

FOUNDRY FORGE

Inspiration and Information for the Weeks Ahead



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Confronting Challenges Then and Now

TODD MULLINS



The Foundry Forge asked Foundry Board President Todd Mullins to compare the Board's role during this pandemic with the role of the Congregational Council which he led during the 2010 Summer of Great Discernment. That was the process which led to the congregation's nearly unanimous vote to fully support same-gender weddings by its clergy and in Foundry Church.

What's Different?

Clergy and staff are leading during this coronavirus pandemic; they have done most of the work to dramatically reconfigure the way Foundry operates. The Board has collaborated with them. That is quite different from the Congregational Council's role leading the congregation in the process of discernment leading to its 2010 decision. More stress for staff now, less for laity.

This is primarily a health and safety situation, whereas same-gender weddings more directly posed social justice and theological questions. The fluidity of this situation, changing week by week, makes us less able to involve the congregation as widely. We are somewhat less connected in what we are doing which sometimes feels uncomfortable.

The decision about same-gender weddings potentially threatened Foundry as an institution. Potentially. The current situation is very bad, especially for those directly affected medically and economically, but we do not anticipate lasting damage to Foundry as a community. I hope we are right. Overall, I sensed more anxiety in 2010 – that may sound surprising. The current stress is more about the present and immediate future which we know will pass as opposed to anxiety about long-term outcomes.

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We chose to confront the same-gender marriage issues. Coronavirus was thrust upon us. In 2010 we were able largely to choose our course. Here, we are much less in control and much more constrained by outside factors. We are so not in control. There we were choosing to take a risk; here we are working to avoid risk.

What's the Same?

Both times required team effort, though the distribution of effort is different. Then as now, Foundry had a strong team of smart, hardworking, values-driven leaders with diverse backgrounds and skills.

Both require extra work on top of the Board / Council's usual responsibilities. Both challenge us to avoid being consumed by one issue. Today, we are also trying to focus on the racial justice initiative and talent development. We delivered a mid-year performance review of Ginger in April. We did a Board self-evaluation in May and discerned areas where we can improve.

There has been much to learn. In 2010, most of us did not understand many of the issues we needed to explore. In 2020, we are not public health specialists. In addition to external public health resources, we rely upon good folks in the congregation with the expertise to help us act wisely.

Despite the difficulties and anxiety, unexpected positives can emerge from this current experience. That was certainly the case ten years ago. In addition to being an act of faith, that decision reinvigorated aspects of Foundry life in unanticipated ways. I hope that will happen for us now.

The big thing is the same: God is with us – then, now, always.

Don't miss the chance...

to connect with Foundry clergy every weekday on Facebook Live. Did you know you can also enjoy these anytime, along with recent worship services and other online events, at <http://youtube.com/foundryumcdc?>

MONDAYS AT NOON

"Good Noon" with
Pastor K.C.

TUESDAYS AT TEN

"Wandering
Toward Wonder"
with Pastor Will

WEDNESDAYS AT NOON

"Ponderings from
the Purple Parlor"
with Pastor Ginger

THURSDAYS AT TEN

"Midday with PK"
with Pastor Kelly

FRIDAYS AT TEN

"Ben at Ten" with
Pastor Ben



The Gift of the Uninvited Guest

REV. GINGER E. GAINES-CIRELLI



“The Guest House”

This being human is a guest house.
Every morning a new arrival.

A joy, a depression, a meanness,
some momentary awareness comes
as an unexpected visitor.

Welcome and entertain them all!
Even if they are a crowd of sorrows,
who violently sweep your house
empty of its furniture,
still, treat each guest honorably.
He may be clearing you out
for some new delight.

The dark thought, the shame, the malice,
meet them at the door laughing,
and invite them in.

Be grateful for whatever comes,
because each has been sent
as a guide from beyond.

- Rumi

In this season of isolation and struggle, I have been reflecting on how difficult it is to avoid . . . myself. To be sure, we are each spending a great deal of time with ourselves. For some weeks now I have been pondering the question, “Who are you meeting each day when you look in the mirror?”

Rumi understands that we regularly greet visitors in ourselves. His admonition is to be hospitable, even to those guests we’d rather not welcome: “sorrows . . . the dark thought, the shame, the malice.”

These days, with all that is swirling around us, such uninvited guests may prove challenging.

Why should we acknowledge them? Perhaps because once we recognize them within ourselves, we can engage in dialogue about why they’ve arrived.

Rumi suggests that every guest arrives “as a guide from beyond.” Each may open us to a “new delight” --- deeper wisdom, compassion, or freedom.

Rumi’s words encourage me to remember that we’re not alone in providing hospitality for the visitors we are given to greet. As the prayer* assures us, God’s love is new every morning.

God is with us to help us welcome and learn from whatever guests arrive. Thanks be to God for helping us practice this radical hospitality.

Peace,

Ginger E. Gaines-Cirelli

Senior Pastor

*New every morning is your love, great God of light, and all day long you are working for good in the world. Stir up in us desire to serve you, to live peacefully with our neighbors, and to devote each day to your Beloved Son, Our Savior, Jesus Christ the Lord. Amen. **United Methodist Morning Prayer**

Foundry Forward

JULY ACTION ITEMS

Foundry will continue holding one online worship service at 11:15 am each Sunday throughout the summer months. Our building will remain closed to the general public. You can participate in all worship services online using the links at foundryumc.org. You can take part in many other events using Zoom.

For the specific information on how to participate, go to the Foundry website, choose the Events Calendar and click on the event you wish: foundryumc.org/event/calendar.

SUNDAYS, JULY 5, 12, 19, 26

We Worship Together - in A Different Way

Don't miss our Sunday morning worship service at 11:15 am today and every Sunday. See all the ways you can connect at foundryumc.org – and consider joining us for coffee hour after the service via Zoom. It's a great way to resume your visits with Foundry friends! We welcome guest preachers on July 12 and 26.

The Practice of Spirituality

And before each Sunday service, you can use Zoom at 10:10 am to join members of the Practicing Spirituality class via for a check-in, shared prayer, and a lesson, an opportunity to reflect on our blessings and consider how we can help others in need.

WEDNESDAYS, JULY 1, 8, 15, 22, 29

Let Us Pray

Start your day at 7:30 am sharing a time of prayer with Pastor Kelly and members of the Care Ministry Team.

WEDNESDAYS, JULY 1, 8, 15, 22, 29

Mid-Week Worship at this Waypoint

Gather with us via Zoom from 6:15 -7 pm each Wednesday evening for prayer, song, and intentional conversation about scripture, a blessed time of rest and renewal of energy for the discipleship journey.

WEDNESDAYS, JULY 1, 8, 15

Post-Cana: Relationships in the Age of Pandemic

This workshop is designed to equip those in intimate relationships manage conflict and excessive emotions during the pandemic and beyond. Join us on Zoom from 5:30 – 7 pm for these sessions. Couples of every age and stage who want to build relational resiliency are welcome. For more information or to register, go to foundryumc.churchcenter.com/registrations/events/426895.

TUESDAY, JULY 28

Foundry Board Meeting

The Foundry Board will meet virtually at 7 pm for its regular monthly meeting. Members of the congregation interested in observing the meeting can email Amanda Beadle at amandabeadle1@gmail.com for details on how to do so via Zoom. **And you can now learn more about what the Board is doing by going to foundryumc.churchcenter.com - and choosing Groups / Management Board and Committees / Foundry Board Information.**