



### **Grain**

“We either renew our minds and become transformed or we conform to the dominant ideologies that convince us that we are moral despite what is going on around us.

Drew G.I. Hart, *Trouble I've Seen*

**Submitted by Reverend Barb Girod, Wautoma**

### **Field**

“<sup>2</sup>Do not be conformed to this world but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that you may prove what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect. <sup>9</sup>Let love be genuine; hate what is evil, hold fast to what is good; <sup>10</sup>love one another with mutual affection; outdo one another in showing honor. Romans 12:2 & 9-10

### **Thoughts by Reverend Barb Girod, LOPPW Advisory Council Member and Pastor of Holden Lutheran Parish, Wautoma**

Drew G.I. Hart was writing about the Dred Scott decision in which the U.S. Supreme Court voted 7-2 that “black people were not citizens and would never be.” He wrote, “Of course these men were all products of their time and social location.... Being a product of one’s time doesn’t absolve anyone. We are *all* people of our time. We either renew our minds and become transformed or we conform to the dominant ideologies that convince us that we are moral despite what is going on around us.”

Within the Christian tradition, we can say some of our Biblical texts reflect the social understandings of their time, just as Martin Luther’s writings about Jews and women were influenced by his society. As citizens of the world we can point to Jim Crow laws and worldwide atrocities and say they were all products of their time. However, God continues to call us to be transformed, to let our minds be challenged and changed so that we are not captive to the teachings and structure of our society.

Within church and society today we continue the struggle to break free from principles and ideologies that keep LBGTQ individuals, people of color, women, those unemployed or underemployed and countless others, oppressed. As our hearts and minds are transformed, God can use us to transform the world to more clearly reflect the kingdom of God.

Thank you to Pastor Girod for her thoughts! Happy Monday!

### **Prayer**

Highly recommended.

### **Share**

Send any quotes you'd like to share with our network to [cindyc@loppw.org](mailto:cindyc@loppw.org)

Many blessings upon you,

Pastor Cindy