

CHARACTER QUALITIES THAT CHARACTERIZE AND CONVICT...

In conflict situations within the faith communities we lead,

- Is it possible, in these situations, to live and work together as Christians so that our relationships are redemptive and a witness to unbelievers of the reconciling work of God in Christ?
- If “in Christ, all things are made new,” then how does our relationship with Christ inform and guide us in the way we lead in these painful encounters?
- In the midst of these conflicting situations where seemingly irreconcilable expectations are placed on us, what does it mean, really mean, to lead a divided faith community with the mind of Christ?

The following **character qualities** convict me at my worst and characterize me at my best. These “anchors” hold me steady as I seek to move the group for which I am responsible from vision to action.

1. I really want my words to be grace-giving, life-generating and inspiring to others and not discouraging, depressing and draining utterances.

2. I really want to be known as a person who is forever grateful, regardless of the situation, believing that God is in the midst of everything I do and is working to bring good in every situation.

3. I really want to listen to and respect the people with whom I work, to understand them – and for them to understand me – even if we do not agree with each other.

4. I really want to initiate forgiveness when I have been offended because I don't have the energy or strength to carry the heavy burden and guilt of an unforgiving spirit.

5. I really want to lead decisively even as I experience the pain of holding tenaciously to the vision while acknowledging the realities of my situation.

6. I really want my relationship with others to energize them, to have a positive impact on their lives and to enable them, in some small way, to grow – become stronger – in their faith, their confidence in themselves and their competence at work as a result of our interaction in the home and on the job and with me as their leader.

