

A Time & Pace to Grow

It was a highlight of my ministry career to work with Richard Rhem and the Christ Community Church team for 20 years. Dick, as the executive pastor, gave his team members room to create their own ministry objectives and pursue their own professional inclinations. Our team meetings and occasional retreats were imaginative and creative times. We stood solidly together as a team and yet valued the differences of each others' theological perspectives. In the process we became friends for the rest of our lives. Such a professional environment is indeed unique and to experience it is nothing less than a rare and memorable gift.

Dick was incredibly curious about theology but also life's complexities. Christ Community Church gave him a rare platform to think, to read and to wonder. His sermons were almost always worthy of publication. They led to interesting conversations between husbands and wives, between friends and colleagues. In the process his sermons asked us to think and find our own place to stand on many theological and life issues. It was a time and place to grow.

Dick's preaching was always accompanied with exceptional music, dance, elegant prayers and beautifully crafted bulletins.

Dick would say, "Just give me Jesus and the rest is negotiable". Succinct and so good. A beloved sermon series was entitled , "What the Church has Forgotten, AA has Remembered".

It is pleasant to remember those years of working with Dick because they still seem so relevant and they still guide me in my own wondering about the mysteries of life and faith.

Thanks, Dick, and thanks Christ Community Church for such a dynamic and glorious time.

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