

CASE HISTORY

Supervised Ministry, Unit One, Sample
Jackson Snyder
February 6, 2020

This case history concerned three appointments with doctor G., who is the same age as me and whom I have known for about 10 years. The first incident was in November, 2018, the second in November 2019 and the third today.

March, 2019

G: So you've been in church work most of your life, eh? I grew up in a staunch mainline church when I was a boy. I was listening to the radio one day when an old church tune I recognized was being broadcast - I just heard the end of it. But it gave me a *deja vu* of when I was serving as altar boy.

J: Yeah? Can you hum a little of it.

G: (He does hum a little, then tries to sing that bit, coming up with a few words.) I don't suppose you would know what that song is; it's obscure, but we sang it every week during Communion.

J: I know a lot of hymns, and that one is called, "Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silent." (I sing the first phrase, but can't remember the second.)

G: (He chimes in on the second, remembering the words.) Yeah, yeah! That tune always gave me such a great feeling of grandeur.

J: Well now you know! Do you still go to church?

G: Naw, but my son goes to a "contemporary church," and i have gone along a few times.

(I leave the office soon after.)

November, 2019

(In the meantime, I become refamiliarized with the hymn and sing it with a friend.)

G: Hey, I heard this song on the radio; (he sings) "Let all mortal flesh keep silent."

J: Yeah, sure. We talked about that last time I was here. Remember?

G: O, yeah. (We both sing a couple lines of it and laugh.) I've been going to church with my son's family - to a contemporary church - you know with choruses instead of hymns and drums and all . . .

J: Yeah, I was into that to for a long time but got tired of it. I'm older now, and that is for younger people, I think.

G: I don't really feel that comfortable there, but my son and his family want me to go. (He goes on to tell me more about his childhood experience in church, and how the staid, traditional way of worship made him feel, even as a boy, so close to God.)

J: Well, why don't you just go back to that kind of church and try it out again? Maybe you will feel comfortable now just as then?

G: You think I would?

J: Can't hurt to try.
(I leave soon after.)

February 6, 2020

G: You remember we were talking about "let all mortal flesh" (He sings some of it and I chime in.) Well, you know, I started going to the oldest Episcopal church around here - Trinity? - it's been around for a hundred years - and would you believe? Each Sunday they sing this song right before Communion. It's old fashioned and quaint, with stained glass windows and all. And I really like it. (End.)

Analysis

Student minister and facilitator discuss the event as to whether an act of ministry took place, and whatever else may be significant in this exchange.

Notes about doing a case history:

1. It's preferable to center on an act or conversation that is going on while you are in a position as a minister such as in whatever ministry you are assigned to for your supervised ministry experience. But you may also choose an event or conversation that just happens in your life, wherever you happen to be. Ministry opportunities come along all the time.
2. The dialog need not be exactly what was said, nor do you need to record your conversations. However, after the event, you will want to take down a few notes so you don't forget the reality of what has taken place or been said.
3. The style of the case history should be legible and typed out (if possible) for your presentation. And during that presentation, which could be in a small class, you may make appropriate but brief remarks as commentary as you go along.
4. The analysis is done by classmates and/or the facilitator.

