

From this Corner

## Thoughts after Running Amuck of the Slogan

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It may result in charges of heresy, but I am going public with the fact that I am growing concerned about our denominational slogan “Open hearts, Open minds, Open doors.” I suspect the slogan was produced as an attempt to become a relevant contemporary church to which the un-churched masses would flock. After all, every successful organization has to have a Madison Avenue slogan, and it has to resonate with the host culture.

I began to realize there was a problem with our slogan when I was engaged in a conversation. The person with whom I was talking asserted because I believed our denomination’s stance on issues of sexual practice was correct; I was actually not being United Methodist. The reason given was that I did not have an open heart, did not have an open mind, and certainly did not believe in open doors. I apparently had run amuck of our slogan. You would have thought that I had denied the apostolic faith, denied for instance that Jesus was indeed raised from the dead. Oddly enough I think I could have taken that position without incurring the wrath showered upon me by this critic.

To set the record straight I do believe in open doors. Our doors should be open to all who want to hear Scriptural Christianity. We also ought to go out of open doors to proclaim the faith. I do believe in having an open heart. We need compassion for all those who like me are subject to sin. I do believe in having an open mind. For instance our minds should be open enough to realize that our faith should not affirm every behavior our culture decides to embrace.

On the other hand I am not sure the “open slogan” is ultimately descriptive of whom we are as United Methodists. It probably is a better slogan for the Unitarian Universalists. Let us hope a slogan doesn’t predict our future. It would be a gross betrayal of the apostolic faith and the faith that was “once for all entrusted to the saints.” (Jude :3)