conveyed is as much a part of the kingdom as the truth presented.* Why are pastors experts on the truth and dropouts on the way?”



Eugene Peterson,
from *The Contemplative Pastor*

3 Challenges


- ★ Spiritual:
The Worship Hunger

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- ★ Relational:
The Insular Pull



**Know therefore that the Lord
your God is God;
he is a faithful God, keeping
his covenant of love to a
thousand generations of
those who love him and keep
his commands.**

Deuteronomy 7:9

Facing the 3 Challenges

introductory questions

Spiritual: The Worship Hunger

- ★ How do we distinguish between our core faith commitments and cultural practices that are dependent on time and circumstance? Which commitments are non-negotiable and what is on table for creative adaptation?

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- ✦ How do we distinguish between our core faith commitments and cultural practices that are dependent on time and circumstance? Which commitments are non-negotiable and what is on table for creative adaptation?
- ✦ To what extent are we, are should we be, committed to “acculturating” the gospel or “translating” the gospel into the cultural vernacular?

Theological: The Single-Issue Focus

- ✦ What does it mean for us as denominational churches that denominational loyalty/affiliation is rapidly decreasing? How does this affect how we present ourselves or perceive our purpose?

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- ✦ What does it mean for us as denominational churches that denominational loyalty/affiliation is rapidly decreasing? How does this affect how we present ourselves or perceive our purpose?
- ✦ What is the relationship of our denomination to the larger Church? Where do we need to learn from other traditions? Where do we need to do a better job of resourcing others?

Relational: The Insular Pull

- ✦ Is the insular pull an accurate reflection of the gospel we espouse? If not, how do we work on breaking the 3-fold cycle of isolation?
 - (a) Personal
 - (b) Cultural
 - (c) Denominational



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