

L'Arche USA 2017 Peer Cohorts Conversations - Lived Servant Leadership

Conversation # 3: Forwarding the Mission from Head, Heart, Hands, Spirit

Text

He cared for them with a true heart and led them with skillful hands. Psalm 78:72

Spirit: The very least you can do in your life is to figure out what to hope for. And the most you can do is live inside that hope. *Barbara Kingsolver*

Head: When we have the courage to share generously with others all that we know, whenever they ask for it, we soon discover that we know a lot more than we thought. It is only by giving generously from the well of our knowledge that we discover how deep that well is. *H Nouwen*

Heart: The greatest challenge of the day is: how to bring about a revolution of the heart, a revolution which has to start with each one of us. When we begin to take the lowest places, to wash the feet of others, to love our brothers and sisters with burning love, then we can truly say, 'Now I have begun.' *Dorothy Day*

Hands: excerpt from *To Be of Use*, Marge Piercy

I want to be with people who submerge
in the task, who go into the fields to harvest
and work in a row and pass the bags along,
who are not parlor generals and field deserters
but move in a common rhythm
when the food must come in or the fire be put out.

Spirit: Vision,
sacred, culture,
creativity

Head: Strategy,
planning, teaching
and learning, ideas



Heart:
Relationships,
communication,
Marketing /
story

Hands:
Action, hands-
on-deck,
modeling,
operations

Image/Meditation

Take time to think of a person (living, dead, famous or in your everyday world) whose way of leading, serving and accompanying is aspirational to you. Likely, this will be someone who has grown to be able to offer something out of each of these four places, but still consider whether they seem to be more grounded in one. Imagine you have the chance to talk with them. What do you want to ask them or to learn from them?

Reflection Questions

1. When you consider head, heart, hands and spirit as places out of which to act – what does each mean to you? What might it look like to lead from each of these places?
2. Why do we need people offering gifts from each place to support our mission and community?
3. Which of these places of leadership comes most naturally to you? How is it helpful in your role?
4. Can you think of any recent experiences when you wish you were stronger in leading from another place? Which place, and what might you have done differently? How might you try to grow that place of leadership? Which place of leadership is calling you these days?