To: students taking Church History in the Fall/Winter of 2024/5
From: The Rev. Canon Dr. Mark A. Pearson
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Church history is not just names, dates, events (important as these are), but especially God the Spirit at work through fallible people and institutions. The New Testament book, the Acts of the Apostles, ends rather abruptly. Where, one might ask, is chapter 29? Chapter 29 is Church history. It is relevant because people are a constant throughout history and virtues and vices, good things and bad things, spiritual wisdom and fallacy (heresy) tend to recur. Learn about the past and you have a leg up on understanding today.

History, Church and otherwise, can be boring if it is just names, dates and events, but it can be vulnerable to misunderstanding and misinterpreting if names, dates and events are not learned.

Course outline and requirements for each class:

In preparation for the first class, October 19 in Malverne, NY

* Buy and read and keep for future reference *Boot Camp for Christians* by Canon Mark Pearson. Available in New York at the Church of the Intercessor. Students from outside Malverne, contact Canon Mark at canonpearson@yahoo.com to order.

While I want you to read the entire book, especially focus on Chapter 2, "Full Gospel Faith: The 'Three Streams' of Christianity." At the first class you will be expected to know what the three streams of Convergence Christianity and three or four aspects of each stream. You may be quizzed in either written or oral format or both.

Buy and read and keep for future reference:

**The Story of Christianity: Volume 1, from the Early Church to the Dawn of the Protestant Reformation* by Justo L. González
and
**The Early Church* by Henry Chadwick.

For the first class, take the printed-out book outlines and answer all the questions in the blank spaces provided. For your future reference, it is a good idea to list the page numbers in the left margin of the page.

* H. Chadwick's book, answer questions 1 to 138 on the printout.
* J. Gonzalez's book volume 1 answer questions 1 to 90.

At the first class there will be a written content quiz on these questions.

In preparation for the second class, November 16 in Malverne, NY

Buy and read and keep for future reference:

**Western society and the Church in the Middle Ages* by R. W. Southern.

For the second class, take the printed-out book outlines and answer all the questions in the blank spaces provided. It is a good idea to list the page numbers in the left margin of the page.

*J. Gonzalez's book, volume 1, answer questions 91-160
*Southern's book, answer all the questions pertaining to this book.

At the second class there will be a written content quiz on these questions AND on questions from the first class (so keep working on the outlines from the first class).

In preparation for the third class, December 13-14-15 in Kingston, New Hampshire.

The plan is for the class to meet at Canon Mark's church. We will attempt to arrange for overnight lodging with parishioners. If you arrive early on Friday there will be "Celtic Evensong" at Canon and Dr. Mary's house and the same after class, Saturday. You are invited to worship with the people of Trinity Church, in part, for you to see that all the aspects of three-stream, Convergence Christianity can be "packaged" in a different style.

Buy and read and keep for future reference:

**The Reformation* by Sir Own Chadwick (Henry's brother)
and
**The Story of Christianity: Volume 2, The Reformation to the Present Day* by Justo L. González.

*For the third class, take the printed-out book outlines and answer all the questions in the blank spaces provided. It is a good idea to list the page numbers in the left margin of the page.

*Read O. Chadwick's book, questions 1-177
*Read J. Gonzalez' book, volume 2, part 1 of the questions.

At the third class there will be a written content quiz on these questions AND on questions from the first and second classes, (so keep working on the outlines from the first two classes.)

<u>In preparation for the fourth class, January 11, 2025 in Malverne, NY</u>

*Take the printed out book outlines and answer all the questions in the blank spaces provided. It is a good idea to list the page numbers in the left margin of the page.

Read J. Gonzalez's book, volume 2 part 2 of the questions, numbers 1-140

At the fourth class there will be a content quiz on these questions AND on questions from the first, second and third classes, (so keep working on the outlines from the first three classes.)

“A letter from a parishioner”

There will be written work between the classes called "A letter from a parishioner." Your beloved parishioner, Suzie Snowflake, is puzzled about something so she writes you a letter, or maybe sends you an email. She has a question burning in her mind and wonders what you can tell her in response.

There are two ways you should NOT answer her:

1. DO NOT send her a term paper or a snip and paste collection of on-line articles. DO NOT use technical language she may not understand. Instead, be kind, loving, pastoral and personal in how you respond.
2. DO NOT be so kind, loving, pastoral and personal that you never answer her question!

Think of how we get our electricity: power plant > substation > wires to your home > transformer > electrical outlet.
Think of the Incarnation: the all powerful, all present, all knowing God, infinitesimal > became one of us and spoke our language.

So, with your parishioner, learn the scholarly stuff from Scripture and orthodox books on theology, biblical commentary, church history, "priestcraft," > the answer in language people can comprehend and profit from.

Questions? Problems?
Call or email me.

Canon Mark