

In Nomine Jesu
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Postscript VII

Since the above was sent to Dr. Hinz in 1988. The results need to be set forth.

Dr. Hinz agreed to meet with me and in order to justify his PIF evaluation of me requested the presence of Bendewald, Schroeder and the then president of Faith, Bob Giller. I asked if the District Vice Presidents: Maack, Scherer and Kuehn could also be included. I sent all of them copies the the above document and supporting material before our meeting on November 29, 1988 at Holy Nativity in Baltimore. The majority of this meeting was recorded with the permission of all. There was general agreement by all that I was fit for the ministry and that they wanted to see me back as a Parish Pastor. Hinz said he would rework his PIF evaluation of me based on the input from laymen who knew me best from working together: President of Bethlehem Lee Jones, the Vice President of Calvary Lew Horton Sr. Leo Schroeder and Bob Giller, President from Faith. Hinz, Maack and I were to meet in early January to work on reconciliation.

By the end of April after no sign Hinz was following through, I asked to meet with the VPs again. We meet again at Holy Nativity on May 3, 1989. I was assured that nothing was hindering my placement for call. The lack of effort for reconciliation was ignored by the group. I was given the impression it was a dead issue.

Until January 1990, I heard nothing more. In February I saw the revised PIF which was not bad but learned Hinz had not suggested me for any call in the SED. As far as I know my name has not been on a "Call list" in any district. The next I heard was at the end of 1990. A circuit counselor suggested my name for a call but the President in that District removed it.

In September 1991, for the first time, I shared my situation with the circuit. I concluded there was no reason to be patient and act more aggressively. I knew I had been protecting myself as well as Hinz by being quiet, but there had been no good result from that. After an exchange of "proper" letters, I wrote to meet again with Hinz. I did not reveal this was intended to be a final meeting, ending my attempts to reach out to him. He requested that the Vice Presidents be included. Finally on January 9, 1992, we met with Art Scherer and Don Anthony, a new VP. Roy Maack was not available.

A great breakthrough occurred. The first hour & half was "old stone face" but the last half hour broke the stone. Don Anthony had been deliberately helpful with leading and probing questions. Hinz expressed regret over the past and said he would be interested in reconciliation. This continued with later meetings with Bendewald in February and June. Still, there has been no "visible" result of this beyond the nice words in private. Most particularly, I have not been suggested to serve a vacancy or for call anywhere.

The Sign of Concord

Soli Deo Gloria

He died for all, so that those who live might live no longer for themselves,
but for him who died and was raised for them. 2 Cor. 5:15

I requested Pastor Maack to carry a message to Hinz at the 1992 Fall Pastoral Conference. I wanted to receive some kind of tangible evidence (a call, or evidence that I had been suggested for a call list, or just a letter) that his private words and promises were being acted on. Since Hinz indicated there would be no response, I asked the Board of Lay Ministry to convene a group that could be a sounding board to hear the situation and discuss potential actions.

Subsequent information about the members of the
Board of Guidance and Planning at Faith.

Leo Schroeder remained at Faith. Relations between us were distant. When Lynne and I were married, he joined St. James LCMS. Several members of Faith told us, he and his wife tried to get them to leave also because, he said according to the LCMS, by marrying Lynne I committed deliberate sin and was unfit for the ministry. He served as president of St. James until the elders recommended he not be renominated. During his terms, the Minister of Education was removed from office in the middle of the school term as far as I know without any charge against him. The school had grown to about 120 students and \$20,000 in the bank. After that the staff left, the pupils dropped to under 30 and some families with children left the parish. A leader¹ there said Leo had been autocratic and independent, even made Bank loans in the congregation's name without authorization. We occasionally have "polite contact". At a Pastor's Circuit meeting² comments made by several people³ that Leo Schroeder had been the major cause of trouble for Walt Schoenfuhs, who was suffering discouragement and needed our support as brothers.

John Eidman and Frank Geraci joined Hope, ELCA. John tried to become Deacon and attempted to get them to do his will. The congregation resisted. After a year of contention, he quit attending even though his wife and children remained active. We had no further contact. Frank lived close to Hope where his neighbor was president. He became stewardship chairman and did a good job. We had occasional friendly contact. Ed Maldeis remained a member of Faith but almost never attended. He was friendly to me when I visited at his home. He has since passed away.

Later, Rev. Stewart Burke served in retirement as Pastor for Faith nearly without compensation. He was reported saying that in 6 years at Faith, he couldn't do anything with the people there. ⁴

¹ Lynne's Uncle Paul Kreyling, told us this. He had been serving as the Part time Visitation Pastor.

² September 8, 1992, at Bethlehem with Don Bendewald, Don Biggs, Art Litke, Bob Kretzschmar and myself.

³ including Don Biggs, Bendewald & Kretzschmar.

411/13/94 Betty Heilman reported to Lynne Funck the comment she heard from Rev. Burke.

New problems equally if not more disturbing arose in the following years. There are many hundreds of pages of documentation about them. I did learn in 2012 some new information about Faith from the man who was president at the time I resigned.

There had been a rising undercurrent of dissatisfaction. I thought it arose from the building campaign to replace the roof. The actual cause was unknown to me. More than a year before we travelled to St. Louis for the marriage of my niece. Arrangement had been made to cover Parish needs while I was absent. Early the morning we departed after the car was filled, ready to leave, we realized something was forgotten. I went back in the house to get it and the phone rang.

I was told a man had been found dead. He, his wife, children, had not attended worship in years. I made arrangement for the funeral services and pastoral contact to be made and left later than I wanted for the trip to St. Louis. When I returned I visited with the in-laws, very active, patriarchs of the congregation and learned they were very unhappy I had not cancelled the trip and stayed for the funeral.

I leaned in 2012 that from that time on, they campaigned through the congregation that I had to leave. After the years of struggle I was ready to leave myself. I felt that I had kept my head down, had not made waves and would have no problem in having my name listed for consideration for other congregations.

I had invited the circuit counselor Bendewald and Rev. Roy Maack to the final congregational meeting at Faith. Afterward they both said to me they heard no complaint about me that they had not heard in their own congregations about themselves. They were very encouraging that I would be acceptable for a mother parish.

In the name of One crucified, Who called us to take His cross.

/S/

Stephen H. Funck

July 29, 2015