

## 452 | Coffee in The Swarm | Lexie Frazier

Project Zion Podcast

### **Josh Mangelson** 00:17

Welcome to the Project Zion Podcast. This podcast explores the unique spiritual and theological gifts Community of Christ offers for today's world.

### **Mike Hoffman** 00:33

Thank you for joining us for "Coffee in the Swarm" today. This is part of *Project Zion Podcast* and today I'm honored to have Lexie Frazier, who is with us today, a Graceland student. Lexie, welcome to "Coffee in the Swarm".

### **Lexie Frazier** 00:48

Thank you, Mike. I'm excited.

### **Mike Hoffman** 00:50

I am excited too. We were just talking before we started the recording, and, first of all, tell us a little bit about yourself. What year are you at Graceland here?

### **Lexie Frazier** 01:00

I'm Lexi Frazier. I am a junior. I'm studying Elementary Education and Hispanic Studies here at Graceland University. I'm originally from Holden, Missouri, but I attend the congregation in Oak Grove, Missouri, which my mother is the pastor of. I don't know if there's that much else to know about me.

### **Mike Hoffman** 01:20

Okay. Well, before we started recording, we were visiting a little bit and she reminded me of the first time we met. So, you said we met at Spectacular?

### **Lexie Frazier** 01:30

Yes, I think it, now that I think about it, I think it was my freshman year.

### **Mike Hoffman** 01:35

Freshman year at Spec.

### **Lexie Frazier** 01:36

Yeah, I was at Spectacular and I had just recently lost a friend, right? And I was really, really struggling with that. And one of the people that attends Spec, that I know very well, his name is Bruce Watson, and he attends the Odessa congregation, which is why I know him, and he said, "I'm going to put you in touch with Mike. He's the campus minister. You guys are going to sit down and chat, and hopefully he will give you some guidance and help you deal with this." And I remember me and you met. You came to me. I was sitting outside of those, I was sitting at the benches outside of the Commons...

### **Mike Hoffman** 02:16

Oh yeah.

**Lexie Frazier** 02:16

...underneath that tree. And I remember you came to me and we talked for a little while. And that's how I met you.

**Mike Hoffman** 02:23

So, that was your freshman year at Graceland?

**Lexie Frazier** 02:27

My freshman year of high school...

**Mike Hoffman** 02:28

Of high school?

**Lexie Frazier** 02:29

...in 2016, I think.

**Mike Hoffman** 02:30

Oh, wow. Okay, okay.

**Lexie Frazier** 02:33

It's been a while.

**Mike Hoffman** 02:34

Wow, that has been a long time, then. That's a long time when we met, so, okay.

**Lexie Frazier** 02:38

And then I, like, completely forgot about you. And then,

**Mike Hoffman** 02:41

Yeah, well.

**Lexie Frazier** 02:41

...and I came here and I was, like, oh, Mike, that's that really nice guy that helped me that one time.

**Mike Hoffman** 02:45

Yeah. Wow. I, thank you for remembering. Boy, that, that's longer ago than I can remember. Yeah. That's wild that, and especially while, because he connected me, connected you with me at Spectacular because, but, well, that's, yeah.

**Lexie Frazier** 03:03

I know, yeah, I guess he knew that you were...

**Mike Hoffman** 03:05

I, yeah, somehow, we needed to do that.

**Lexie Frazier** 03:08

Yeah, you're a person I needed a connection to.

**Mike Hoffman** 03:10

Yeah. Well, I hope that's, you know, part of why you're at Graceland and those kinds of things. So, I don't know now whether to ask my next question, because it's somewhat loaded, because your mom's your pastor, right?

**Lexie Frazier** 03:22

Yes.

**Mike Hoffman** 03:23

So, what's it, I was gonna ask what's church like in your area, but maybe I should say what is it like to have a mom as your pastor?

**Lexie Frazier** 03:31

Ohhh.

**Mike Hoffman** 03:32

And you can take either question.

