FOCUSING & ASSUMING RESPONSIBILITY
Pastor Process Task #4

Transitional Ministry Today,
pp.107-108
Intentional Interim Ministry

The Stages & Tasks

“Transitional pastors need to be harbingers of hope and not prophets of doom... One of the jobs of the transitional pastor is to move congregations beyond the 'survivalist' mode to a 'possibilities' mode.”

Bendroth, p.16
Selecting the issues or activities...

"This very important task is based on several factors including:

- The leader’s understanding of role and responsibility,
- The particular skills and experiences of the leader,
- The relative openness in the system.
- The interim’s understanding of God’s call

In every situation, the focus of the interim leader needs to include self-care and acceptance of limitations of responsibility!

David Sawyer
Knowing Ourselves
Recognizing our own Needs and Limitations

➢ The leader’s understanding of role and responsibility,
➢ The particular skills and experiences of the leader
➢ In every situation, the focus of the interim leader needs to include self-care and acceptance of limitations of responsibility!
Wise Counsel

“You cannot fix all that needs to be addressed during your interim time. Carefully select four or five areas where your gifts and the church’s needs intersect.”

Michael Piazza, Bendroth p.107

“A wise transitional leader will pick the most urgent and needful of presenting issues to work on with the congregation in the time they are together.”

Norman Bendroth interview  http://www.louisville-institute.org/
Points of Openness

“What if we don’t change at all ... and something magical just happens?”

OH WOW! PARADIGM SHIFT!
Our Sense of God's Call

"I can't stand to listen to anyone else preach. You reckon that means the Lord is calling me to the ministry?"

NEITHER THE HAIRSHIRT NOR THE SOFT BERTH WILL DO.

THE PLACE GOD CALLS YOU TO IS THE PLACE WHERE YOUR DEEP GLADNESS AND THE WORLD'S DEEP HUNGER MEET.

FREDERICK BUECHNER
“Join the system, and then do what is fun.”
Edwin Friedman

“Within that responsibility, follow your own heart and focus on the work that suits your unique personality and experience - that’s what Friedman means by ‘fun.’”
Lutheran Interim Ministry Handbook
In summary

“Actually, I’d like less bang for my buck.”
"I've got a photographic memory, but everything's out of focus."

"Focus, people. We've only got a few days before we begin to rot."
“Oh, good ... you're not busy.”