

Exploring or Creating the Future

“X factors know that the future is yet to be shaped.”

X factors, people with an idea that transforms, know that their role is to create not just discover the landscape of the future. Creating the future was God’s charge to mankind in the Garden of Eden when God commanded Adam to “...subdue and rule...” For us in a pragmatic sense the **“future does not exist.”**

Church leaders, including full-time professionals and lay leaders, are still reacting to the changes in the 3rd millennium rather than participating in their creation. This trend is reflected in Leadership Network’s recent emphasis on exploring for church leaders. It compares our current era to that of explorers such as Lewis & Clark. The assumption that underlies this model is that the future exists much like the Northwest Territory existed. Since a role for church ministers in the 20th century was to discover the landscape and interpret it to their congregations, Leadership Network is probably justified in its emphasis on exploring.

However, congregation members who are professionals in the market-space don’t necessarily depend on a church leader’s interpretation. We are about creating the future in our daily professional decisions. Young professionals today know that their generation can create a new and radically different future. They know about Bill Gates and Michael Dell as two examples of young professionals who did just that.

So let’s embrace God’s original “commission” to “...multiple, fill the earth, subdue and rule...”

	Exploring	Creating
Assumption	The future exists	The future is yet to be created
Processes	Discover the future	Create the future
	Reacts to the future	Influences the future
Institutions	Adapts existing institutions	Establishes new institutions
Values	Adapts values & culture	Enacts new values and culture