**Lexie Frazier** 03:34

Yeah, that one's a hard one, because my mother is my pastor and she's also the person who pulled me into my congregation, being actively involved. It's really awesome. She's my guide, spiritually.

**Mike Hoffman** 03:52

Yeah.

**Lexie Frazier** 03:53

And I always have access to her, of being said, being a pastor's student...

**Mike Hoffman** 03:58

A P.K.

**Lexie Frazier** 03:59

...there's, or not a pastor's student, a pastor's child...

**Mike Hoffman** 04:02

Yeah.

**Lexie Frazier** 04:02

...is hard because I experience dealing with the way that my mom is constantly involved, and then I also am very involved in church. It does get to be a lot, because when I'm not doing my own thing, I'm following Mom to go to church hours early and set up.

**Mike Hoffman** 04:27

So, you get to be Mom's helper.

**Lexie Frazier** 04:29

Exactly.

**Mike Hoffman** 04:30

Yes.

**Lexie Frazier** 04:30

Being Mom's helper on top of being a priesthood member and active...

**Mike Hoffman** 04:34

That's right.

**Lexie Frazier** 04:35

...it causes a lot of time in the church building which...

**Mike Hoffman** 04:38

Yeah. And you, we didn't mention at the beginning of the show, but you are actually a priest in the church as well.

**Lexie Frazier** 04:46

Yes, I am.

**Mike Hoffman** 04:48

And so, tell me about, you came to Graceland as a priest.

**Lexie Frazier** 04:52

Yes, I did.

**Mike Hoffman** 04:52

So, how old were you when you were ordained?

**Lexie Frazier** 04:54

I was 18 years old when I was ordained...

**Mike Hoffman** 04:57

Okay.

**Lexie Frazier** 04:58

...my senior year of high school, November 25, 2018.

**Mike Hoffman** 05:02

All right.

**Lexie Frazier** 05:02

Um, and I don't know, I did a lot of ministry back home, and a lot of that was more just, I'm really involved in, like, youth camps and stuff like that. So, back home that mission center, I'm on a lot of those mission center council committees. And so, I think the hardest adjustment at Graceland was deciding how does this priesthood office, and what I'm called to do in this priesthood office, change when I'm not at home?

**Mike Hoffman** 05:35

Oh, that's really a good...

**Lexie Frazier** 05:35

How does that change when I am on campus?

**Mike Hoffman** 05:37

Yeah.

**Lexie Frazier** 05:39

Because it is a change in ministry.

**Mike Hoffman** 05:40

Sure. It is, I mean...

**Lexie Frazier** 05:42

Yeah.

**Mike Hoffman** 05:43

You've just said so much, because it's like, and the longer I'm here, the more I realize how much it changes, you know, like changes from year to year because the student, the students involved change year to year. But then in four years, or five, depending on how long you're here, which, you know, it totally changes over. There's no other congregation like it anywhere. So, yeah, so that's really an astute observation on your part, because it is very different. And, you know, you, I appreciate you, the way you've served with Campus Ministries. I mean, I know right now you're serving as student pastor. Would you, let's see, what, where are you? Have you been student pastor two years now?

**Lexie Frazier** 06:28

No.

**Mike Hoffman 06:28**

Okay.

**Lexie Frazier 06:28**

I started out my freshman year, I worked for SafeRide, which technically was a part of Campus Ministry.

**Mike Hoffman 06:33**

That's right. That's right.

**Lexie Frazier 06:34**

Um, my sophomore year, I served as Sunday morning worship coordinator.

**Mike Hoffman 06:37**

Oh, yes.

**Lexie Frazier 06:38**

And then, now, as a junior, I'm student pastor.

**Mike Hoffman 06:41**

All right. Yes, yes.

**Lexie Frazier 06:43**

So, heavily involved in Campus Ministries, which is something that drew me to Graceland anyway.

**Mike Hoffman 06:50**

Yeah. I, that's one of the questions I was gonna ask you. So, what brought you to Graceland? Do you think it was the connection to ministry and...

