

October 6, 2015

Dear Grace Church Family and Friends,

Every week, Bishop Mariann, the Bishop of Washington, writes a reflection, usually based on a passage from scripture. And, in her most recent post, the bishop asked three very important questions:

Why do people need Jesus Christ?

Why do people need the church?

And why might the people in your community need your particular church?

These questions actually come from Adam Hamilton, founder and senior pastor of Church of the Resurrection, the largest United Methodist Church in the United States. Bishop Mariann and I, along with a few other ordained leaders from the diocese, attended a conference at Church of the Resurrection a year ago, and it was there we heard Hamilton first pose the questions.

When we returned from that conference, I shared my answers in one of my weekly reflections, but since Mariann has raised the questions now, I thought I would share my responses again:

Why do people NEED Jesus?

Because Jesus connects us with God. In the midst of life's complexities, Jesus brings us back to what is important, providing direction, answers, and ultimately, God's love. Through Jesus, we see who we are and know we belong to God.

Why do people NEED the church?

Because the church is where we learn about Jesus. Jesus laid the foundations of the church by surrounding himself with a group of disciples because he knew being part of a community was essential to growing in faith. It is through our worship and fellowship, our education programs and service opportunities, that we come to know Jesus more deeply.

Why do people NEED Grace Church?

Because Grace Church is a very unique community in which people of all races and cultures can come to build their relationships with each other and with God. While many churches say they are welcoming of all people, Grace Church is. Our diversity, in all its wonder and beauty, offers us a glimpse of the kingdom of God.

How would you answer?

Send your responses to me. I would love to hear them.

See you in church,
Andrew