



Shared Authority

Webinars / April 2017



Communal / Spiritual Practices

Plan for today:

Review of shared Authority in L'Arche

Name: Communal and Spiritual Practices in our communities

Shared Authority in L'Arche (Review from session I)

Why (Vision) – How (Strategies) – What (Actions)

Why: It is our mission within our structures of L'Arche. Authority to act at all levels comes from L'Arche's mission. (remember the Good Samaritan story).

- **The principle** of shared authority is the principle by which authority is exercised in partnership, so as to serve the mission of L'Arche. (2008-2012 Taskforce on Structures of L'Arche International)
- **Partnership:** Trust and collaboration operate freely within L'Arche. The structures are to foster that dynamic and embrace the partnerships among the spiritual, legal, financial, and communal elements. (L'Arche USA Constitution)
- **Servant Leadership:** Those in authority gain wisdom through respectful listening and taking counsel. (L'Arche USA Constitution).
- **Washing of the Feet Ritual:** The footwashing ritual was meant to remind the disciples of the need to engage in ongoing status reversal.

“In L'Arche, the deepest bonds between community members lie in their shared vulnerable common humanity.”

Session II

Serving the Mission / Grounded in the Mission

Our Mission is:

- To make known the gifts of people with developmental disabilities, revealed through mutually transforming relationships;
- To foster an environment in community that responds to the changing needs of our members, while being faithful to the core values of our founding story; and
- To engage in our diverse cultures, working together toward a more human society.



Communal and Spiritual Practices in Shared Authority

How:

In relationship to Shared Authority in L'Arche:
**“What comes to mind when you think of the term
“Communal and Spiritual Practices” in the
community.**

- Relationships:**
- Listening:**
- Accompaniment:**
- Inclusion:**
- Sabbath:**
- Discernment:**

Our communal and spiritual practices also have a personal dimension:
If you recall in the last session Tina encouraged us to think critically.



Relationships

Communal

Mutual relationships, friendships with people with intellectual disabilities, call us to an inversion of the usual relationship of care and power. We are called to “grow together” as persons, as sisters and brothers in community, and as “partners in the same mission.”

Spiritual

- Relationship to self, God, the More, the World
- The call to self awareness / self discovery
- We are called to be in relation to one another.

Relationship Building is at the heart of our mission:
It is through our relationships that we:

Support Encourage Guide Affirm Trust Give Security

Relationships

How do you allow yourself to be transformed by the other?

Who is calling you to be transformed?

What are the stories of our transformation?



How: Relationship Building

Communal

What:

- Time with: Consistency in structured time with community, spontaneous time
- Sharing own highs, lows, vulnerability
- Honest in praise and critique
- Celebration

Spiritual

What:

- Community / team / house reflection times
- Meals – conversation and prayer
- Celebration
- Beginning or ending meetings with reflection
- Personal: Own daily / weekly practice of personal reflection/prayer
- Solidarity

Back to Why

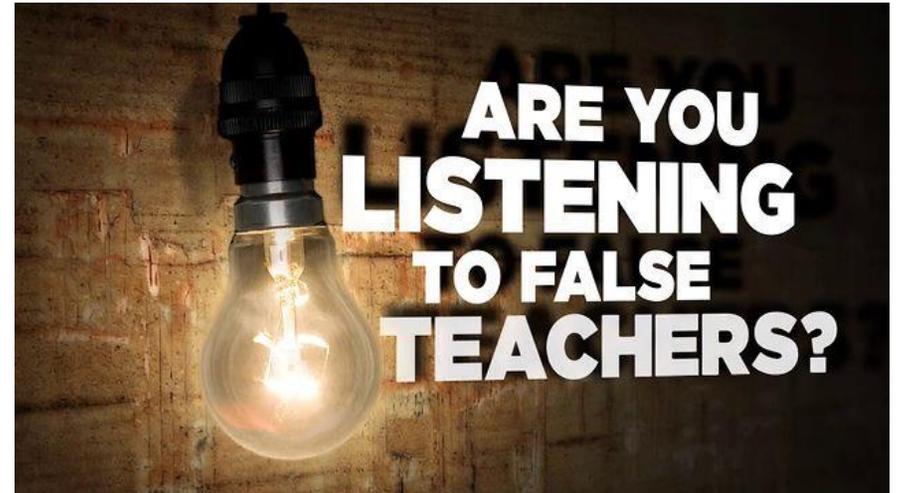
- Heart of mission – mutual and transformative
- Build trust
- Modelling
- Personal: Keeps leader grounded self-aware, present to own sense of belonging

