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REIMAGINING AND REMAPPING THE RELIGIOUS LANDSCAPE:

Chaos Before a New Ordering

Gil Rendle

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*“Look! I’m doing a new
thing; now it sprouts up;
don’t you recognize it?”*

- Isaiah 43:19

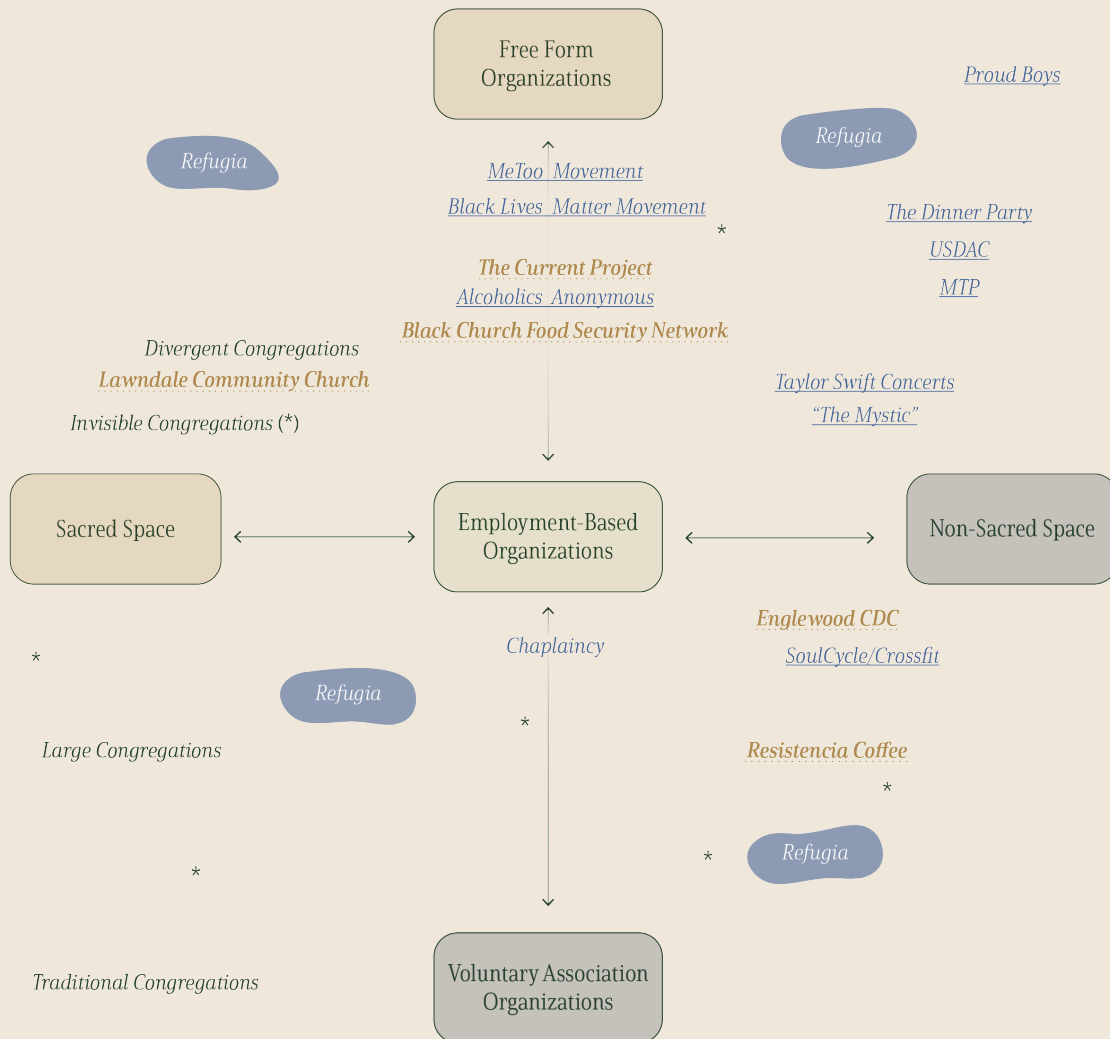


Read the full
monograph

“Perhaps the first challenge for religious leaders is to face into mystery without fear and without being overly constrained by what they remember about their own religious institutions. Can we consider that the chaos that we are feeling and seeing about us is, perhaps, creativity in motion? Can we consider it to be chaos in search of cosmos? Can we allow that a reordering is happening? By looking and learning we might find a way to live in the new landscape with the gifts of our faith still in hand.

One start is to draw a map of the new landscape – beginning with what we currently see and leaving space for what is yet to be.”

The Emerging Religious Landscape



Congregations

Organizations closely linked to denominations or religious structures and practices.

"Unbundled" Organizations

Varied practices of personal spirituality that may or may not be overtly religious.

Entrepreneurs

A growing swell of quasi-congregational meaning making ventures being created, led, and developed by entrepreneurial leaders.

Refugias

Small, safe places in the midst of crisis and uncertainty.



Rev. Gil Rendle is a retired Senior Vice President and Consultant with Texas Methodist Foundation as well as an independent consultant working with issues of change and leadership in denominations. Prior to this position, he served the Alban Institute as an author, seminar leader and senior consultant

for twelve years. An ordained United Methodist minister, Rendle served as senior pastor of two urban congregations in Pennsylvania for sixteen years and as a denominational consultant for The United Methodist Church for nine years.

Rendle has an extensive background in organizational development, group and systems theory, and leadership development. He has consulted with congregations on planning, staff and leadership development, and issues of change.

He is the author of twelve books, a contributor to four books, and the author of numerous articles and monographs.