

A Volunteer Challenge

A few months ago, I joined a new community service ministry at my center. There have been three meetings, and they are so disorganized and dysfunctional. Everyone talks over each other. One negative person shoots down every idea. The leader just sits there, and there's no clear plan. Some people have left already. I've thought about going to my minister, but she is busy, and I don't want to be a whiner. What should I do?

Dear Volunteer,

There is nothing like group dynamics to reveal our growth edges. You are obviously ready to transform some of your own "less-than-functional" relational patterns. This is the perfect place to do it.

Consciousness speaks louder than words. If you value clarity, order, respect and action, then embody those qualities and bring them to this ministry. Get clear about your personal motivations and intentions, then create an action plan for your involvement. Is your desire to serve strong enough to rise above the challenges and assist in raising it up?

Before approaching your minister, request an in-person meeting with the group leader. Offer yourself as a supporting team member. Be prepared to ask questions, listen and share your experience without blaming or condemning. Does the group have a clear vision and mission? As a group member, you can also ask to add an agenda item for the next meeting about communication agreements. Group guidelines serve to keep interactions healthy and productive. Among those are respect the moderator, only one person speaks at a time and all opinions are respected. Your group is a microcosm of a universal need: high-level collaboration and devotion to making this a world that works for everyone. I hope you will commit and stand for what is possible. You will grow and many will be blessed. And so it is. ☘

I have an "Ask Stef" collaboration invitation for you. We all have questions about life, the spiritual path, community, health, relationships, global concerns and personal growth. I would love to receive yours for consideration for this column. Submit your questions at StefSwink.com/Ask-Stef.



STEF SWINK, RScP, has been a practitioner since 1999. As a protégé and assistant to Louise Hay, she was a frequent ghostwriter for the "Dear Louise" column. Through speaking, spiritual counseling and workshops, she inspires others to create fulfilling lives they love. Connect with her online at StefSwink.com/Ask-Stef-Submission.