



September 15, 2019

Part-Time is Plenty: Thriving Without Full-Time Clergy

With award-winning journalist and author **Rev. G. Jeffrey MacDonald**

Date: Saturday, October 12th

Times: 9:00 am —12:00 pm

Registration @ 8:30 am

Location: Church of the Good Shepherd,
35 W. Philadelphia Ave., Boyertown

Cost: \$25.00



Let's face it, budgets are tight for churches. Switching from full-time to part-time clergy can help save money. But would switching to part-time lead to irreversible decline? This workshop says no, it doesn't have to. In fact, the switch to part-time can lead to more vitality if it's managed well to repurpose assets and embrace new opportunities.

Journalist, author and part-time UCC minister G. Jeffrey MacDonald will share insights from his forthcoming book, *Part-Time is Plenty: Thriving Without Full-Time Clergy*. He'll shed light on what's happening in 20 vital mainline congregations that made the switch. He'll guide attendees through exercises tailored to discern what's possible and promising in their particular ministry settings. Participants will leave with practical tips and a game plan for joining the ranks of thriving congregations with part-time pastors.

Register at: <https://psectministry.eventbrite.com>

Christianity in Dangerous Places

Luke 14:26 "Whoever comes to me and does not hate father and mother, wife and children, brothers and sisters, yes, and even life itself, cannot be my disciple. 27Whoever does not carry the cross and follow me cannot be my disciple."

Helicopters flew over my home last week. Several. The last time I saw that many helios "holding on station" I was in Iraq. These were responding to another shooting. This time at a veteran's living facility in East Vincent Township.

Gun violence and mass shootings have filled the news since my last writing in this space when I suggested that all gun owners should be required to serve in their state's militia (a suggestion that was too bold for some and not bold enough for others). It feels as if the world is more dangerous now than it ever has been. It *feels* that way but *is it* that way? The violence lived out on our streets and covered in our news is heart rending and defies both rational explanation and political solution. But it is not new to the human condition. I am not sure I could convince a first century Palestinian Jew living under the constant threat of crucifixion that our time is more dangerous than his. Or hers. Or theirs.

And yet that is exactly where Jesus invites his followers to go. With him. Into the danger. "Whoever does not carry the cross and follow me cannot be my disciple." "When Christ calls a man," wrote Dietrich Bonhoeffer, "he bids him come and die." The transformative power of the gospel comes alive most vividly in dangerous places. In relationships that threaten the status quo. In conversations between drastically different people determined to stay in relationship. In prophetically pastoral sermons that challenge the perspectives of paying church customers.

If we wait for the spaces we minister in to be safe, we may wait for a long time. I expect that in dangerous places Jesus will show up very quickly. He has in those dangerous places my journey has taken me and I give thanks for the certain knowledge he always will.

May it be so, too, for you and the people you love.

Bill

- Rev. William Worley, PSE Conference Minister