

READY TO SERVE: A PERSONAL VIEW

In over ten years as covenanted disciples, we were called to serve in four different ministries and enjoyed self-satisfaction in each. Yet within ministries as well as individually, we could not remain static, but are always called upon to “become more”, like a fire that must spread fanned by the wind of the Spirit and even at the risk of burning up some “old growth” to allow the light to penetrate to the new.

For us, each move was unsettling at first. We had become familiar with the ministry tasks and the intimacy of those whom we served with and opened up to in our Word Sharing Circles. A new ministry would require us to be vulnerable again to strangers and learn to trust. Even our previous ministry experiences could not be relied upon in our new assignments and our sense of inadequacy pushed us to return to that child like quality of utter dependence on God. We derived courage from the last part of our community foundation verse: “*Having heard the word, they embrace it with a generous and good heart, and bear fruit through perseverance.*” Luke 8:15

When we were called by our anointed leaders to serve in each new ministry, we simply said “Yes Lord” without hesitation. We didn’t analyze the work required in relation to our perceived abilities but instead relied on what we believed to be a spiritual element to the DCS discernment that would allow us the opportunity to grow and to use our unique gifts to best serve the needs of the community according to God’s plan. We kept to heart our community norms in our Covenant of Communion which urged us to “be always ready to serve in whatever capacity the Community is calling us”, confident that we would be made capable to do our tasks by the grace of the Holy Spirit.

We each bring not only a variety of gifts to the community, but are also at different stages on our own personal spiritual journey. As part of the corporate Body of Christ expressed through the BLD community, we are each vital to the life and growth of the community. “Each one must be helped to grow. We truly need the power of the Holy Spirit to accept what we have been given and to accept what others have been given.” Jean Vanier, Community and Growth.

“Living the truth in love, we should grow in every way into Him who is the head, Christ, from whom the whole body, joined and held together by every supporting ligament, with the proper functioning of each part, brings about the body’s growth and builds itself up in love.” (Ephesians 4:12-16)

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