

MM Moment on MLK Day Holiday 2023

Our one and only Moment Ministries business meeting comes about MLK day. Four of the original founders are shown in the photo. Terry Lorenzen was the first to reach out to us when I resigned. Jean threw out all my neck-ties! Mary has been there as well. Paul (almost



shown) is an example of one ordained whose non-stipend ministries have reached wider than any minister I know. His voice has inspired and comforted and encouraged thousands far beyond any church. The meeting lasted only 90 seconds.

I want to give encouragement and support to clergy in smaller churches...or any churches in a survival mode. Churches may die or may re-boot. Institutions tend to major in self-preservation. Ministry means serving and meeting needs. The prophets usually broke away and even spoke

against the powers that tried to silence them. Jesus is one small example as one who stood up against Caesar and also spoke against the Temple. It's a time for clergy to speak out for doing and being more than in believing an outmoded system of beliefs. The creative ways some clergy are doing ministry amaze me.

Many clergy on my lists no longer work in churches. They are in all sorts of jobs and activities. Some are turning water into wine...it can be done. Several are getting houses built for house-less folks. I don't know how many are involved in hunger issues or political human justice issues like racial and economic justice, gender inclusiveness, and more.

To *serve* or *tend to needs* is called "*ministry*" and does not require ordination or employment in a church. You can get ordained on internet for \$25. You can be a Reverend without being a minister. You don't have to be religious. Most ministries are momentary but some are longer term. Taking care of children while a parent works, or aiding a home-bound family member is ministry.

Every moment has potential for some kind of ministry. I don't know how many clergy...present, past or never...are still on my lists. I hope I am still on some of theirs. I'm not sure how many still read me. It surprises and encourages me when I hear voices out of my past sharing stories of their own "*moments*" both past and present. One wrote of still reading pages we sent out decades ago! Last week I heard from Washington, Oregon, Vermont, New Mexico, Arizona, California and Montana without leaving my office. I have always encouraged others to write.

On Monday the two of us remembered MLK by singing a verse or two from "*New Wine.*" Ken Salter was Music Director in Los Angeles where I was pastor the year King was assassinated. Ken brought that song book along with guitars into our church and started a "*contemporary*" second service. It was a new idea in the '60s. We brought the same music when we moved to Corvallis in 1970. Paul Pritchard learned the songs and how to play the guitar for three morning services.

We sang "*We Shall Overcome*" and "*I Woke Up this Morning with My Mind stayed on Freedom*" I can't sing those songs without painful flashbacks. A tear on Jean's cheek seconded my emotion. So many "*moments*", not all happy, often a feeling that can't be put into words. Everyone has "*moments.*"

For the Moment...

Art Morgan January 17, 2023