

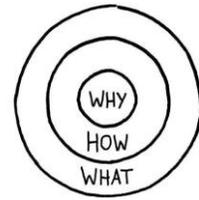
Shared Authority Integration Session Preparation Materials

Log on to [member ground](#) (Username: national / Password: vanier) then go to [Shared Authority](#) page. Prep materials, power point presentations and videos are available for both sessions.

1. Review materials from prior sessions.
2. Consider the questions below. Don't be concerned about answering all, but take time with questions from each section (why, how, what) that resonate with you. Note that there are some links embedded with further resources.
3. Come with a response to the final question about your concrete goals for growth.

WHY Shared Authority

- **Source of authority is Mission.** *What about our mission guides me in my leadership and authority?*
- **Good Samaritan story and Head/Hands/Heart/Spirit frameworks** show how mission defines distinct roles and responsibilities. *What authority do I carry in role to further L'Arche's mission?*
- **Right person, right place, right time to contribute to mission.** *Does this resonate for me? Does it help to consider it for other leaders with whom I share authority?*
- **L'Arche's Historically Ambiguous relationship with Authority:** *What is my own personal relationship to authority? Where is there ambiguity and how does that impact how I hold authority?*



HOW: Practices, Principles, Partnerships, Systems

- **Communal and Spiritual Practices**

Relationship-building • Listening • Accompaniment • Inclusion • Sabbath • Discernment

- *How am I personally called to live these practices more intentionally? How might I be called to help the community grow in them? Any in particular?*
- *How might these practices support my efforts to live out of my own authority? To share authority with others? What is most challenging about that in my role at this time?*
- *Relationship was the starting point and foundation for these practices. What relationships do I need to ground me in my membership? In my role? What relationships need more of my attention?*
- *Inclusion gets to the heart of our relationships with core members, especially. How often and how fully do I consider how I am sharing authority with core members?*
- *Discernment came up in both sessions as more than a recruiting process, as a key communal/spiritual practice supported by the others, and as a daily way of proceeding that supports shared authority. [Excerpt](#) from Discernment, H Nouwen *What does it mean to me? What more would I like to learn about it? How do I engage in discernment?**

- **Principles:** [Servant Leadership](#). Subsidiarity, Inculturation, Participation, Partnership, Solidarity, Stewardship, Accountability
- **Creative partnering** among Community, Spirituality and Agency
 - *How do these principles and aspects intersect with my idea of authority?*
 - *Examples from life where they work at odds or in communion with each other?*
- **Systems:** The principle of Shared Authority relies on a well-oiled system of interrelated and yet distinct roles and responsibilities. This requires excellent coordination mechanisms, particularly good communication and decision-making processes (e.g., [RAPID decision making](#))
 - *Can I think of a particular decision I'm part of in role that would benefit from RAPID process?*
 - *How does such a process support shared authority? What obstacles might I encounter?*
 - *What helpful communication practices do I / does community use? Which might be improved? How does communication impact authority?*
 - *Tina spoke of the "spaces between roles, authorities, people" What does that mean to me?*



WHAT / Application to Role and Current Reality

- *What is my new learning or insight related to shared authority?*
- *What is my new learning or insight about myself as a leader?*
- *From all that was presented, what do I want to learn more about? Where can I go to learn?*
- *Are there current situations where I need to set limits or be a commanding voice? What grounding will help me to do so?*
- *Are there current situations where I need to accept the authority, voice, wisdom of another? What grounding will help me to do so?*
- *What is one relationship where sharing authority has been a struggle? What can I do concretely to try to improve it?*
- *When I consider my most pressing concern of the day, what from this material offers ideas or encouragement to address it?*
- *When I consider my most energizing opportunity of the day, what from this material offers ideas or encouragement to move it forward?*
- **What concrete goals or steps for growth do I have for the next three months (six months) related to shared authority?**

