God Complex Radio: Future of Church Renewal
http://godcomplexradio.com/2013/05/cameron-trimble-future-of-church-renewal/

Guest:
● A proponent of church reinvigoration and executive director of the Center for Progressive Renewal, Cameron Trimble strives to redefine the Church for modern purposes by training new, entrepreneurial leaders and supporting and strengthening new and existing congregations.

Suggested learners:
● Adults and teens, especially those interested in innovation, evangelism

Outline of interview:
● Entrepreneurial experiment: innovating the Church
● Recruiting a new class of talent: new Church around existing structure
● Motivated by awareness of radical decline in mainline attendance; systemic anxiety
● Need for innovation within a bureaucratic system
● Main obstacles to renewal:
  ■ Structures (governance, policy) no longer servicing existing Church
  ■ Reluctance to change with changing times
  ■ Focus has too long been on management of Church rather than mission of Jesus Christ
  ■ Fear of what we’ve lost; must put faith in the fact that better days are ahead
● Role of technology in the future of the Church cannot be overstated, but cannot substitute for relationships
● We must meet people where they are—people want to know God, not know about God
● Overstimulation is the status quo. Church becomes boring; we must communicate & connect on an on-the-go level
● Multimedia worship is a tool we need to consider
● At the very least, every pastor & church leader must have a basic awareness of social media
● Combine evangelism with theology; eliminate/revamp outdated conceptions of seminary

Additional reflection questions:
1. Trimble is quite passionate about her ideas for the future of the Church. Is there anything you strongly agree with? Strongly disagree with?
2. There is an argument for the Church as a venue for large-scale discussions on global
warming, war, etc. How can we harness the power of the existing Church, and perhaps a “modern” (internet-connected, business-savvy) Church, to achieve those goals?

3. What can the Church do to attract the kind of leaders that Trimble believes we are lacking? How does the Church need to transform itself to better nurture innovative leaders?

4. Trimble mentions the mission of Jesus Christ as the unifying vision for new ways of being the Church. What stories of Jesus’s ministry inspire you to seek and serve?

Podcast study guides are a new genre for us all. Have a suggestion? Please contact us at cmt@vts.edu.