

**Subject:** Feedback on website, sermons, etc.

**From:** David Dunaway <ddunaway1963@gmail.com>

**Date:** 3/3/2023, 10:48 AM

**To:** rev@cope.church

Dear Reverend Smith:

Good morning! Please allow me to say that I think you are a little bit crazy, very intelligent, and an ardent lover of God, wherever you find God. I do not agree with all of your positions, but anyone who is willing to examine real-world issues in light of their theology cannot help but encounter other understandings. I also strongly appreciate your view of dissent. I strongly believe that indifference to oppression and failure to speak up for the weak is a significant factor in the decline of "mainline" denominations.

If you have never come across it, there is an old book by Leslie Weatherhead called *The Christian Agnostic* that was liberating for me as a young man. For one, it taught me that doubt is integral to faith and two, it taught me to fear people who are pretty sure that they know God. It's dated, and the first part is kind of out there, but you might like it.

Wrapping this up; thank you. I found your info when doing some background study regarding Heartlight Ministries where I was considering applying for a counselor position. I knew that there would be a theological divide, but needing a job, I hoped that there might be some middle ground there. Your work opened my eyes to characteristics of that organization that I really do believe create the scars and resentment (Suh Nam-dong's *han*) that keep people who have suffered at the hands (and mouths) of those people who know God so well... from returning to church as adults. Long sentence. Summary: church can be good, but there are jerks who ruin it.

Please keep up the good work!

Your friend,  
David