



What's Your Super Power?

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My friend and colleague Kate (you know her as our beloved communications staff member for the presbytery) has a daughter, Zoey, who loves to wear her superhero cape. And frankly who doesn't? Social psychologist Amy Cuddy, in her famed 2012 Ted Talk, shared that the Wonder Woman pose brings on confidence. It's all down to body science referred to as expansive posture—feet firmly planted, hands on hips, chest out and expanded is the body's language for "I've totally got this!" When Zoey is not wearing her cape, ready to tackle life's challenges, or playing with her mom's Wonder Woman collection (we see you Kate Hoptal!), she often wears another uniform, the girl scout uniform complete with vest on which she proudly displays her accomplishments. It feels good to feel confident and to celebrate the ways we shine!

In his letter to the church in Corinth, the Apostle Paul writes that every member of the church has gifts for ministry, gifts given by the Holy Spirit. We don't all have the same gifts; we get to shine in different ways. This past November at our presbytery gathering we celebrated how some of those gifts are manifested not only as individual members but also collected together in the strengths of our congregations, each of which has its own superpower. We highlighted some, but now we want to lift up all.

What's *your* superpower? This is the frontline question of your Commission on Congregational Vitality. If you could design a badge for the ministry of your congregation, what would it look like? Do you have a grief support group, a theology book club, a rockin' outreach ministry? Have you developed collaborative relationships between your congregation and community or a nearby school? Do your deacons excel at addressing the concerns of your members or does your session have ninja-like skill in handling conflict? Where does your congregation shine in its ministry? We want to know!

And not only do we want to know, we want to share the knowledge of our gifts and superpowers across the presbytery, creating a database or ministry knowledge hub. Even superheroes work better in teams! Rather than siloing our strengths, we hope that sharing them empowers us further. So let us know: your ministry superpower/strength/gift and who is the best person to contact in your congregation to learn more?

We have great ministry happening in our presbytery, and its time to stand tall and let our capes fly as we share together and learn from each other what wonderful work God is doing in our midst!