



May 29, 2019

CONSCIOUS AND INTENTIONAL

What does religious community do that is not done anywhere else? The church is really good at creating supportive community, beauty, and inspiration, and the church is a great place to organize for charitable action and work for justice. But what do we do that isn't done anywhere else?

Ronald Allen and Clark Williamson, two professors at Christian Theological Seminary in Indianapolis, answer the question in this way, "The irreplaceable function of the church is to help people understand their lives in the light of ultimate reality and understand ultimate reality in the light of their lives."

The church exists for ultimate concerns, and the work of community, beauty, inspiration, and good works all flow into and out of the ultimate reality of God.

The scholar Marcus Borg, who is a great resource for making sense of Christian faith in our generation, helps us to discard the caricature of faith as just a ticket into heaven. He wrote, "The Christian life is not about believing or doing what we need to believe or do so that we can be saved. Rather, it's about seeing what is already true—that God loves us already—and then beginning to live in this relationship. It is about becoming conscious of and intentional about a deepening relationship with God."

I love his phrase about becoming conscious and intentional. This is why we keep opening the doors for worship, and small groups, and service. This is why we commit to maintain our church building. Because God loves us, and we desire to understand our lives in relationship to God.

I'll see you in church.

Peace,

Rev. Dr. Matthew Wooster
Senior Minister