

Grace Church | Bainbridge Island

inclusion service discovery gratitude

Dear People of Grace,

Since March, I have been planning to write and introduce myself to you as the new Trustee for Leadership Development. But, like many of you, I've been distracted by COVID and yearning to find a new normal. For some of us, it's more stress and less free time, for others, it's more stress and more time. Either way, the current normal is that we are stressed. I think we are all trying to find ways to be less stressed and feel more in control of the parts of our lives that we can control.

For months, I've been wondering about how to engage with potential new leaders at Grace while stuck at home and overwhelmed with fear for the future. I imagine many of us feel isolated and alone. In addition to our offices and jobs and gyms and restaurants, we miss our services in the Grace sanctuary and both our close and casual friendships that are renewed during coffee hour. I'm grateful to be able to see familiar faces on Zoom on Sundays and that we can have worship services at all. But I want and need more than this small connection and I know I'm not alone.

Even now, there are still many ways to connect with people at Grace. Even though we can't meet in person, our church is still performing its essential functions. We are still providing worship services with clergy, bulletins, and music. We still have numerous meeting groups like Wednesday Bible Study, regular book groups, and the recent Caregivers Appreciation Program. We are providing pastoral care to people in need through the Pastoral Care Committee, Tribes and our clergy. We are still helping organizations like Helpline House and the congregation at La Iglesia Episcopal de la Resurrección through our Outreach programs. We are still maintaining our building and grounds. We are engaged in strategic planning for the future and financial stewardship.

What you may not realize is that many, if not most, of our essential functions are performed by volunteers. People like you and me who want to help with the function of Grace and also want to connect with others. The foundational values of Grace Church are "[Inclusion, Gratitude, Discovery, and Service](#)." I invite you to explore "Inclusion" and "Service" with me. There are many points of entry for people to be included by helping our church provide services and operate. Think about your connection to Grace and how a yearning to be more connected might be satisfied by serving on a committee or as a Grace leader.

Have you wondered about how to help or how to get involved as a leader at Grace? Then I am the person you want to talk to! I invite all people of Grace to explore service and leadership opportunities at Grace with me. I'd love to talk to you about opportunities and areas where help is needed. Feel free to email me at kristaleewebb@gmail.com or call or text at (360) 265-3984, or send me a private chat through Zoom on Sunday. I'm also on Facebook.

I look forward to the new connections.

Krista Webb