

From the Moderator:

How Is God Calling You?

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Already living with the waves and billows of COVID-19 as I work in the hospital, and now working so close to the epicenter of the uprising for justice here in Minnesota, I've been feeling alternately hopeful, grief-stricken, exhausted, and angry in these past weeks. Yet I've returned again and again to one question, one prayer: God, what is it that you are calling me to do for the living of these powerful days?

As a Latinx woman who is often white-passing, my call may be unique to my identity, but it may echo the prayer and call of others so I share a bit of it here:

Because I am white-passing, I feel called to work of humility and vulnerability, not a "champion" or "do-gooder." Instead of protest-selfies or social-media posting my correct ideas, I choose to speak about what I am still learning (embarrassing but true that I didn't fully understand the racist threat behind the words "outside agitators" until the last few weeks), and what I am still unlearning. I choose to refrain from speaking about my successes, but rather point toward the work that comes next for me. I chose to minimize my time and voice in forums where I will primarily be met with praise or 'likes' to remind myself that the work of anti-racism often gets real once the conversation gets past easy positive reinforcement.

Because I have done a lot of work around anti-racism in the last ten-plus years of my life, I am called to the work of leadership with my white siblings in Christ, not with a louder voice, but with strategy and clarity, ready to speak uncomfortable and challenging truths with great love. But honestly, I am here to help and be a part of the work in any simple way I can - even if it's being able to send out the Doodle poll that starts a collaboration. I'm not an expert, but an experienced practitioner, and we all benefit when we mentor and model with love and grace, as well as truth and justice.

Because I am a person of color, I am called to the work of saying yes to what I must... and also giving my nervous system time to recuperate. And because I am neither black nor indigenous, I am also called to creative partnerships of accountability with folks in those communities, both for the labor of anti-racism, and to be a breathing space in the midst of the many mostly-white-spaces where I work and live. I am called to practice joy as resistance alongside my siblings of color, and to continue to unpack my own inner work.

When you pray, how is God calling you to act for justice? How is God calling you to reflect on your efforts so that you can keep learning, growing, and being shaped by the call to spiritual liberation and wholeness?

Our PTCA Spiritual Pilgrimage will be a part of the call for me in this coming year. In action and reflection, we'll be called to spiritual cross-training for *anti-racist living*. It will be challenging and powerful, and I hope that, as you pray for God's continued call in your life, this might be a call God is also putting on your heart and within your community.