



A CALLING TO LEADERSHIP

Imagine the Possibilities of What We Can Do Together!

Lay leadership is a “we.” We refers to every disciple in our Pax Christi community. We have been sent by God and sealed with love on hearts through baptism. We have been called to break through what separates us, and to remember that the Holy Spirit builds the bridge of hope, love, peace, and understanding. The great desolation we may feel is healed by a community built on love. This love knows no boundaries. There are no strangers or outsiders. We all belong. Pax Christi is bound up with our intentions, prayers, and faith. There is no scarcity. Love multiplies when it is shared.

What does lay leadership ask of you? It is simple: that you answer the call. The invitation is not extended to a few. This is an “ask” of every disciple. How can you use what God has given you so generously in His service? It is an invitation and a commission. The invitation is always open. The commission is one that all followers of Christ are asked, “to lay down your life.”

There is no better time than now to discern what is being asked of you. What does it mean to discern? It means to wrestle. It means to dig deep, pray, reflect, and get down on your knees. It means to go to the altar and ask. In the Gospel of Matthew, it is said, “Seek and you shall find, knock and the door will be opened.” Is there something you feel called to do that has been simmering on the back burner for a long time? Can you use your gifts to reduce anger, division, and poverty in our midst? Can you bring joy and love?

For some of us, it means showing up with a hot meal for a neighbor who eats alone every night. It may mean

shoveling the driveway of the single mom recently divorced who is struggling on her own. It may mean helping your former colleague who lost his job of 25 years. It may be staying up all night with a teen who is struggling and feeling isolated. It may mean reaching out to a sister or brother that you have not spoken to in years, because you cannot figure out how to get past your wounds. It may mean writing a note to your friend who is a nurse on the front lines fighting COVID-19. It may mean dropping off more groceries at the food pantry or sending a financial gift: leaning into your Catholic values because the needs are so great. It may mean serving here in ministry.

This spring may be the season to step up, and step into a deeper relationship with Christ. Everything can be transformed. We may not know you yet, or what is on your heart. We may not know your struggles, pain, or history. Know that we have been waiting for you. You will be showing up right on time.

At Pax Christi, we stand on sacred ground. We bring our stories from all over the world. We celebrate diverse heritages and cultures. We are dreamers and builders. One thing that is universal is our common language of love, faith, and service. We know that by working together, anything is possible. Sarah Byerly, Communications Council member, describes the qualifications to serve on a council at Pax Christi, “There are two simple ingredients: love God, love Pax Christi.”

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