

Is There a Doctor in the House

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First: the disclaimers (Disclaimers, not apologies);

My faith tradition is Christian. United Methodist to be specific

So do not be surprised if most of my references are based as such

I may work in a hospital,

But I am NOT a Doctor, Nurse, Physicians Assistant or Unit Desk Clerk

I train them in how to use their Medical records software

I usually tell my students that I don't have any medical training except for teaching Red Cross First classes to Boy Scouts back in 1973

That will usually impress them, not

So, any similarity to what I am about to bestow upon you, as real as they seem, they are not actual diseases and therefore you can not sue me for malpractice. Well, you can try.....

But what I would like to talk to you about are 'diseases' that I have observed in many organizations whether it is a social club or business but most noticeably within churches. These are diseases that can infect and greatly affect the body of a church.

So my top 5 hits are:

Infectious disease #1

CAN'T-SERVE (aka the **Who-me Flu**) Very common but I admit, I don't see it a lot here at UUCSV

Symptoms to listen for : Serve on the Board? Can't-serve

Be a coffee steward? Can't-serve

Read a UU Moment? Who Me?

You get the picture.

It takes all people to make up the Church body

Think about trying to walk with an leg in a cast. The whole body needs to work as intended.

1 Corinthians 12:4-7

"Now there are varieties of gifts, but the same Spirit; and there are varieties of activities, but it is the same God who empowers them all in everyone To each is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good."

I Timothy 4:14a

“Do not neglect the gift you have...”

I firmly believe that everyone is given talents.

We have to use them for good not evil

Talents are talents because they are gifts and are required to be shared

Examples:

Marie and Ned: One only needs to look at the annual Yard Sale: Gift of organization

We are BLESS with Several members: Music

Myself: well, we all know how everyone, especially Ann, loves my puns!

Everyone needs to do their part

- I have had friends tell me, they are not musical or actors, but performances need an audience too! Everyone has their ‘part’, their ‘role’ to do.
- And your ‘part’ or ‘role’ can certainly change

Infectious disease #2

SMALL POX

Small Pox

Our church is too small to make a difference

There was this little movie several years ago. I think it was called “Star Wars”?

Well there was the one scene where the Hero, Luke Skywalker had crash landed on a swamp planet in his X-wing fighter (kinda like a space age bi-plane)

While going through his training to become a master of his craft. His master told him to “Use the Force” to raise the crashed vehicle out of the swamp.

Luke concentrated and concentrated even extended his hand and arm toward the partially submerged vehicle. There was some bubbling in the water and you start to see the ship raise up...

And then the ship starts to sink again. Even deeper than it was. Exhausted, Luke sits down. “It can’t be done. It’s too big”

Yoda replies “Judge things by their size do you? Well you should not”

Yoda extended his short green arm and three pronged hand. Closing his eyes, the water starts to bubble again and the spaceship starts to rise. It floats above the water to a clear spot on dry land.

In the UMC, the last statistic I heard that 60% are small churches (under 200 members)

I firmly believe that a church is only as small as it’s faith.

Infectious disease #3

MONO-nucleousus (aka Lone Ranger Syndrome)

One person does it all

Major problem is the taking advantage of such a person

One of the major factors in the beginning of the Methodist Church was to get Lay persons involved because Church of England said you had to be trained minister.

The John & Charles Wesley took a lot of flack for taking the Gospel to the masses including using well known tavern drinking songs with new words

This is also frequently in connection to 'Can't-Serve'

Infectious disease #4

PEWMONIA

You know, this is the Smith Family pew and that is where they always sit. They only see the pulpit from one point of view.

Only seeing things from only one way

I was fortunate to have pastors who encouraged reading various translations of the Bible, for it is then that a true meaning is more likely to reveal itself

Only one news source

Only one commentary or blog

One minister (especially after they leave)

We need to be open to see what the spirit or others can show and teach us. Even if what they show us is different than what we already hold dear.

We can become stagnate because 'we all ways did it that way'

So this young couple were hosting their first family Holiday meal. The husband trying to be ever so helpful in the kitchen was doing the tasks that he was given when he noticed his wife cutting the ends of the beef roast before putting it in the roasting pan. He thought this curious so he asked her. "Dear, why did you cut the ends off the roast before putting it in the pan?" She looked at him and said "Because that is the way it is done, that is the way my mother always did it". "But Why?" the young man asked. "I don't know, go ask my mother". So he went into the dining room where his mother-in-law was setting the table and asked her, "Why did you cut the ends off the roast before putting it in the pan?". She looked at him for a minute and said "Because that is the way it is done, that is the way my mother always did it".

Well that just spurred on more curiosity and he went into the living room to have a chat with Grandma. And yes, you know the question he asked. Grandma thought a moment and said "Did I do that?", "Yes, yes I remember now. When Grandpa and I first got married, I had to cut the ends off the roast to get it to fit in the small roasting pan I had!"

II Corinthians 13:5 states:

"Put yourselves to the test and judge yourselves, to find out whether you are living in faith"

Don't be afraid to question what you believe or hear

LAST ONE

LEPROSY

(Colossians 3:13-15)

”Put on then, as Humanity’s chosen ones, holy and beloved, compassionate hearts, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience, ¹³bearing with one another and, if one has a complaint against another, forgiving each other... ¹⁴And above all these put on love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony.... And be thankful.”

Sore spots in the church

May have always been there

May be recent

In the early Christian church, circumcision was a huge issue

As long as we are human beings, there will be frictions and ‘Sandpaper People’. You know, those people that just rub you the wrong way no matter what they do? I try to think of those folks as ones that are smoothing out my rough edges.

There are many clichés, but the point is, Don’t dwell on the past and move on.

So, those are some diseases of a church (or any organization)

but what are some preventative medicines and things to avoid?

Things not to take:

Stay away from that Healthy Slice of Apathetic pie, quickest way to kill a church or any organization is “Someone else will do it” or ‘we’ve never done it that way before’

Prescriptions:

Prayer Pills (Meditation Medications) DAILY.

Spend time shutting out the world to help get centered and focused

Fellowship Fricassee:

Nobody can make it alone in this world.

Reach out to others and be willing to be reached out too

feast on the love, peace and support that is given you by your friends and family.

Is there a Doctor in the house?

Yes, the Great Physician

for some that means God,

for others that inner voice

for others scientific knowledge

for others it is some or all of the above

Go Forth and be healed and heal.