

**Rev. Jonathan Cahill**

"XPLOrations on a theme"

March 2019



i did not e**X**pect to meet  
best friends in **P**illbox-sized rooms  
in a village **L**ong drives away from  
a city of steel, rust, aband**O**ned warehouses  
and neighborhoods rapidly gent**R**ifying on the west side

but I'm grateful for the e**X**ception  
to my ex**P**ectations  
because **L**iving in close-knit community yielded b**O**nds of friendship that time doesn't  
easily wea**R**

it was with e**X**citement and trepidation  
that i **P**lotted my course from  
the farm to the **L**ofty offices of the disheveled senator what a way to get **O**riented to  
the bridge-divide  
of **R**ural/urban/urbane/rustic

**X**iasmus

**P**ews from another century

**L**eft an impression

**O**n my back while the congregation **R**egaled my soul with sermon, song and

e**X**uberant hospitality

**P**rotest marches

**L**eft an impression on my feet

**O**utside forts and white houses and a

**R**ecreation center where a black boy was murdered over a toy

a year of e**X**ploration **P**olitical awakening sou**L** searching  
orientation, dis**O**rientation,  
reo**R**ientation

Xplor was not lacking in hardshi**P** **L**oss  
**O**r  
frustr**R**ation

but **X**plor also  
pre**P**ared me for stepping into  
adu**L**thood with confidence  
**O**wnership of who I am - successes and failures alike - with **R**esilience

the year's lessons e**X**tend into  
the **P**resent  
**L**ooking back i know why  
i continue **O**n my path  
relishing the time and **R**emaining grateful to be part of that hiram four

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*As the health and social services general ministry of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ), the National Benevolent Association partners with congregations, regions, general ministries, and a variety of Disciples-related health and social service providers to create communities of compassion and care. Founded in 1887 by six women responding to the needs of the day and on their doorsteps, for more than 130 years the NBA has continued to serve "the least of these." Learn more at [www.nbacares.org](http://www.nbacares.org).*