



"Disciples of Jesus, Discipling in love"
VESTRY MINUTES- Tuesday, November 12, 2019

Attendees:

The Rev. Joseph Acanfora, Rector
Kerry Bremmer
Philip Chakram
Bill Collins
Mary Edwards, Registrar
Intercessor: Renee Carpenter

Gayle Fischer, Senior Warden
Andy Harris, Junior Warden
Stephen Klein
Phil Rooney, Treasurer
Tawnia Wheeler
Bill Bremmer, Guest
Jack Colligan, Guest

7:15 PM: Opening Prayer/Praise/Devotional discussion – Session 3 *It's Mysterious* and Session 4 *It's Organic* of Book study, *I Once Was Lost* by Don Everts and Doub Schaupp.

Session 3 - Guiding Scriptures: Ephesians 3:1-13 and John 6:41-69

As kingdom farmers in postmodern soil, we must welcome this mysterious nature of that path to faith. In fact, there is something spiritually liberating when we admit and declare what is beyond us and where we are powerless. We cannot create life. It is impossible for us to predict why some of our friends will choose Jesus and why others just won't. We don't know how to change hearts. We don't know which seed will take root and which will bounce off the hardened ground.

This lesson has freed us from the modern temptation to view conversion as mostly a psychological phenomenon, an inner event that can be controlled and manipulated and triggered if we preach the gospel just right, sing the worship songs loud enough and dim the lights at just the right time. If conversion were psychological and controllable by humans, we'd be under a lot of pressure to get it done!

No one, Jesus reminded his followers, can come all the way down the path to Jesus unless God calls them (John 6:44, 65).

Throughout scripture, both OT and NT, we see the revelation of the Gospel, seemingly leaked out mysteriously. It's hard to comprehend at the time, why and to whom God is revealing His truth. Later, with the advantage of hindsight, we often see that the who and when and what makes sense. The authors share with us, how this continues today, with those who seem near to faith never getting there, and those who look like they'll never get it! What freedom has this observation and revelation given them in better understanding that "*the path to faith is mysterious?*" How do they say this should influence our "declarations of certainty?"



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Session 4 – Guiding Scripture: Mark 4:1-20

While there is mystery along the way, the authors also have observed five thresholds or seasons post-moderns go through while come to faith. 1. See, 2. Stalk, 3. Head, 4. Full Grain, 5. Ripe. The farmer can see the stages of growth and act and respond accordingly. It's not a one or the other (Christian or non-Christian), but a process of becoming. How does this change your outlook on evangelism and discipleship? Are they, distinct? It's both.

"In the end the path to Jesus is both mysterious and organic."

"While the growth of the plant is mysterious, it still follows nature." "Each individual path to faith was a unique mystery."

Can we trust God enough to wait to see His plan to fulfillment?

- 1. Report from Search Committee:** Bill Bremmer started the report by thanking the other members of the committee for their diligence, insights, and commitment to the process. The committee came to a unanimous conclusion that the Lord is calling Rev. Nick Braunschneider to be our next rector. To that end, Bill furnished us with the responses to the questions they asked Nick. What struck Bill was his genuineness and his desire to grow in specific areas, the way he presented an accessible means of presenting the gospel, sharing his life experiences, his deep passion for prayer, the way he engaged with everyone when the committee was talking with him. He was very forthcoming.

Jack Colligan: Jack reported that when he was asked to join the committee, he was looking for someone with the spirit of God who could lead us forward. As with a prophetic word given at church one Sunday, he was looking for a "Joshua" to lead us into the next phase of our history. Joshua was a good military leader. He was revered by the people, called to be strong, courageous, and bold.

Fr. Nick is very capable, a prayerful man of God. He seems quiet and reflective, but very engaging and empathetic, and he listens to you very intently. He is affable, very friendly, genuinely cares, and easy to talk to. He's smart, but not an intellectual. He speaks in the common man's language. His sermons are centered on the word of God, solid, straight forward and convicting. He's passionate about building the church and its mission to the world. With the support of the congregation and vestry, Jack thinks he can do a really good job.

