

Building
BELONGING

WEEK OF LAITY 2026



DISCIPLES
Home Missions

Table of CONTENTS

01 LAITY SUNDAY LITANY

Call to worship that brings laity to the altar for affirmation, celebration, and a charge.

02 CENTERING CIRCLES

An hour of stillness and reflection on the power of attending to the lives of congregants and the community

03 DAILY DEVOTION

A meditation that reminds our hearts to center purpose over personalities

04 HOW DO WE DESCRIBE OUR MINISTRY?

Understand outcomes vs. description, who is impacted by our ministry, and what or who else might strengthen the team

05 BUILDING BELONGING

Through the use of informal, authentic testimony, we invite friends and family to journey with us in service



Laitiy Sunday



IT MATTERS *... a litany*

Worship

Leader/Pastor:

We gather today with joy, affirmation, and celebration for our lay leaders who embody the love of God, and keep ministry alive in and on behalf of the church. Their service matters.

Lay Leaders:

Our hands and hearts have known the love of God. We share that love with purpose and gladness because it matters.

Worship

Leader/Pastor:

Scripture teaches us that Jesus exercised the wisdom to assemble helpers. He saw the value in walking with others for the sake of healing the community.

Lay Leaders:

We understand the power of bringing our gifts and talents together for the strengthening of our community and church. Our service is sacred.

Worship

Leader/Pastor:

It matters when people show up to volunteer. It matters when people provide visitation to those sick and shut-in. It matters when leaders gather to serve youth. It matters when ushers welcome the community into these doors. Lay leaders choose to care.

Lay Leaders:

We have accepted the call of God on our lives to love through action. Every time we show up; we do so to honor creation and our Creator. We believe it matters to God that we care for others.

Worship

Leader/Pastor:

Lay leaders, we hope you know how much you mean to us, how much we need you, and that we honor the blessing of your life among us. Thank you for the care you give.

Leader &

Congregation:

Dear God, we extend our hands as an expression of your Spirit poured out over these leaders and their ministry areas. We have faith in they will do and we support them with prayer and resources. In the name of our Holy Lay Leader, Jesus, Amen.

CENTERING



CIRCLES

*One Hour**

Question #1

WHY DO I VOLUNTEER FOR MINISTRY?

Question #2

WHAT DOES SERVING DO FOR MY FAITH?

Question #3

**MY LOVE FOR OTHERS IS MOST VISIBLE IN
WHAT WAYS?**

*Of course, you may center longer; however, it is good to ease in and out of the spirituality practice with silence.

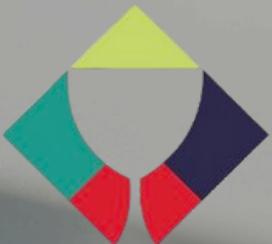
Daily Devotion

**I AM A RECIPIENT OF
GOD'S LOVE.**

**I AM A VESSEL FOR
GOD'S LOVE.**

WITH LOVE, I BUILD
Belonging.

MONIQUE CRAIN SPELLS



DESCRIPTION VS. OUTCOMES

“My child, do not let these escape from your sight; keep sound wisdom and prudence, and they will be life for your soul and adornment for your neck. Then you will walk on your way securely, and your foot will not stumble. If you sit down, you will not be afraid; when you lie down, your sleep will be sweet.”

~Proverbs 3:21-24

A church whose faith includes an ingredient of hope will be understandably aspirational in how it names and describes itself. This can be both positive and also a stifling echo chamber. On one hand, we should see ourselves in God’s light with grace and confidence. On the other hand, we rarely reach our fullest potential if we are delusional about our current reality—only telling ourselves what we like to hear. Centering circles, diverse eyes, diverse voices, and sacred assessments are critical to our development as church leaders.

We know wisdom and understanding are spiritual siblings. Proverbs guides us toward their relative called “prudence.” To be prudent is to be circumspect, and to offer good judgment of our work in the care of others. With passion for our purpose and an overarching love for community, we can suspend our concern with comfort and personalities to offer honest reflection on the effectiveness of our ministries.

God’s love and our love for God are expansive enough to hold some discomfort and disagreement in order to strengthen the church. It would not be a risky bet that how we describe ourselves is not always how others in the community describe us. Experiential differences can inform and under inform how people see a particular thing. Let us commit to wisdom and prudence. Let us be courageous enough to look honestly at ourselves and grow the impact of our ministries through welcome, newness, and extraordinary efforts to build belonging.

Dr. Monique Crain Spells, VP for Disciples Home Missions



Belonging

BUILDING PRACTICES

01

REVISIT, WRITE, AND SHARE YOUR TESTIMONY OF BECOMING A LAY LEADER.

02

INVITE A FRIEND, RELATIVE, OR COLLEAGUE THAT KNOWS YOUR TESTIMONY TO JOIN YOU FOR A COUPLE HOURS VOLUNTEERING.

03

INTRODUCE YOUR GUEST VOLUNTEER TO OTHER MEMBERS OF THE MINISTRY TEAM.

04

SCHEDULE LATER TIME WITH YOUR GUEST TO SAY THANK YOU FOR ENGAGEMENT AND TO GET FEEDBACK ON THEIR EXPERIENCE WITH YOUR MINISTRY TEAM.

05

ASK YOUR GUEST IS THERE AN ENDEAVOR OF THEIRS THAT YOU CAN SUPPORT.

CLOSING PRAYER

God of Kinship,
We offer sincere gratitude for connections and belonging found in service to your creation. It is good and right to form, grow, and caregive in community. We believe you meet us in shared spaces of love, safety, and service. Your Spirit surrounds us. We see you in the faces of our friends and neighbors. How beautiful you are! How compassionate you are! How magnificent your embrace is! Your love assures us that we belong wherever you are welcome.
Amen.



www.discipleshomemissions.org

