

One Spiritual Practice for Community Ministers: The Urgent and The Important

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Every day we all make countless choices about what we do with our time. How do we make them? Put another way, why do we do the things we do? And, more importantly, how satisfying are our choices?

One way of looking at those questions is to consider the relationship between the urgent and the important. If everything we do is an attempt to meet needs -- and this is a perspective I find very useful -- then at some level we have made the assessment that whatever choices we make with our resources of time and energy will (we hope!) have value -- for ourselves and others. We want to do what matters.

But how do we make this discernment? What I notice is that in ministry, there is no end to the temptation to turn our attention to whatever presents itself (or is presented to us) as urgent. Your community ministry is a resource for many, and the better you are at your work, the more urgent requests will come your way!

Some of what's urgent is also immediately and clearly important. That stuff easily rises to the top of the ToDo parfait to get done. And, setting aside the non-essentials you have a bit of an obsession about (mine is over-editing emails), much of the non-urgent and non-important falls away of itself -- even if we somehow think it shouldn't.

But what about the important but not urgent items that never quite make it to the top of the list? What about that blueberry pie recipe you've been wanting to try? What about finally learning to quilt? What about reading War and Peace?

The world is served by your coming to your ministry whole, balanced, restored. You put those wish list items on there because, to you, they matter. They meet needs that are part of what make you the community minister (and full human being) that you are. Or they would if you would let them!

So what's important but not urgent in your life? Note to Self (and you): sometimes what's REALLY important is not to do anything important. Hey! I think there's a new sci-fi flick out I could maybe catch tonight...

Blessings on Your Ministry -
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The Path of Joy:
Resolving the Tension Between Your Soul and Your Life

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