



LISTS AND TASKS AND BOARD MEETINGS...
OH MY!!

WHY THINGS CAN
GO FROM GOOD
TO BAD SO QUICKLY

GETTING IN THE
WEEDS...



WHAT JUST
HAPPENED??





The Seven
Deadly
Obstacles
to Spirit-Led
Decision
Making

Poor Baggage Handling
Fortifying the Castle
Comparing and Despairing
Jumping to Convulsions
Worst Case Scenario-ing
People Pleasing
Giving in to Limiting Beliefs

Poor Baggage Handling



Fortifying the Castle



Comparing and Despairing



Jumping to Convulsions



Worst Case Scenario-ing



People Pleasing



Giving into Limiting Beliefs



IMAGINE THE
FLOW OF THE
SPIRIT AT WORK

IMAGINE
SEEING THE **BEST**
PROCESSES
DECISION-MAKING
AT WORK IN YOUR
CHURCH...





Getting out
of the weeds
and clearing
a path for
discernment



Weeding

The most important thing in decision making is the preparation.

Never call a meeting or go into a meeting without knowing and fully communicating the objectives, the goals and the desired outcomes.

Develop realistic and consistent agendas

Anticipate questions, concerns or obstacles before rolling out new initiatives or actions



Preparing the soil

Create a behavioral covenant for the group.

Before a group begins their work together spend time getting to know one another and encouraging people to share their stories.

Develop a ritual which centers people on being open to the movement of the Spirit.

Allow time for brief Spirit check ins before moving to discussion and decision making. (A quick check in is to ask, "What do you bring into this space? Hope, fear, tiredness")



Planting the seeds

Make sure those running the meeting/session keep to the agreed upon covenant and timeframe.

Communicate often what tending your group has been asked to do.

Consider appointing an observer or chaplain at each meeting that observes and names what is going on in the space (i.e. It seems like we have gone off track... or It seems like it would be a good time for us to pause for silent prayer) as well as listens deeply and restates for clarification (Do you mean? Are we saying?)



Waiting for growth

Allow time and space for good decisions to happen.

Do not rush the movement of the Spirit and God's processes.



Discernment is the process of intentionally becoming aware of how God is present, active, and calling us as individuals and communities of faith to act.

Discernment involves “shifting” through choices and voices that surround us.

Discernment does not confirm already held beliefs, hunches or intuition. It is the faith filled practice of deeper awareness, questioning, and risk.

The real one who does the discerning is the Holy Spirit.

Things to remember about discernment

Discernment keeps us open to God's initiative rather than closing the issue

Fruit of discernment appears most closely in retrospect.

Discernment always begins with wondering, questioning, and imagining...



Discernment is ALWAYS about relationship

Relationship not right choices

Relationship is not based on a single action, decision, or action

Each decision provides new vistas, information, and perspective

Mistakes are useful

Nothing is wasted



ASKING THE RIGHT QUESTIONS

Rev. Gil Rendle has written extensively on the role of discernment within congregational life.

In his book “Quietly Courageous,” he suggests churches engaging in discernment orient their conversation around three essential questions:

*Who are we now?
What is God calling us to be?
Who is our neighbor?*

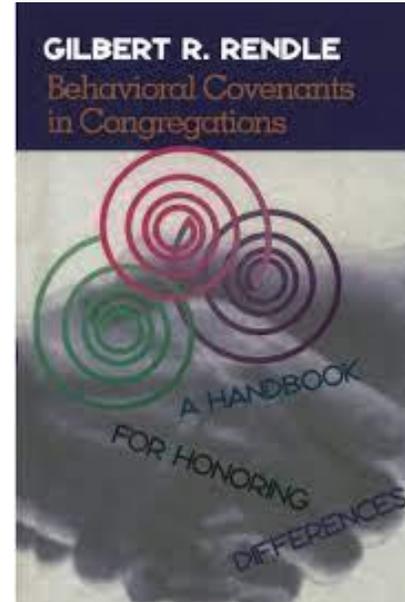
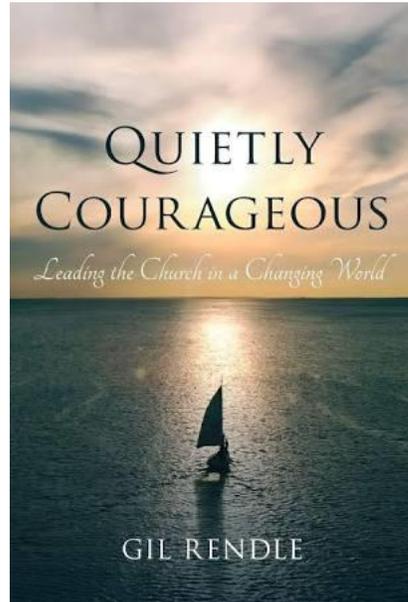


God is calling YOU
to help clear the
pathway for
good relationships,
good meetings,
good processes,
good discernment,
and good ministry.



Recommended books

Quietly Courageous and
Behavioral Covenants in Congregations
by Gilbert R. Rendle



Recommended Books

[“Holy Conversations: Strategic Planning as a Spiritual Practice for Congregations,”](#) Alice Mann and Gil Rendle, Rowman & Littlefield Publishing Group, Inc.

[“Ministry and Solitude,”](#) James C. Fenhagen, The Seabury Press

[“Quietly Courageous: Leading the Church in a Changing World,”](#)
Gil Rendle, Rowman & Littlefield Publishing Group, Inc.

Online Resources

- [Discerning God's Will Together](#), Jessica Moffatt
- [The Fenhagen Model for Corporate Discernment and Consensus](#), Jessica Moffatt,
- [Deciding and Discerning Distinction](#), Jason Valendy
- [When the topic is tough, we need to talk – and listen](#), Emily Snell
- [Courageous Conversations](#), Scott Hughes
- [Spiritual gifts inventory](#)