

March 2024
DUPC Sunday Forum Series
Sundays, 9:45AM—Shaw Room

MARCH
3

Beyond Resistance
The Institutional Church
Meets the Postmodern World

MARCH
10

by **John Dorhauer**

Come join in the continuing discussions of this thought-provoking book led by several congregation members.

MARCH
17

March 3rd will be a time for attendees to share thoughts and ideas, and discuss the recently posed questions.

March 10 & 17 - led by Leah Kone and/or Nancy Simpson

MARCH
24

The Science of Gratitude

Presenter: David A. Orange

Research shows gratitude does more than just help us to feel good—being grateful can also support greater mental and physical health for ourselves and our communities.
Come learn more about the many benefits of gratitude.

DUPC Sunday Forum Series: John Dorhauer's

Beyond Resistance: The Institutional Church Meets the Postmodern World

3-3-2024: Informal Group Discussion

Attendees: Grania Marcus, Carol Samuel, Helen Ganotis, Carol Snook, Marily Terpening, Sam King, Joan and Bill Mackey, Matthew Swartz, Nancy Brown, Becky Parks, Mary Rees, Carolyn DeHority, Elaine Johnson, Bob Richane, Dale Byrd, and Nancy Simpson

Zoom: Ed Saphar, Gail Mott, Marie Gibson, Peg Meeker, Kim McConnell, and Bob Carlisle

Reviewed previous Sunday's and discussed some of the questions that had been distributed.

Mission:

- Justice-related mission will be an important goal.
- Use the building for this justice work: bring children in, serve food, use the gym, etc...
- DUPC banner displayed in walk for justice for Palestinians; being present in the community.
- From Carol Snook: I do believe we should focus on mission. I do not believe we should focus on membership. This will come if we have the right mission focus. Financing will play a major role in a plan such as the plan I have in mind (joined the Finance Team). What should our church do? I see our mission as creating a community center in the Institute Building for our surrounding population right here in the city. To make this a viable reality, we need to modernize Celebration Hall and the back Dining Room. We need to have the kitchen professionally cleaned.

- The leaks need to be fixed. We have waited a year and the price just keeps going up and the damage is mounting.
- Air conditioning for this area is a large expense, but should absolutely be considered. Think of the possibilities for renting this space in the summer.
- The carpeting needs to be removed and a more practical flooring installed.
- Minor things such as painting should also be done.

The space could be a magnet for all kinds of community activities if marketed well.

During the summer, I see this space as a satellite serving in a similar capacity as the city rec centers. I see it as a satellite for Teen Empowerment working with younger kids. Do you know the cost of a family membership in city rec center? I could not believe the cost. We would not charge the students being served here. We could partner with the city and city school district for instructors, buses, and drivers.

As a start, I see using the gym for basketball (again, with a couple of coaches paid by the city), while the work on Celebration Hall is completed (a year?). We could offer computer classes, mental health programs for kids, computer game days...walking to City Hall, County Office Building, Parcel 5, etc.... We can come up with a myriad of ideas, but Celebration Hall needs to be transformed. You've probably all heard the sentence: "We'll run out of people before we will run out of money." I do believe that. But I also believe we can do better if we innovate and renovate. I believe we need to take a risk, a chance. Maybe we will fail and end up contemplating who should receive the remaining endowment funds. BUT, you've probably all heard these words, too: "If we build it, they will come." MISSION ACCOMPLISHED. Our church cannot just keep walking. We need to do something.

- On Saturday's: Building has lots happening.
- We can shine and be aware that the building is getting used, e.g. Haitian refugees, UCLM and LIFFE worshiping congregations here.
- We may need to vote on the disposition of the endowment.

- The building should be our mission.
- Use the energy here to decide where to start and build.
- From the Congregational Learning Day segment, Acts of Faith by South Church talked about mission. Maybe our mission is the church building.
- Use the building for art exhibits, concerts, etc...
- Reimagining worship time, e.g. a different church during the summer, had Wednesday evening worship followed by a potluck dinner.
- Maybe rotate the types of services we have, e.g. each month's second Sunday is a C2 style worship.
- If we had no building: would be hard; would we go together somewhere; but our brains are wired here.
- Seems like the building has a responsibility to be here for the community and Rochester.
- Need a building assessment done.
- Do we sell the Angel windows and build up the Endowment? Or use proceeds for building mission?
- Reminder of _____'s "Ministry of the screwdriver", e.g. take out the pews, etc....
- Spiritus Christi: there was no formal offer to buy the building, nor a rent to own offer.
- If we rented from Spiritus Christi...we could stay, but we might not end up changing, not ~~end~~ ng our mission.
- Arithmetic: Something needs to change or we will spend down the endowment doing nothing differently, and then close.
- Budget: Expenditures about 1 Million/yr; use about half of that for building, staff, etc....
- Make the building the mission: when the three churches merged, it was said that the building should be an instrument of mission.
- If successful, who benefits? I sit just seen as the ~~finances~~ being improved for DUPC?
- DUPC could be a light in the community,
- The building is a gift to us; should not be a burden.
- Perhaps we could ~~find out~~ what attracted her ~~ert~~ s we have
- Like Carol's comments: the building has space, a bowling alley, a gym, etc....
- Marketing who we are and what we do is so important.
- The 50th Anniversary theme is ~~ti~~ ng Forward from 50—Lighting the Way
- The condition of the building is good. That's an asset.
- Building utilities are tied together in each part of the building, for heating, etc... (Don Fairman could speak to that.)

Sunday Forum is looking forward to having Sam King speak to the church's ~~finances~~ Briefly discussed hearing about renter income, do some not pay rent, endowment numbers/trends, etc....

DUPC Forum's John Dorhauer: Beyond Resistance series.

Questions to ponder, and things to imagine.

Could you easily articulate the mission of our congregation?

Could our church building serve our mission? And what would that look like?

What could we be in the world?

How is DUPC addressing what breaks God's heart in DUPC's neighborhood?

What are your non-negotiables for you, regarding your connection with DUPC?

What do you feel are non-negotiables for DUPC?

Could our congregation walk away from this building and thrive?

What is our people capacity?

What do you wish DUPC was doing right now?

If you knew DUPC would not fail, what would you most want to do for the healing of our world? Of our near neighbors? What specific goal/project could you realistically aim to achieve in the next twelve months that would contribute to this? How might you stop yourself? What obstacles might you throw in the way? How would you overcome those obstacles?

What is still here that gives you hope?

What's beyond the horizon ahead of us that gives you hope? And how might that look?