

Stage 4: Discernment and Growth

Community Care Ministries is not simply about sustaining activities. It is about nurturing people, strengthening relationships and participating in God's ongoing work of restoration and belonging.

As you reflect on what lies ahead, consider these three questions together.

Question 1: Are our volunteers growing through this ministry, or just sustaining it?

Healthy ministries do more than meet needs. They also help those who serve grow in compassion, confidence, faith and purpose.

Reflection

Consider your current volunteers:

Are they discovering and using their gifts?

Do they feel encouraged and supported?

Are they developing meaningful relationships through their service?

Is serving helping them grow spiritually?

Do they feel energized by their involvement, or simply responsible for keeping things going?

Ministries that rely solely on commitment can become exhausting. Ministries that foster growth create opportunities for renewal, learning and joy.

Discussion Notes

Question 2: What would it look like for people to truly flourish?

Community Care Ministries seeks more than participation. It seeks transformation.

Flourishing looks different for every person, but it often includes connection, purpose, belonging, hope and opportunities to contribute.

Reflection

Imagine the people connected to your ministry six months or a year from now.

What signs of flourishing would you hope to see?

Stronger relationships?

Increased confidence and purpose?

Greater connection to the corps community?

Improved emotional, spiritual or social well-being?

New opportunities to serve and lead?

How would you know that people are not only being cared for, but are thriving?

Discussion Notes

Question 3: What are we being called toward next?

Community Care Ministries is not a destination. It is a journey of listening, learning and responding to God's leading.

Reflection

As you consider your congregation and community:

Where do you sense God already at work?

What opportunities are emerging?

What needs continue to surface?

What relationships are developing?

Where might God be inviting us to take a faithful next step?

The next step does not need to be large. Often, God works through simple acts of faithfulness, consistency and care.

Discussion Notes

Looking Forward

As you continue this journey, remember that healthy ministries are marked by growth, flourishing and purpose.

A thriving Community Care Ministry:

Helps volunteers grow as they serve.

Creates opportunities for people to experience belonging and purpose.

Remains attentive to God's leading and responsive to the needs of the community.

The goal is not simply to sustain ministry.

The goal is to cultivate a community where people are cared for, connected to one another and growing together in faith, hope and love.

As you move forward, ask not only, "What are we doing?" but also, "Who are we becoming?"

That question may be the most important measure of success.