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The Beginning of the Pulpit Sticks

On January 21, 1999, pastors and representatives from many Christian Churches around the Tillamook County gathered around these Pulpit Sticks to pray for unity within the Body of Christ. This initiated a time of symbolically standing together in respect of our differences but choosing to honor each part of the Body with love. It also brought about a time of repentance for the divisions, strife, and harm we have caused the Body of Christ through our words and actions. Our goal was and is for the Body of Christ to be healed so that we can effectively work together to reach the lost in our communities. If one part of the Body suffers, we all suffer.

After the initial meeting, these Pulpit Sticks were passed weekly to the Church of the Week on the Pulpit Prayer Schedule. As all the churches prayed for the Church of the Week, The Church of the week prayed for the rest of the Body of Christ. They were originally passed for 3 years. They have been archived until now when our pastors (who have been here 20 years) asked to pass them again. In 2019, we felt the desire to Bless other Counties with the tools of relationship that are contained in these pages.

A Symbolic Act

We believe the Pulpit Sticks have been inspired by the Holy Spirit. Symbolic acts were commonly done throughout the Bible to illustrate a need and to bring change, as you will notice when you read Ezekiel 37:15-27.

Explanation

Each stick was prepared with the name of every Christian Church in the county. Today there are 41 Churches in Tillamook County. The sticks are bound together with a scarlet cord (denoting the blood of Jesus). The scriptures in Ezekiel were proclaimed as if the sticks representing Tillamook County were the sticks of Judah and Ephraim. We feel that this is a symbolic act also for the healing of divisions in our nation.

What are the Churches to do with the Pulpit Sticks?

We ask that the Pastor invite the whole congregation to participate by:

- † Explaining this symbolic act to the congregation
- † Reading the scriptures in Ezekiel 37:15-28 and Matthew 22:37
- † You may anoint the sticks with oil if this is your custom
- † Repenting for areas of division within and between the Body of Christ, and also for our Nation.
- † Praying for the Churches and Pastors who are also praying for you today!
- † Praying blessing and unity into the Body of Christ and into our Nation.

Ezekiel 37:15-28

¹⁵Again the word of the LORD came to me, saying, ¹⁶“As for you, son of man, take a stick for yourself and write on it: ‘For Judah and for the children of Israel, his companions.’ Then take another stick and write on it, ‘For Joseph, the stick of Ephraim, and *for* all the house of Israel, his companions.’ ¹⁷Then join them one to another for yourself into one stick, and they will become one in your hand.

¹⁸“And when the children of your people speak to you, saying, ‘Will you not show us what you *mean* by these?’— ¹⁹say to them, ‘Thus says the Lord GOD: “Surely I will take the stick of Joseph, which *is* in the hand of Ephraim, and the tribes of Israel, his companions; and I will join them with it, with the stick of Judah, and make them one stick, and they will be one in My hand.” ’ ²⁰And the sticks on which you write will be in your hand before their eyes.

²¹“Then say to them, ‘Thus says the Lord GOD: “Surely I will take the children of Israel from among the nations, wherever they have gone, and will gather them from every side and bring them into their own land; ²²and I will make them one nation in the land, on the mountains of Israel; and one king shall be king over them all; they shall no longer be two nations, nor shall they ever be divided into two kingdoms again. ²³They shall not defile themselves anymore with their idols, nor with their detestable things, nor with any of their transgressions; but I will deliver them from all their dwelling places in which they have sinned, and will cleanse them. Then they shall be My people, and I will be their God.

Matthew 22:37-39

³⁷Jesus said to him, “‘You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind.’ ³⁸This is *the* first and great commandment. ³⁹And *the* second *is* like it: ‘You shall love your neighbor as yourself.’

John 17:21

… that they all may be one, as You, Father, *are* in Me, and I in You; that they also may be one in Us, that the world may believe that You sent Me.

1Corinthians 12:20

²⁰But now indeed *there are* many members, yet one body. ...²⁵that there should be no [h]schism in the body, but *that* the members should have the same care for one another. ²⁶And if one member suffers, all the members suffer with *it*; or if one member is honored, all the members rejoice with *it*.

Passing the Pulpit Sticks: We ask the Senior Pastor to do the following:

- † Find the Pulpit Prayer Schedule (on the back of this book)
- † Call the next Pastor on the list for the following week and make an appointment to pass the Pulpit Sticks. (Pastor List in book)
- † We ask that you invite them to lunch, or bring a gift offering of blessing when you pass the sticks. Please take a moment to go through these first few pages with them so they know what to do.
- † We ask that you pray for the next Senior Pastor and their leadership and congregation, all of God's blessings, provision, and strength... BLESSINGS!

What if the church following me does not want to participate?

- † There is NO pressure!
- † Participation is voluntary.
- † If there is an opportunity to take them to lunch or an offering, by all means! Relationship is the beginning of connecting the Body of Christ. Love conquers a multitude of fears. Each act of kindness will bring fruit!
- † Pray and bless them if they are willing.
- † Keep the Pulpit sticks another week and pass to the next pastor who is on the Pulpit Prayer Schedule (Back of Notebook)
- † Please make every attempt to keep the Pulpit Sticks on schedule.
- † If the Pulpit Sticks are rejected, do not take it personally! Each of you is greatly loved by the Lord, and by us!

Problems, Questions, Anxieties???

Call or text:

***Linda Hanratty, President
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503-812-8889***