

## Leading with Vitality Council Reflection: Accompaniment

**How to use the Leading with Vitality Council Reflection:** Share this document with the Council members prior to the Council meeting and add 15 minutes to the beginning of the agenda for shared reflection. Prior to the meeting, invite one member of the Council to lead the discussion. Here's a simple outline for how the shared reflection might go.

First, the reflection leader reads the scripture passage aloud. Second, the reflection leader highlights one idea from the reflection that the reflection leader found meaningful or challenging. Third, the reflection leader uses one or more of the reflection questions below to encourage discussion. When the discussion draws to a close, the reflection leader closes the time with the prayer using the prayer below or another prayer they create.

### Scripture Reading

#### 1 Corinthians 12.12-14 (NRSV)

For just as the body is one and has many members, and all the members of the body, though many, are one body, so it is with Christ. For in the one Spirit we were all baptized into one body—Jews or Greeks, slaves or free—and we were all made to drink of one Spirit. Indeed, the body does not consist of one member but of many.

### Accompaniment

Accompaniment – what do think of? If you are like me and most of the people I ask, you think of music.

Musically, accompaniment is often the vocal or instrumental part of music that supports another. At times we may hear one melody; at times another melody. There are also times when we cannot differentiate the tunes, as they blend together for fuller musical effect. Perhaps the idea of accompaniment from the musical perspective can help lift up the accompaniment ideals of supporting one another in ministry, producing a more abundant experience for us all!

When thinking of ministry, accompaniment seeks to “walk together” with sisters, brothers, and siblings in a community of faith and in the wider neighborhood, utilizing – in mutuality and respect – the unique gifts of each child of God. With accompaniment as our model for mission, we move from ministry **to** each other to ministry **with** each other.

Often congregations think of ministry with their community as a way to help the people in need around them. While this is an important part of Christian care and concern, it often fails to recognize that the people in our communities are *already richly gifted* children of God, with insights, hopes, dreams, abilities, and wisdom to share. Because **all** of us have been uniquely gifted by God!

What would it look like for your congregation to seek out the wisdom of your community and together envision ministry that benefits the whole of God's people? Who in your community can you reach out to for insights and experience? Who can you listen with and talk with about the gifts and the challenges of those living in your neighborhood? What would ministry **with** your community – rather than for your community – look like?

A gift of music is that it is a communal experience, as we listen (and maybe even sing, dance, play, and clap!) *together*. When we walk together in accompaniment, we seek to serve, learn, and grow *from and with each*

*other.* When we walk together in accompaniment, we blend the unique melodies of our lives into a fully orchestral, deeply engaged, gloriously beautiful song of the abundance of God's presence and life with us all.

*Reflection by Pastor Kelly Bayer Derrick*

### Questions for Reflection:

1. Listen to [Johann Sebastian Bach's "'Little' Fugue in G minor \(BWV 578\)."](#) (Performed on organ by Stephen Malinowski; this YouTube version also includes an animated graphical score.) How does the music make you feel? Can you pick out the unique tunes? Can you hear the intertwining melodies? Are there any biblical themes you think of as you listen?
2. Who, specifically, can you walk with, listen with, and talk with in your community? Whose experiences, hopes, and dreams can you learn more about? How can you come together with others in your community to discern together the ministry gifts and opportunities in your neighborhood?

### Prayer:

Eternal God, your Word brought forth creation, and your Spirit brings order out of chaos and confusion. You breathe upon us, and we are able to hear one another with language we can understand. Pour out your Spirit upon us now, that we may listen to one another, walk with one another and learn from one another as we move forward toward your loving future, through Jesus Christ, in whom we are known and accepted with a single love. Amen.