



Stage 1: Three Questions Before You Begin

Before launching a new ministry, recruiting volunteers or planning activities, take time to reflect on these three questions together.

Community Care Ministries is not about creating another program. It is about cultivating a culture of care. These questions help determine whether your corps is ready to begin that journey.

Question 1: Who in our community is most isolated?

Every community has people who are disconnected, overlooked or carrying burdens alone.

Take time to consider:

- Who is missing from community life around us?
- Are there seniors who rarely receive visitors?
- Are there caregivers carrying responsibilities without support?
- Are there individuals experiencing loneliness, grief, illness or disability?
- Are there people connected to our corps who have quietly drifted away?
- Who do we notice, and who might we be overlooking?

Reflection

Isolation is not always visible. Some people are surrounded by others yet still feel profoundly alone.

As a corps, where do you see loneliness, disconnection or unmet relational needs in your community?

Discussion Notes

Question 2: What would it mean for our corps to be known for how we care?

Imagine someone in your community describing your corps to a friend.

What would you hope they would say?

Perhaps they would say:

- "Those are people who notice when someone is struggling."
- "They show up when life gets difficult."
- "They care about people, not just programs."
- "I felt welcomed and valued there."
- "They walk alongside people over time."

Reflection

Community Care Ministries is not measured primarily by attendance, events or activities. It is measured by relationships, belonging and care.

If your corps became known for compassionate care, what would change?

- For those you serve?
- For your congregation?
- For your volunteers?
- For your wider community?

Discussion Notes

Question 3: Are we willing to commit for six months?

Meaningful relationships take time.

Community Care Ministries is not intended to be a one-time event or short-term project. It is a commitment to consistently showing up for people.

Before moving forward, consider:

- Do we have a small group of people willing to serve faithfully?
- Can we commit to learning as we go?
- Are we willing to start small?
- Can we make space for relationships to develop naturally?
- Are we prepared to continue even when growth is slower than expected?

Reflection

The goal is not perfection. The goal is presence.

Many successful ministries begin with a handful of committed people who choose to care consistently over time.

Discussion Notes

Moving Forward

If your team can answer "yes" to these questions, you may be ready to begin exploring Community Care Ministries.

You do not need a large volunteer team.

You do not need a large budget.

You do not need a fully developed plan.

You simply need a willingness to notice people, care for them intentionally and commit to walking alongside them over time.

Small acts of care, offered consistently, can transform lives and strengthen communities.