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Toward the end of 2021 I was honored to be asked to serve in a transitional role as one of six “Geographic Pastoral Servants” in ABCOPAD while the Vision Committee and the Board of Directors sought God’s guidance for future leadership following the resignation of our Executive Pastor. I accepted the role because I knew that over my decades in pastoral ministry, the only thing that kept my head above water when I was drowning in a sea of challenges and conflicts, was the counsel and support of my colleagues in ministry.

In many ways we are still trying to emerge from the after-effects of the pandemic that swept the world in 2020 but COVID only threw gasoline on an already raging fire of change and cultural shifts that had our heads reeling. I am comforted by the fact that God’s church has endured far greater challenges. While the church of tomorrow isn’t going to look much like the church of yesterday or today, the Lord has a plan that we can trust!

Todd Bolsinger, the author of “Canoeing the Mountains” is quoted as saying “What is in front of you is always different from what is behind you.” We can count on three things when it comes to drastic change:

1. Change is constant.
2. Change is uncomfortable.
3. Change causes us to rely on Jesus.

For me, embracing my responsibilities as a GPS has caused me to navigate a huge learning curve. I have had to learn technology I never considered before and gain an awareness of issues and challenges pastors and congregations are having that I never knew. And now I am trying to learn how to help churches through the transition between pastors. It is a daunting challenge (but also a privilege!) Thank you for giving me this opportunity – and thank you for providing the support that your brothers and sisters in Christ throughout ABCOPAD need through your generous support of Partners in Ministry. You are making a difference. I have seen it!

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