**Lexie Frazier 06:57**

For sure.

**Mike Hoffman 06:58**

Okay, and you said, you're an Elementary Education major, so.

**Lexie Frazier 07:02**

Yes. And I think it's interesting to see how ministry will apply to being a teacher.

**Mike Hoffman 07:08**

Oh, yeah.

**Lexie Frazier 07:09**

But I, when I first started actively getting involved in the church, because I, actually, I converted, right.

**Mike Hoffman 07:26**

Oh, yes, right, okay.

**Lexie Frazier 07:28**

I was baptized as a Catholic as a child, wasn't extremely practicing, and then when I met my mom, who is my stepmother that's adopted me, that's a whole story...

**Mike Hoffman 07:41**

Yeah.

**Lexie Frazier 07:42**

...she was already involved in church. She was a, she was a priest at the time. She dragged me along, and it was something,

**Mike Hoffman 07:49**

Was it really a drag? I mean, I know, not physically but.

**Lexie Frazier 07:51**

No, not a drag, but she was my guide. And then, you know, coming up to Spec and seeing.

**Mike Hoffman 08:01**

Oh, sure.

**Lexie Frazier 08:02**

Even though the community is not the same, there is a draw that I feel to Graceland and Lamoni.

**Mike Hoffman 08:08**

Okay.

**Lexie Frazier 08:08**

And I think it's because of the people, and actions, and...

**Mike Hoffman 08:10**

So, the church, then the camps, and then to Spec...

**Lexie Frazier 08:15**

Yeah.

**Mike Hoffman 08:15**

...and then to Graceland, so.

**Lexie Frazier 08:16**

Because when I first came here, I knew people. I knew, when Chris [Dyphan] was here, I knew her from camps. I feel bad now. All the people that I'm, like, gonna start with [inaudible] list aren't here anymore.

**Mike Hoffman** 08:32

Aren't here at Graceland, yeah.

**Lexie Frazier** 08:34

But when I first came here, as a freshman, I had already had connections through church and camps.

**Mike Hoffman** 08:40

Sure.

**Lexie Frazier** 08:41

And I knew people and I had a support system already set up here.

**Mike Hoffman** 08:45

Yeah.

**Lexie Frazier** 08:45

I knew people that would take care of me. And that's one of the things that I've continuously appreciated about Graceland...

**Mike Hoffman** 08:52

Yeah.

**Lexie Frazier** 08:53

...is I know that I have a support system.

**Mike Hoffman** 08:56

Yeah. And even though people have changed, and, you know, that's one of the things we've talked about, students change, but so do faculty and staff members and administrators. So, there's been a fair amount of change in the six years I've been here. So, yeah, so how would you describe, you mentioned your involvement in Campus Ministry and specific things, but, you know, is there anything else you'd add about that, I mean, in terms of Campus Ministries? I think back when my memories of you, okay, are, like, seeing you serve communion at our services, you know, and we do 'em a little differently here than a lot of congregations. We have people come forward. And you know, and a good part of your experience at Graceland has been during COVID, unfortunately, which we've been blessed to figure out some ways we can still meet because we're, sort of, in this Graceland COVID bubble that congregations really can't manage, but we can. And so, we've been meeting, although we're still masks and, you know, by, I mean, our students are in class. So, how, that's certainly been a way that's been different for you? I mean.

**Lexie Frazier** 10:08

For sure. And I think that's, kind of, a theme that we've been talking about in general, is that Graceland is rapidly changing, and COVID has heightened that experience...



**Mike Hoffman** 10:19

Yeah.

**Lexie Frazier** 10:19

...right? And so, being involved with Campus Ministries during COVID, while in school, there is a lot of things to balance. And it definitely has taught me prioritizing things, and how to be so malleable. That's the word.

**Mike Hoffman** 10:40

Oh, good.

**Lexie Frazier** 10:41

How to be able to adjust quickly.

