



# The Federated Church of Hyannis

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**Reverend Derek L. White, Pastor**

## **Weekly Message from the Pastor and Sermon Notes for October 10, 2021.**

### **Sermon Series: “The Happy Church, Part 4”.**

**Scripture:** 1 Peter 2:9 KJV

*“But ye are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, an holy nation, a peculiar people; that ye should shew forth the praises of him who hath called you out of darkness into his marvelous light;”*

### **Introduction**

Over the past several weeks, this series has focused on several movements within the Church. Week One was the Evangelical Movement, focusing on the sharing of the good news from the Greek word “Euangelia”. Week Two looked at the Revivalist Movement and the joy and praise from discovering new life in Christ by being born again. Week Three was on the Charismatic/Pentecostal Movement which focused on the use of spiritual gifts and the pouring out of emotion. This week is about the Pilgrim/Congregational Movement.

### **Part 1**

One might wonder what the movement of the Pilgrims/Congregationalists has in common with Evangelicals, Revivalists, and Charismatic Pentecostals. It may seem strange to consider Johnathan Edwards and his sermon “Sinners in the Hands of an Angry God” being connected to these other movements. But in 1730 something incredible happened here in New England known as “The Great Awakening”. It was a revival that swept over New England. Young men had visions, and people had fainting spells from being overwhelmed by the Spirit. The Great Awakening was a Charismatic, Revivalist, Evangelical movement of Congregationalism. Congregationalism is a spirit lead movement in which the belief is the Holy Spirit brings unity and understanding among all the members of the congregation who are ministers of the local church. Congregationalists believe

in working together as one body of believers in the shared ministry of the church led by the Holy Spirit. It is the Pastor's job to preach, teach, and administer the sacraments. It is the responsibility of the congregation to work together in the shared ministry of the church.

## **Part 2**

Part of the Great Awakening is the phenomenon of people having shared dreams. These dreams were visions of the type of community God was calling the Pilgrims/Congregationalists to build. It could be said Congregationalism is a movement of dreams and visions.

The Federated Church is an Interdenominational Church, but it does have a strong historical connection to the Universalists and the Congregationalists who were dreamers. The church today is built on the dreams and visions of those who saw what was possible because the Holy Spirit inspired them to work together for a common purpose. The fulfilling of dreams is what makes the Pilgrim/Congregationalist Movement part of the series of the Happy Church. (Interesting fact: Walt Disney was a Congregationalist, "where dreams come true".) The happiest place on earth was dreamed by a Congregationalist.

## **Conclusion**

Some of you may know I have a million dreams. I dream about all sorts of things. Congregationalism makes sense to me because I am a dreamer. Those who dreamed of independence from England and a new nation under God were Pilgrims/Congregationalists.

What makes the Movement of the Pilgrims/Congregationalism is the idea of building dreams together. This church has made a lot of dreams into reality over the years. And perhaps it is time to get back to those early roots of being dreamers again. What dream do you have that you can share with others to make a reality here at the Federated Church?

I want to hear those dreams. But first we need to start a new series next week on Stewardship of how to fund those dreams. My present dream is for everyone to pledge early so that we can have a balanced budget for next year and I can shorten the sermon series on stewardship. Let that be the next shared dream as we get ready for the Stewardship drive.