

Sept. 15, 2013

If one lives and votes regularly today in Boston, one is about to be subjected to a blizzard of appeals by mayoral candidates (twelve), at large candidates (nineteen), and district candidates (seven in Roslindale). Election day is two weeks away.

How to sort them out? It amuses me to read the glbt equality flyers - everyone wants to be "hip" now after Mayor Menino. So many promises about the future. But some stand out because they were "known" in the tough in the trenches moments too.

Meanwhile I loved the preaching by your colleague guest Dupont Circle minister (I lived there in late 1980s). How much lobbying do we have to do to be married in our own churches? And what will the relationship be (church, state, wedding, day after that etc) in a pastoral sense of the long arc of our openly gay lives?

So if I were you and your flock of discussors and collecting ideas about Methodism and the Equal Marriage movement, I would point you toward the work of A. Philip Randolph et al. Ancient civil rights efforts. Moses. Rabbi Abraham Hersceul (sp).

This is a long, long, long fight, and the Episcopalians, Presby., Methodist, Southern Baptists, are each plodding their way through the "demands of the day." Remember you cannot break the Gospel; don't worry so much about it being fragile and a museum relic.

My spiritual friend once remarked: "God doesn't have grandchildren." Meaning, we are direct "sons and daughters" of God through the Holy Spirit and Jesus Christ. But we cannot direct the next generation to "have" the same relationship (personal gospel infused relationships) as we have had. We can coach, encourage, suggest, but not control.

These are my thoughts so far...

So I am sending you this quote about A. Philip Randolph, my mentor and theologically minded political advocate - remind me to suggest you preach about him (when MLK was "young fellow" A. Philip Randolph was (one) Legendary Wise One of his era.

* * * * *

"They say that he [Randolph] is absolutely to be trusted, that he cannot be influenced unduly. He stands four-square to all the winds, he stoops to no wiles or artifices to attain his goals. He is steeped in principle and he

has the complete certainty of a true reformer in the eventual triumph of his cause. He adopts none until he is certain it is morally right and that it will result in advantage to the entire community..."

-- Oswald Garrison Villard of A. Phillip Randolph (Union of Sleeping Car Porters)

* * * * *

Blessings on the journey, it's a worthwhile one to pursue if it brings you Closer My God to Thee...

---- Sara Hamlen - Boston, MA
integrityusa.org