

Edgumbe Presbyterian Church

Midweek Update – February 13, 2019

CANOEING THE MOUNTAINS WRITE-UP

If you are willing, Pastor Julie and I would ask that you read the write-up that Julie created about the Canoeing the Mountains conference. It is attached as a separate document and is also copied at the end of this message. We will be using the imagery and insights from Todd Bolsinger's work in the up-coming month, so it would help our communal conversations of who God is calling us to be if everyone has read this material.

We also have an extra copy of the "Canoeing" book, if you want to read the source material.

PASTORAL CARE AT EPC

As a reminder, both Pastor Julie and myself are available for pastoral conversation or counseling at any time. The best way to set up a time is using our email:

Pastor Julie = pastorjulieqq@gmail.com

Pastor Phil = pastorphilqq@gmail.com

SACRED ENNEAGRAM WORKSHOP

From Phil: Besides my work teaching the Enneagram at Shakopee Prison, I am also on the board of the MN International Enneagram Association. On March 9, the MN-IEA is sponsoring an excellent workshop that would be inspiring for both Enneagram veterans and anyone brand new to the Enneagram. The basic details are below, and I highly recommend your participation. To see more about the workshop and to register, go to <https://mn-iea.org/workshop-2/>

MN-IEA SPRING WORKSHOP: CHRIS HEUERTZ PRESENTS THE SACRED ENNEAGRAM

- March 9, 2019 9:30am – 5pm, 9am check-in
- Wayzata Community Church, 125 Wayzata Blvd, Wayzata, MN
- Cost: \$125, includes lunch and a copy of Chris' book, *The Sacred Enneagram*

Based on the nine classic archetypes of human character structure, the Enneagram exposes the nine ways we lie to ourselves about who we think we are, illustrates the nine ways we get lost, and reveals nine ways we find our way home. Join author and speaker, Chris Heuertz, as we explore together the dynamic possibilities of understanding and using the Enneagram.

MEMORIAL REMINDER

The memorial service for Todd Barnes' mother is this Friday, Feb. 15, at 11am at The House of Hope Presbyterian Church on Summit Ave.

LOVE

It is St. Valentine's Day tomorrow, so remember to share some love with the folks around you!

Canoeing the Mountains workshop with Tod Bolsinger

Christian leadership in uncharted territory – January 24-25, 2019

The two-day conference (attended by Ruth Anderson, Carol Schweickhardt, and Pastors Phil and Julie) was helpful to articulate the current dynamics of church and servant leadership. The main idea is that the church (the "canoe" of the Lewis and Clark expedition) was formed and shaped to move through an American Christian culture. Just as Lewis and Clark's canoes were adept of navigation along the original water ways, the vessels became a hindrance for passage into the Rocky Mountains. And now, the vessel of church needs to adapt to a new terrain, as well. Tod Bolsinger's key idea is that what is now required for this transition are not technical changes (seeking advice from experts and re-creating programs that work in other churches), but rather adaptive changes which impact the entire system of church. The fading of a dominant Christian culture requires that religious leaders (which is all of us in the church) learn how to "do church" anew. We are in a missional context now, which means that everyone is bringing the heart of church out of the building as they live their lives. The adaptive changes mean we are living in uncharted territory which requires **learning**, will result in **loss**, and leads to a lifetime of **transformation**.

Overview

For many people, a question is dominant: "what can we do to keep our churches from dying?" The culture used to support Christianity, but now the largest self-reporting group (when asked, "which religious affiliation do you belong to?") is "none." Christianity is no longer on a home court advantage. The mission field is across the sidewalk, and truly, **all of life** is the mission field.

Lewis and Clark were looking for a water passage to the Pacific. When they reached the farthest, they could travel by water, they were at the base of the Rocky Mountains. They could not at first see or recognize the amazing beauty of the land that was there, because what they hoped and expected was no longer viable.

There is a human tendency to be paralyzed by the unknown. This is true now for the church. It would be helpful for the church to adapt into a time of a “**spirit of adventure.**” Like Lewis and Clark, they had to adapt to recognizing that the canoes were not the way to travel across the terrain. This means, for the church, a fundamental reorientation of what it is to be and to do church. This will require **learning**, it will include real **losses**, but it will result in **transformations**.

Bolsinger suggests that people don't resist change, but they do **resist loss**. a church will experience difficulty in this transition when the system has unresolved grief. As the system/structures/expectations of church change, it will be helpful to have an environment within the church that is honest, intentional and care-filled to working through the grief which comes with the transformation.

During this adaptation, discernment is needed as to what needs to be preserved, and what needs to change about church. What needs to be preserved is the **Core DNA** of the community. this is found by asking questions amongst one another, such as: What is the best thing you've experienced here? What has been hard for you, and how has your faith intersected that time?? These are stories of identity, and from that starting place, the process of adaptation can begin.

Bolsinger warns there will be a couple of dynamics that can also **derail** the adaptive change needed for the church. The first is that people, when faced with problems, have a habit in seeking **solutions with technical changes** (looking to experts, adding programming, etc.). Seeking outside answers of how “other churches” are doing ministry does not recognize the specific DNA of your community. Secondly, with all change, **sabotage** can be expected. The church will have periods when the shifts of adaptation will be met with active and passive resistance. This is an expected outcome, and for a community to navigate these periods, open, honest, and care-filled connections must be operative.

Final Recommendations

- Important for leaders/servants of a church to tend to their own **spiritual formation** and **transformation**, both as the community and as individuals.
- Adopt a **spirit of humility**. Be open to the voice of the Holy Spirit. Be open and learning. Make amends when needed.
- Strengthen the community's **emotional intelligence** (**listen** well to each other, all voices **speak**, **empathy** and **attunement** to/for each other).

--Pastor Julie