

December 24, 2020

Trinity Musings #38: from Rev Brian

Goodings trinityminister@bmts.com

Serving Trinity United Church: Collingwood

I'll make the Motion that everyone who received CERB money (Canadian Emergency Response Benefit)...just gets to keep it. Anyone want to Second that?

I don't really care if they, in the eyes of Revenue Canada, cheated or just didn't know how to properly fill out the form. It actually sounds like the questions were not all that clear.

(It meant "Net Income" not "Gross Income" but apparently that wasn't all that clear on the form. And if you make less than ten thousand dollars a year making the world a prettier or more musical place, that level of pay is gross anyway.)

I'll bet there were some real rascals who just took advantage of the program but from what I've heard, there were a lot of people who really thought they qualified and were approved.

Now they are getting bills from Revenue Canada telling them they have to pay every cent back. Gadzooks. Artists and musicians barely make any money anyway and I can't imagine getting a bill for twelve thousand dollars!

I know all of this money comes from the "hard-working-tax-payers" but hey...compared to what we happily give to corporations and pay people in other professions, is it really too much to support people who are so close to the line?

Some of them make even less than a minister! (FYI, please don't worry about me. I get C.P.P. and O.A.S. cheques every month now so I'm rolling in dough.)

I know a lot of taxpayers who sing the blues about how tough they have it but seem to me, not to really be all that hard working. Not going to name names but just sayin'...lol.

Maybe after being 10 months into this really hard Covid time, we should just declare..."Merry Christmas amnesty for all CERBers!"

In our faith tradition, we call the time for forgiveness of debts, a time of "Jubilee". It's supposed to happen every 50 years and as far as I know, it's long overdue.

We could really use the break and the joy after so much stress...so I'll make another Motion: that on New Year's Eve we declare 2021 a year of Jubilee. Yeah I know it's unreasonable for lots of reasons but what a delightful offer to make to the "least among us".

I believe most of us really receive far more than we have really earned anyway. As we know, or will learn, forgiveness is the best gift of all.

Merry Christmas!