**Mike Hoffman** 10:44

Okay. Can I put...yeah.

**Lexie Frazier** 10:47

COVID's obviously something that I care about. And both me and you, and I guess for listeners that don't know, I do have a lot of experience with COVID.

**Mike Hoffman** 10:57

That's right.

**Lexie Frazier** 10:58

From the technical side, as well, and so...

**Mike Hoffman** 10:59

Well, because of your work experience outside of Graceland, so.

**Lexie Frazier** 11:03

Yes.

**Mike Hoffman** 11:04

What is...

**Lexie Frazier** 11:05

So, when I work back home, I work as needed at a nursing home.

**Mike Hoffman** 11:09

Okay.

**Lexie Frazier** 11:11

And I got the very unique opportunity last winter break, so, 2021, to work on a COVID unit...

**Mike Hoffman** 11:19

Okay.

**Lexie Frazier** 11:19

...a COVID isolation unit.

**Mike Hoffman** 11:20

Yeah.

**Lexie Frazier** 11:21

And I feel like that prepared me a lot for, then, the transition back up to Graceland in the heat of COVID, because now I had all of this knowledge on the technical aspects. And essentially, when I was on the COVID unit, my job was ministry.

**Mike Hoffman** 11:41

Oh, absolutely. Yeah.

**Lexie Frazier** 11:44

I am an activities instructor. Like, that's my official title.

**Mike Hoffman** 11:48

Okay.

**Lexie Frazier** 11:49

So, when I was on the unit, a lot of what I did was emotional, mental, physical health, and working towards that. And a large part of that was spiritual. But I feel like it prepared me for now at Graceland, I can relate to the students, and I also know the importance, I can stress the importance of staying safe.

**Mike Hoffman** 12:16

Yeah, absolutely. Which is so important, but can be challenging, too. So.

**Lexie Frazier** 12:24

It's a hard balance, really, like, how do you assess the risk? Because there, I think there's always gonna be a risk forever now, from COVID. And how do you...?

**Mike Hoffman** 12:37

Yeah, we, we'd like to keep thinking there's an end in sight, but it, you know, and maybe it'll evolve to something where it's, I don't know, where it's like the flu every year, and we have to get shots, and it becomes, I hate to say this, but manageable, you know, instead of, yeah.

**Lexie Frazier** 12:55

And I think that applies to all ministry as well.

**Mike Hoffman** 12:58

Yeah.

**Lexie Frazier** 12:58

Like, you need to assess the risks versus the benefit.

**Mike Hoffman** 13:01

Oh, that's, yeah, that's a good, another great thought, yeah. So,

**Lexie Frazier** 13:08

Enough about COVID.

**Mike Hoffman** 13:09

Yeah, no kidding. So, of course, now, my next question is, like, so obviously, you're coming here to become an Elementary Education major. So, plans are to teach?

**Lexie Frazier** 13:23

Yes.

**Mike Hoffman** 13:24

And, obviously, elementary school somewhere?

**Lexie Frazier** 13:27

Yeah.

**Mike Hoffman** 13:28

I mean, do you have an idea about where you want to teach? Or?

**Lexie Frazier** 13:32

That's kind of all over the place for me.

**Mike Hoffman** 13:34

Okay.

**Lexie Frazier** 13:35

I, specifically, am getting an endorsement in special education,

**Mike Hoffman** 13:39

Okay. That's excellent.

**Lexie Frazier** 13:42

And so, that's, has such a high demand field that I'm not super worried about getting the job.

**Mike Hoffman** 13:48

Oh, no, I was thinking more of, like, you might be able to just, to say, like, pick an area and you can move there.

**Lexie Frazier** 13:57

That's why it's so hard for me to say where I'm going, is because I have that freedom to say, "Hey".

**Mike Hoffman** 14:02

Yeah. Well, where do you want to go? I mean, maybe we should put it that way.

**Lexie Frazier** 14:07

I'm not completely sure yet.

**Mike Hoffman** 14:09

Okay, that's fair.

