

Tribute to Rev. Greg Dell

Prophets by the very nature and definition of the term never get honored by the communities of faith they seek to reform – unless it is many, many years later when they realize the errors of their way and seek repentance and forgiveness. Therefore, how appropriate that The Church Within A Church Movement exists to do what the United Methodist Church at this moment in history lacks the wisdom or the grace to do, namely honor Rev. Greg Dell.

Those who speak out and act on their convictions that Christ's community is always inclusive often suffer the consequences of the exclusive majority who wield power and authority. Greg Dell was martyred by an unforgiving legalism that did not reflect the biblical teaching that the "law of Christ is love."

Just as Bishop Jack Tuell has called you a "hero" of the faith and commended "your dignity, courage and good sprite," I salute you as one of United Methodism's prophets of justice and inclusiveness. Some day others – and their descendants – will hang their heads in shame, but your family and friends will point to your legacy with pride, celebrating your vision and courage,

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