Tanya Wheeler: She was impressed by Nick's humility, and faithful, humble waiting on God; to look at the face of uncertainty and be willing to wait on God.



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Along those lines, Bill reported that Nick had a number of impending things going on in his life during this time. He was considering another job offer during this time, and his mother-in-law's received an ALS diagnosis, which was weighing on him during this process. When he got back from visiting us he felt the Lord telling him not to be constrained by what you think is the deadline. He let us know several occasions how compelled he felt to wait on us and how he drawn he felt to our church.

Bill Collins: Nick's got a very open spirit, willing to receive as well as to give. He just wants all of God, all that He has to give. He is green and growing, not ripe and rotting. Nick is also gifted in church planting.

Andrew Burgess: Spoke with him about Apostles' Campus Church, and said that from the first minute of the phone call, he really got it about the concept of the campus church, and envisioned it as being a true partnership.

Abigail Klein: He's onboard with what we are currently doing with children's ministry, and continuing with our current protocols for child protection training.

Bill Bremmer: One concern that we had about Nick was that we weren't really sure how he was in terms of the charismatic stream of worship. He was raised Catholic, worked in the Baptist and Presbyterian churches, and was ordained in 2017 in the Episcopal church. The charismatic stream is not his background, but he has an enthusiasm to grow in it. He is very open. We want someone who is biblically grounded, scripturally literate, and able to handle things coming at the church today by going back to God's word and seeing what He has to say about all this.

Andrew Burgess: He had concerns about Nick's feelings regarding women's roles in the church, specifically ordination, and was glad to find out that he is open to women's ordination, and working with and mentoring women.

Stephen Klein: What brought the group together with a unified decision to call Nick? It came down to what he thought about the manifestations of the gifts of the Holy Spirit.

Andrew heard the Lord say to him "the only qualification you need to consider is "am I calling him here?"

A decision was made for the remaining vestry members who have not already met or had an opportunity to speak with Nick to schedule a Zoom video chat with him on Wednesday evening at 7:30.



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Next steps: Make the decision to offer Nick the call to Apostles. After his acceptance of the call, then put together an offer package, including moving assistance, salary, and health and life insurance benefits.

- 2. Building/Finance:** Joe reported that all the building inspections are now done except for the final walk through. The Fire Marshall needs to give a final approval. Our stocking permit could come tomorrow, if so we could move in on Saturday.

Discussion of the 2020 budget: Pursuant to an increase in Joe's rent, Phil presented a resolution for the redistribution in Joe's total compensation from November 16 through December 31, 2019, a total of \$10,625, to reflect a decrease in salary and an increase in his designated housing allowance to be \$5,869. Tyler Aberle made a motion to approve the re-distribution of Joe's housing allowance; the motion was seconded by Kerry Bremmer and passed unanimously.

Phil Rooney shared a proposed budget for 2020 of \$743,641, which includes projected costs for the debt service of our building loan and increases to our Salaries and Benefits category to reflect salary for our new coadjutor/rector, a three-month paid sabbatical for Joe Acanfora, the full-time salary increase for Chris Rothgeb, and a modest increase for Kristin Colligan. After discussion by the vestry, Tyler Aberle made a motion to approve the 2020 budget, and the motion was seconded by Bill Collins and passed unanimously.

- 3. Plans for moving into new building:** Our move is anticipated for November 16. Volunteers will be needed for cleaning up our new space, moving all furniture, equipment and supplies, and setting up furniture for the offices, classrooms and fellowship spaces. People are encouraged to call Pam Marsh to volunteer.

There is a rehearsal for our consecration service tentatively scheduled for Wednesday, November 20, at 7:00 pm.

The consecration service is planned for Saturday, November 23 at 5:00 pm.

Upcoming meetings for 2019: 12/10

Proposed Meetings for 2020: 1/28, 2/11, 2/25, 3/10, Annual Meeting 3/22

The vestry meeting finished at 9:15 P.M. Kerry Bremmer motioned to adjourn the meeting, and it was seconded by Tawnia Wheeler and passed unanimously.