**Lexie Frazier** 14:10

Right now...

**Mike Hoffman** 14:11

I mean, you've got another year of school left. So, yeah.

**Lexie Frazier** 14:14

Right now, the plan is Florida. But I'll probably change where I'm going.

**Mike Hoffman** 14:20

Well, somewhere where it's warmer considering we're right, as we're talking today, we have what's left of about, I don't know, six or eight inches of snow on the ground here.

**Lexie Frazier** 14:28

Too much snow.

**Mike Hoffman** 14:29

Yeah, yes. I even was gifted with a snowblower this year, and I can't believe how I've never had a snow blower before in Lamoni, Iowa. So, I'm very grateful. So, yeah.

**Lexie Frazier** 14:42:

Warmer for sure. More sun.

**Mike Hoffman** 14:45

Well, let's change gears a little bit. So, obviously, you're a priest in the church and you're heavily involved in Campus Ministries and so, if you could think about the church in the future, like, what are your hopes for Community of Christ in the future? What's, maybe, one thing you would want

Community of Christ leadership to know about you, about what you see in the future? And what's important?

**Lexie Frazier** 15:14

I always struggle with this question. It's a huge question. And a lot of the issues that I feel very passionate about, I feel, like, as a world church, we have made so much progress on.

**Mike Hoffman** 15:28

Yeah.

**Lexie Frazier** 15:30

And so, with all of that, and saying all of that, I think my biggest problem right now is how much, exactly how much, theology and beliefs change depending on which congregation you are at, right.

**Mike Hoffman** 15:48

Well, that's, well, and even person to person, but that drives the specific congregations, yeah.

**Lexie Frazier** 15:53

Person to person, but they're, especially being in Missouri, rural Missouri, my congregation and my mission center in general, I feel like we are pretty with the times and...

**Mike Hoffman** 16:12:

Okay.

**Lexie Frazier** 16:12

...the, because world church has changed theology drastically.

**Mike Hoffman** 16:17

Well, the, certainly, there's been a lot of change and...

**Lexie Frazier** 16:20

Yes.

**Mike Hoffman** 16:21

Yeah.

**Lexie Frazier** 16:21

And so, when you see smaller congregations, like, I have seen congregations in Missouri, where they haven't, somehow, they haven't gotten that knowledge and/or ignored that knowledge. And so...

**Mike Hoffman** 16:38

Still struggling to make those changes.

**Lexie Frazier 16:41**

Yes.

**Mike Hoffman 16:41**

Yeah.

**Lexie Frazier 16:42**

And I feel like there's a disconnect...

**Mike Hoffman 16:43**

Yeah.

**Lexie Frazier 16:43**

...sometimes, between those small individual congregations and world church.

**Mike Hoffman 16:48**

Yeah.

**Lexie Frazier 16:50**

Specifically, the issue that I tend to deal with the most, and it's just because of my personal experience, but LGBTQIA+ issues. That's a very new thing, that was 2013 in North America. And...

**Mike Hoffman 17:07**

Right, and that's true in the United States and Canada. It's not true for the church everywhere, yeah...

**Lexie Frazier 17:15**

It's not...exactly.

**Mike Hoffman 17:16**

...around the world, but, right.

**Lexie Frazier 17:17**

But, you know, and I think my biggest frustration is that, you know, as a lesbian priest, I still, even though North America in 2013, right, you know, the world church as a whole says that's fine, but there's congregations that have that disconnect, and I don't know how to mend that, yeah.

**Mike Hoffman 17:44**

Yeah.

**Lexie Frazier 17:45**

Right? And so...

**Mike Hoffman 17:47**

Yeah, so.

**Lexie Frazier** 17:48

And it's hard for me, because, you know, like, I could go home to Missouri and be a lesbian priest. It's just fine, but don't talk about.

**Mike Hoffman** 17:56

Okay.

**Lexie Frazier** 17:57

Verses where I find safe spaces, like, with Sacred Pause and Harmony, and other congregations. That's a little bit more accepted. And I don't even just see it on that issue.

