

**Resurrecting Church- Discussion Group –  
Additional Question to spur one’s reading and thinking**

**Week 1: Introduction, Chaps 1 and 2**

**Chap. 1: The First Church of the Island of Misfit Toys: outline**

• *New Things in Forgotten Places*

Rev. Dr. Rodney Sadler in the “Forward” says that the book is “an invitation for you to reimagine what church can be – no, what it should be . . .” (p. xii). How does this chapter offer an image of a reimagined “church”? John offers some characteristics of this “new thing” (p. 9): what are some characteristics he notes? What ones might you add? Would you eliminate any? Why?

• *A New Way Forward?* The book asks the following questions (numbered here for convenience):

1. Can congregations apply intersectionality as a new lens amid unprecedented social diversity that recasts the mainline Protestant church from being mostly white, cisgender, and middle class?

2. Can the tool of intersectionality strengthen the church in its service to Jesus Christ as his body?

3. How can a more intersectional understanding by Christ’s servants help them deliver justice, level the mountains that separate us, and make straight the paths that divide us? (p. 12)

How would you answer these questions at this point? How might you have answered them 5 years ago, 10, 20, and so on? What are some strengths and limitations of an intersectional lens?

**Chap. 2: What Happens at Intersections: outline**

• *The Intersection of Park and Fifth . . . and More*

Where do you find yourself “staying in your lane”? Where have you experienced God nudging you or showing up at intersections to alter you and your plans? How did or do you react to these nudges and changes?

• *Do You Believe in Miracles?*

So do you? Why or why not? What do you mean by “miracles”? How does your definition of “miracles” compare with the miracles we see in the Bible: Moses parting the Red Sea, Jesus feeding the 5000, to name just two.

• *Thank God for Unanswered Prayers*

Were John’s prayers “unanswered”? Does prayer always involve risk and courage (p. 29) as it did when Caldwell decided to call a full-time pastor? What about you and your prayers? How do you recognize God’s answers to your prayers? Do your prayers – or God’s answers – always, sometimes, never – involve risk and courage?