

**Presbytery of Riverside, Presbytery Assembly, September 12, 2020
Presentation by Lee Ireland, Temporary Presbytery Leader**

“What’s Liminality?”

Liminality: From Wikipedia – During liminal periods of all kinds, social hierarchies may be reversed or temporarily dissolved, continuity of tradition may become uncertain, and future outcomes once taken for granted may be thrown into doubt. The dissolution of order during liminality creates a fluid, malleable situation that enables new institutions and customs to become established.

From Susan Beaumont, author of the book, *How to Lead When You Don’t know Where You’re Going*: A quality of ambiguity and disorientation that occurs in transitory situations and spaces, when a person or group of people is betwixt and between something that has ended, and a new situation not yet begun.

Three-part structure:

1. Separation
2. Liminal period
3. Reassimilation

Are we living in a Season of Liminality?

Opportunities in a Liminal Season:

1. New communities form
2. Innovation
3. Rediscovery of what matters most
4. Discovering wisdom

Threats in a Liminal Season:

1. Anxiety increases
2. Denial
3. Change in power dynamics
4. Rise of false saviors
5. Leadership rejection

Leading in a Liminal Season

1. Effective Leadership traits
2. Contemplative Leadership traits

Letting Go, letting God

1. Shift field of attention/awareness
2. Voice of Judgement
3. Voice of Cynicism
4. Voice of Fear

Discernment vs. Decision Making