**Mike Hoffman** 18:12

Yeah, sure.

**Lexie Frazier** 18:12

I see it on several different issues.

**Mike Hoffman** 18:14

Okay.

**Lexie Frazier** 18:15

Right. It's this disconnect between, oh, world church says this, and we believe this as a whole, but as each individual congregation...

**Mike Hoffman** 18:24

Yeah. They...

**Lexie Frazier** 18:26

...modeling that.

**Mike Hoffman** 18:27

And embracing the change might be difficult for some, and therefore it doesn't happen in some places, maybe.

**Lexie Frazier** 18:33

Exactly. And I don't, I wish I could be the grand wizard and know exactly how to fix that.

**Mike Hoffman** 18:39

Gotcha.

**Lexie Frazier** 18:40

But, I want, I don't even know if it's, like, on a world church level or a congregational level...

**Mike Hoffman** 18:47

Yeah.

**Lexie Frazier** 18:47

...or a mission center level, but...

**Mike Hoffman** 18:49

I don't know, it's...

**Lexie Frazier** 18:49

...I feel like there's, needs to be more education...

**Mike Hoffman** 18:53

Yeah.

**Lexie Frazier** 18:53

...on those things.

**Mike Hoffman** 18:54

Yeah. I'm sure education would help. I also, it's, like, it's been a joy to get to know you and work with you here in Campus Ministry. So, there's a part of me that wonders, and let me phrase this as a question.

**Lexie Frazier** 19:08

Okay.

**Mike Hoffman** 19:09

You know, it's like, do you think it's individual as well as all those? Because it, like, I know it impacts a congregation that you might try to serve in or something, but, it's like, when I get to know people, those barriers, for me, go away. You know what I mean? And so, it's like, do you think, as you get to know people, or they get to know you in whatever congregation you might end up in?

**Lexie Frazier** 19:35

Yes. I think that's valuable. Especially, and I've seen that, right? My, like, my congregation, in specific, I have made a connection with those people. Those people know me.

**Mike Hoffman** 19:48

Okay.

**Lexie Frazier** 19:49

They know who I am and what I stand for and my core identity...

**Mike Hoffman** 19:54

Yeah.



**Lexie Frazier** 19:55

...right? And so, I think that that's why me coming out was received so well.

**Mike Hoffman** 20:02

Yeah.

**Lexie Frazier** 20:02

Right?

**Mike Hoffman** 20:03

Did you grow up in that congregation?

**Lexie Frazier** 20:04

I attended, I started...

**Mike Hoffman** 20:07

Oh, that's right.

**Lexie Frazier** 20:07

...attending at the age of eight.

**Mike Hoffman** 20:09

Okay, okay.

**Lexie Frazier** 20:09

So...

**Mike Hoffman** 20:10

So pretty, I mean, like, 10 years or something.

**Lexie Frazier** 20:13

Yeah. I've been in there a very long time. 12 years before I came out.

**Mike Hoffman** 20:18

Okay.

**Lexie Frazier** 20:19

But, also, additionally, I struggle with that idea, because I don't want to be their face for, like, oh, yeah, yeah, yeah, It's okay. I don't want to be the representative...

**Mike Hoffman** 20:35

Right, right.

**Lexie Frazier 20:35**

...for everybody, because that's a lot of weight to put...

**Mike Hoffman 20:37**

Well, yeah. I mean, I can equate that a little bit to my life experience. Sometimes, as the campus minister, I end up getting asked questions about official church doctrine or policy, and it's like, I can't speak for the whole church, you know.

**Lexie Frazier 20:55**

Exactly, yeah.

**Mike Hoffman 20:55**

And you don't want to speak for the whole community, the LGBTQIA.

**Lexie Frazier 20:57**

I don't want to speak, yes. And so, that's the problem, is it's, like, yes, I'm a gay priest and I'm in your congregation. And, you know, you may not know any other...