Listening

Communal



Spiritual



How: Listening

Communal

What:

- Community meeting times
- Availability (open door) times
- Seasons of the Community

Connection to Shared Authority

- Building trust
- Leader hears what s/he needs to hear.
- Partnership

Spiritual

What:

- Prayerful collective place to raise community concerns and dreams
- Personal – reflect on day or on relationship
- Retreats

Connection to Shared Authority

- Common grounding for community
- Personal: Grow in humility and sense of gifts/place

Why

Personal Growth – sense of Gifts / place

Leader hears what s/he needs to hear

Partnership

Accompaniment

Communal



Spiritual

'Cause what if Your
blessings come through
raindrops?
What if Your healing comes
through tears?

How:Accompaniment

Communal

What:

- Outside wisdom
- Assessment /encouragement

Connection to Shared Authority:

- Building trust
- Common understanding of health and well being of community.
- Future Planning

Spiritual

What:

- Prayerful space to speak truth and seek counsel.
- Checking growth both communal and personal.

Connection to Shared Authority:

- Grow in vulnerability
- Common understanding of health and well being.

Why

Understanding of health and well being of community and self.

Build trust

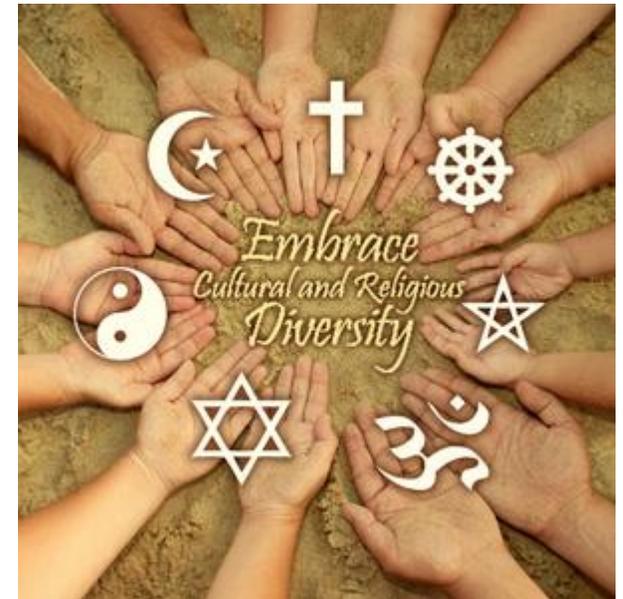
Accompaniment helps us listen, but also the community listen. As leaders we need to ensure accompaniment needs are being met.

Inclusion

Communal



Spiritual



How: Inclusion

Communal

What:

- Participation in processes open to all.
- Principle of Subsidiarity
- Materials for differing learning capabilities.

Connection to Shared Authority:

- Ownership of decisions.
- Sense of belonging.
- Voice is heard

Spiritual

What:

- Practices reflect diversity of community.
- Full and active participation

Connection to Shared Authority:

- Grow in appreciation of the other.
- Deepen understanding of different ways of praying / communicating.
- Upending – attention on the small or different voice. Chicago example.

Why

Attention to the small or different voice (Chicago)

Grow in appreciation for the other

Points back to our mission—To engage in our diverse cultures, working together toward a more human society...

Sabbath

Communal



Spiritual



How: Sabbath

Communal

What:

- Community vacation
- Community Retreat
- Time apart

Connection to Shared Authority:

- Presence
- Investment
- Belonging
- Servant Leadership

Spiritual

What:

- Retreat communal and personal
- Stepping away (renewal)
- Reflection / Prayer

Connection to Shared Authority:

- Renewed / Refreshed
- Servant Leadership

Why

Renewed / Refreshed

New insights

Servant Leadership

Discernment

Communal



Spiritual



How: Discernment for Mission

Communal

What:

- Community Leadership
- Community Growth
- Praise and Critique
- Ordinary choices lived out of fruit of other practices and with mission in mind

Connection to Shared Authority:

- Trust
- Ownership / Investment
- Open to Community Voice / collective wisdom, respond to changing needs

Spiritual

What:

- Community reflection times
- On-going Personal reflection times
- Openness to Spirits movement

Connection to Shared Authority:

- Living out of Call / Servant Leadership
- Grow in sense of Gifts both communal and personal

Why

Servant Leadership: Right Leader at the Right time

Open to community voice / collective wisdom...

Mission— responding to changing needs.

Review and Conclusion

April 20, & 24, 2017

Questions?

