

Thinking through What it is to Curate and Steward Refuge

Our four weeks on *the Eye of the Hurricane* will include reflection on people, places, purpose, and practices of as refuge against “the hurricane” of life. What is refuge for you?

People Who are Refuge for Me	Places that are Refuge for Me
Purpose that is Refuge for Me (think the values that are solid foundations)	Practices that are Refuge for Me

Of course, mutuality is fundamental. We NEED to receive. Self-care – and the ways and places that we receive that care is the essential starting place. You must care for yourself in order to care for others! AND... that is step one. I invite you to spend a little more time here thinking or jotting down some notes about self-care – I will even provide some prompts (but they may not be the right prompts for you)... afterward, flip the page (literally and figuratively).

How full is my “battery” right now?

What makes me tired? (insert also: frustrated, overwhelmed, etc.)

Are there ways I’m contributing to that fatigue?

What fills my battery?

What would it take to recharge more often than we exhaust ourselves?

Advancing Our Neighbor Narrative

When we have found and buttressed our center, our well-being, we create our own empowerment. Let me pause for a moment here. In boundary training recently our leader said power is having resources. I loved this definition. This is right at the heart of stewardship which is about choosing HOW to use our power. So... refuge is about restoring our footing and gathering our resources... stewardship is about the next step of bringing those resources to bear in the world in ways that create more kindness, mercy, love, and justice. USING OUR POWER!!!

So... how are you using your power?

People Who See Me as Refuge	Places I contribute to Providing Refuge
Purpose that I Promote in my Networks (think of the values I share with friends and family... this is really an evangelism question!!)	Tangible ways I am Serving my Neighbors in Need of Refuge

I believe the church is the place we practice the way of life we want to live in all sectors of our life (home, work, play, traveling to and fro). So when we give money to the church... it's not the "end in and of itself" it's actually practice for giving elsewhere – generosity begets generosity. Same with our time, our talents, our connection/networking, our... living the life of faith!

So list here: where do I give money? Where I am serving as a volunteer? Add up the kind of time you are spending, look at your giving patterns in your larger budget. Are you happy with what you see? Do they speak your values of extending refuge far and wide? What areas of growth would you identify for yourself?