**Mike Hoffman 21:10**

Right, right.

**Lexie Frazier 21:11**

...you may not know any other queer Christians. You may not know any other queer people in your church...

**Mike Hoffman 21:17**

Yeah, and it's also your...

**Lexie Frazier 21:18**

...or your ministers. And I don't want wrappers. I don't want to be that person's sole...

**Mike Hoffman 21:22**

Yeah, no, no, no, that makes sense. But at the same time, you are willing to ask, answer questions about that, though, that aspect. So...

**Lexie Frazier 21:29**

Oh, I always am.

**Mike Hoffman 21:29**

...it, just, it's like, you can't speak for everybody is what I understand you saying so, okay, yeah. Makes total sense.

**Lexie Frazier 21:37**

It's nice because it gets that person's mind open, you know?

**Mike Hoffman** 21:41

Yeah.

**Lexie Frazier** 21:41

Oh, yeah. I love Lexi. I grew up with Lexi. I know that Lexi values all of these things. So, like, maybe she's not terrible, right?

**Mike Hoffman** 21:52

No, you are not terrible.

**Lexie Frazier** 21:54

Maybe not all gay people are terrible. But I don't want, and it's good to get that door open.

**Mike Hoffman** 21:60

Sure.

**Lexie Frazier** 22:01

But, why am I just, anyway, the whole point of what I was trying to say is that I want to see a little bit more education on...

**Mike Hoffman** 22:10

Yeah.

**Lexie Frazier** 22:10

...the world church's core beliefs...

**Mike Hoffman** 22:13

Yeah.

**Lexie Frazier** 22:14

...and theology, and I want to see that more widespread...

**Mike Hoffman** 22:18

Yeah.

**Lexie Frazier** 22:18

...figured out.

**Mike Hoffman** 22:19

That makes sense.

**Lexie Frazier** 22:19

All congregations 'cause I see that disconnect.

**Mike Hoffman** 22:22

I know some congregations, you know, they are, they have studied, or will study, or are studying the Enduring Principles. And for me, some of what you shared might be wrapped up in the Enduring...

**Lexie Frazier** 22:33

Yes.

**Mike Hoffman** 22:34

...Principles, at least some of the Enduring Principles, the way we understand them, like The Worth of All Persons, you know, All are Called, that, those, to me, you exonerate those particular ones, I mean, you know, because of our working relationship and our friendship.

**Lexie Frazier** 22:50

And I, I'm lucky enough, and once again, I think it's because I was so involved in my mom is my pastor, I'm lucky enough that I know those things, and I know those basic theology, but you could go into a congregation and ask them, what do we stand for? And they might not even be able to tell you.

**Mike Hoffman** 23:08

Yeah, no, that's.

**Lexie Frazier** 23:09

Right?

**Mike Hoffman** 23:10

Yup. Well, and, you know, like, I'm a little older than you, and the, when the Enduring Principles were first articulated, I was thrilled, because prior to that, we didn't really have words to encapsulate who we were, like, the being part...

**Lexie Frazier** 23:31

Yeah.

**Mike Hoffman** 23:31

...not the doing part, but the being part. And I, you know, so what I hear you saying is you also value those, all the Enduring Principles but...

**Lexie Frazier** 23:39

Yes.

**Mike Hoffman** 23:39

... particularly, so...

**Lexie Frazier** 23:40

Yes. I value those...

**Mike Hoffman** 23:44

Yeah.

**Lexie Frazier** 23:44

...those Enduring Principles.

**Mike Hoffman** 23:45

...and those actually have been articulated in your lifetime, too.

**Lexie Frazier** 23:47

Yes.

**Mike Hoffman** 23:47

I mean, technically.

**Lexie Frazier** 23:48

I value those. I value Mission Initiatives because I feel like it is guidance, and it's a very simple, easy way for you to go to a congregation and say, "Hey, this is, boiled down, what we are."

**Mike Hoffman** 24:03

Yeah.

