



175th Anniversary Moment

“He who promised is faithful” (Heb 10.23)

TRAINING FUTURE PASTORS: THE HISTORY OF VICARS AT FIRST SAINT PAUL’S

Students at LC-MS seminaries typically spend the third year of their seminary training on “vicarage”—a full-time experience working in a parish, under the supervision of a pastor. The vicarage not only gives valuable experience to the vicar but also helps many congregations carry out their ministries. From 1955 to 1969, during the tenure of Pastor James Manz, First Saint Paul’s had a vicar every year. Listed below are the vicars who served the congregation:

1955	Ralph Juengel
1956	Charles Manske
1957	Ronald Reinhardt
1958	Leslie Beale
1959	William Dierks
1960	Duane Maerten
1961	Ronald Astalos
1962	David Bode
1963	Richard York
1964	William Hansen
1965	James Davis
1966	Edwin Rehrauer
1967	David Braun
1968	Vernon Schultheis
1969	Paul Metzler

Some of these vicars were presumably assigned to First Saint Paul’s because they had an interest in urban ministry. For example, Vicar James Davis, in 1965, responded to his experience at First Saint Paul’s by writing a document entitled “Report on Wells Street—Old Town Experiment” (on display in our anniversary exhibit). He describes how, as vicar, he walked the Old Town neighborhood in his clerical collar, attempting to become “known” in the community. In his report, he discusses the pros and cons of a “coffee house” approach to ministry among the counter-cultural folks who dominated Old Town at the time. His report ended with a proposal (never acted upon) that the Northern Illinois District set up an “at-large” ministry to the unchurched people of Old Town.

The vicar who went on to have perhaps the greatest impact on the LC-MS was Charles Manske, who served our congregation in 1956. He conducted a sociological study of the congregation that formed the basis of his thesis for the M.A. in sociology at Washington University in St. Louis, which he completed in 1958. Prior to his vicarage at First Saint Paul’s, Manske had spent 10 weeks assisting Lutheran parishes in southern California, where he developed a vision for expanded Lutheran ministry there. In 1973,

while serving as campus pastor at the University of Southern California, he was called to serve as the founding president of Christ College Irvine (now Concordia University—Irvine) in 1976. He earned his Ph.D. in Social Ethics from USC in 1979. After several years as president, he returned to the classroom and earned a reputation as a beloved professor, teaching courses in theology, ethics, world religions, and apologetics. Dr. Manske passed away in 2015.