



**"Disciples of Jesus, Discipling in love"**

**Vestry Minutes- Tuesday, September 10, 2019**

Attendees:

The Rev. Joseph Acanfora, Rector  
Kerry Bremmer  
Philip Chakram, Absent  
Bill Collins  
Mary Edwards, Registrar  
Intercessor: Deirdre DiGirolamo

Gayle Fischer, Senior Warden  
Andy Harris, Junior Warden  
Stephen Klein  
Phil Rooney, Treasurer  
Tawnia Wheeler

The September 10, 2019, meeting of the Vestry of Church of the Apostles came to order at 7:15 P.M. with opening prayer, singing, and a devotional discussion from the book "I Once Was Lost," Introduction and Part 1(*The Postmodern Path to Faith*).

Guiding Scripture: 1 Corinthians 9:19-27

<sup>19</sup> For though I am free from all, I have made myself a servant to all, that I might win more of them. <sup>20</sup> To the Jews I became as a Jew, in order to win Jews. To those under the law I became as one under the law (though not being myself under the law) that I might win those under the law. <sup>21</sup> To those outside the law I became as one outside the law (not being outside the law of God but under the law of Christ) that I might win those outside the law. <sup>22</sup> To the weak I became weak, that I might win the weak. I have become all things to all people, that by all means I might save some. <sup>23</sup> I do it all for the sake of the gospel, that I may share with them in its blessings. <sup>24</sup> Do you not know that in a race all the runners run, but only one receives the prize? So run that you may obtain it. <sup>25</sup> Every athlete exercises self-control in all things. They do it to receive a perishable wreath, but we an imperishable. <sup>26</sup> So I do not run aimlessly; I do not box as one beating the air. <sup>27</sup> But I discipline my body and keep it under control, lest after preaching to others I myself should be disqualified.

As we begin to learn about the authors and their contexts, how do we see them live into what Paul shares in these verses? The authors describe themselves as missionaries. What is the difference between a missionary vs. minister? A missionary doesn't preach, he is a listener who is developing relationships, learning the culture of those he/she is among. Missionaries, like apostles, are sent out. What were the tough questions the authors faced as missionaries on college campuses? How did they face those questions and how were they willing to engage the post-modern culture. In each case they found a way to connect. One of the writers made himself available. In his dorm he kept his door open, and he played sports with everyone. Be willing to share a meal with someone, reach out and have a friendly relationship. This is the first threshold, to establish trust.



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### *A Surprising Consensus*

Guiding Scripture: 2 Timothy 1:3-14

<sup>3</sup> I thank God whom I serve, as did my ancestors, with a clear conscience, as I remember you constantly in my prayers night and day. <sup>4</sup> As I remember your tears, I long to see you, that I may be filled with joy. <sup>5</sup> I am reminded of your sincere faith, a faith that dwelt first in your grandmother Lois and your mother Eunice and now, I am sure, dwells in you as well. <sup>6</sup> For this reason I remind you to fan into flame the gift of God, which is in you through the laying on of my hands, <sup>7</sup> for God gave us a spirit not of fear but of power and love and self-control. <sup>8</sup> Therefore, do not be ashamed of the testimony about our Lord, nor of me his prisoner, but share in suffering for the gospel by the power of God, <sup>9</sup> who saved us and called us to a holy calling, not because of our works but because of his own purpose and grace, which he gave us in Christ Jesus before the ages began, <sup>10</sup> and which now has been manifested through the appearing of our Savior Christ Jesus, who abolished death and brought life and immortality to light through the gospel, <sup>11</sup> for which I was appointed a preacher and apostle and teacher, <sup>12</sup> which is why I suffer as I do. But I am not ashamed, for I know whom I have believed, and I am convinced that he is able to guard until that day what has been entrusted to me. <sup>13</sup> Follow the pattern of the sound words that you have heard from me, in the faith and love that are in Christ Jesus. <sup>14</sup> By the Holy Spirit who dwells within us, guard the good deposit entrusted to you.

As we begin to hear of the authors "surprising consensus," contemplate Paul's words of encouragement to Timothy. How are you personally excited by what the authors share? Are you willing to take Paul's challenge seriously in the midst of a changing and often times, confusing cultural context?

Every 20 years or so there seems to be a different version of post-modernism, starting in the 20<sup>th</sup> century, as we experience generational shifts. Does each generation come up with new concerns or are there more similarities between generations?

People are vastly less familiar with scriptures in the present days. The Internet has shattered things for us. We can just Google up questions about the Bible. We don't have to study for ourselves. It has undone deep thinking.

The big difference in the dividing line between the modern mindset and post-modernism is that truth is noble and concrete. In post-modernism, truth is bigger and more complicated than just facts. What we can offer and what people crave is the sense that the divine is unknowable. The unknowable is a beautiful gift. You cannot argue with the presence of God. That's what people want. What's the key in this? To show them a life lived in that mystery and give them opportunities to take part in the mystery.



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- 1. Finance and Building update:** Phil Rooney shared the current status of income and expenditures and the DFJ/Building Fund Track. Our income came in around \$41,000 in August, as summer time is the low end of the budget cycle. Our August expenditures were around \$43,000. Overall, our income is tracking a little higher than expenses. As it now stands, we need to have another \$188,887 in order to pay for remaining construction costs before we take occupancy of the new church building. We are continuing to pray that the Lord will meet these needs as He builds His church.

We are scheduling a congregational meeting for October 6, 2019, to share information with the congregation on the status for the completion of our sanctuary and provide an update on the search for a new rector. Since October is to be Stewardship month, Joe will be preaching a sermon series to bring together all the remaining needs for getting into our building.

- 2. Update Report of the Search Committee:** Vestry members on the Search Committee updated us on their progress, so far. This past Saturday they met with two candidates via Zoom, a video chat platform. The third candidate is on hold for now. There is no general consensus among the committee members as to which way they are leaning. Joe asked the committee members to please meet again and update him before 9/21, when he will be going out of town for a couple of weeks. Bill Collins indicated that he would send prayer requests to the Elijah ministers and vestry, as the process continues. They will be prepared to share the status of the committee at the Congregational Meeting on October 6.
- 3. Discussion of Building Use Policy: Wedding Guidelines:** Stephen Klein presented the final draft of the document. Currently any prospective couples would work with church staff for wedding planning, but eventually, we hope to have a Wedding Guild to help coordinate these occasions. There was a discussion of the fee schedule for weddings and receptions, with several vestry members feeling that the fees were high. Part of the reasoning in this is to discourage having receptions at the church.
- 4. Update from By-Laws Committee.** The By-Laws are currently in Gayle’s hands, but she was not aware for some time that she was the one who needed to make the next move. We will need another meeting to discuss a few points and put the document into final form.
- 5. Update from Compassion Committee.** Joe explained to the vestry how the Compassion Committee works. There are several church staff members on the committee, and then other people in the congregation are invited by the rector to be on the committee and usually serve for a two-year period. Ingrid Barton will be stepping down at the end of the year. Joe is considering asking Scott and Pauline Morey to join the committee.



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Upcoming meetings for 2019: 10/8, 10/22, 11/12, 12/10

The vestry meeting concluded at 10:00 P.M. Kerry Bremmer motioned to adjourn the meeting and it was seconded by Tyler Aberle.