**Lexie Frazier** 24:05

And, I don't know, it might be a congregational problem that, like...

**Mike Hoffman** 24:10

Yeah.

**Lexie Frazier** 24:11

...you know, like, as a congregation, there're congregations that don't necessarily have that knowledge and/or care to have that knowledge...

**Mike Hoffman** 24:21

Yeah.

**Lexie Frazier** 24:21

...or put that to practice.

**Mike Hoffman** 24:24

So, is there anything else you'd like to share about you personally, Graceland, the church, the future?

**Lexie Frazier** 24:36

I'm not a future teller, unfortunately. And, you know, I always have my own views about, like, what I want to see in the future and...

**Mike Hoffman 24:46**

Sure.

**Lexie Frazier 24:47**

...that's always changing depending on who the person. I guess the only thing that I really have left to say, specifically, because this is like, "Oh, we're in a swarm, and this is a Graceland thing." Graceland has provided me amazing support systems and Campus Ministries has. And I am extremely grateful for that. Throughout my time here, I've really struggled with my mental health. Obviously, like I said, I just recently came out, so that was a struggle as well. And the support that I receive from this community and from Campus Ministries has always been something extremely valued by me. And so, I think if I had to say anything about Graceland, I would just stress the importance of the ministry that we do here, because it doesn't always get seen. There's not always, there's things that happen behind closed doors, that not everybody on this campus sees. There's times where we'll meet with a student, one on one, and we'll assess what that student needs and we'll provide those needs and that doesn't always go seen. There's a lot of things that Campus Ministries does that aren't as public as Coffee and Tea Talks, or Sunday morning worships.

**Mike Hoffman 26:21**

Yeah.

**Lexie Frazier 26:22**

And I think that not a lot of students realize that because they don't have their relationship with Campus Ministries that I and other people are very fortunate to have. And so, I think the biggest thing that I can just stress is, come hang out with us, right? Like, Campus Ministries doesn't have to be you coming to me and being, like, "I have this major theological." Campus Ministries can be coming into the office and asking if you can do homework and sit in silence, right. We, as campus ministers, and as ministers in general, not just Graceland, really, just, ministry does not have to be what you think it is. And there's valuable ministry and things like the ministry of presence and ministry of friendship that I feel goes underrated a lot. And so, about Graceland, about ministry in general, like...

**Mike Hoffman 27:27**

Yeah.

**Lexie Frazier 27:27**

...just be there. Don't be afraid to reach out for help, specifically, talking to Graceland students or people who are struggling. Yeah.

**Mike Hoffman 27:38**

Lexi, thank you. And you know, a perfect way to end our show, because you've said so much about ministry, but not only have you said it, but you've done it. And I want to thank you for your ministry here.

**Lexie Frazier** 27:50

I try.

**Mike Hoffman** 27:51

You do.

**Lexie Frazier** 27:52

I, especially as somebody, like, I said, who has gone through these struggles at Graceland, very public about my struggles as well, and always have been. But it is hard to see the ministry that you are providing when you are in a dark place like that.

**Mike Hoffman** 28:12

Absolutely.

**Lexie Frazier** 28:14

And so, I want to thank you, and also remind everybody who struggles like I do, for acknowledging that I'm still doing ministry, even when I'm trying my hardest, and I feel like I'm not doing enough. You can't beat yourself up over it. And, so...

**Mike Hoffman** 28:30

Amen. Yeah.

**Lexie Frazier** 28:30

I really appreciate you reminding me that I'm doing valuable things...

**Mike Hoffman** 28:36

That's right.

**Lexie Frazier** 28:37

...even if I don't think I am, so.

**Mike Hoffman** 28:38

You are.

**Mike Hoffman** 28:40

Well thank you, Lexi Frazier.

**Lexie Frazier** 28:43

That's me.

**Mike Hoffman** 28:44

Thank you for joining us for "Coffee in the Swarm", and we'll see you next time. Thanks.

**Josh Mangelson 28:58**

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