

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.

Carla Long 00:33

Hello, and welcome to the Project Zion Podcast. I'm your host, Carla Long, and today we're discussing what it means to be a prophetic people. Now a while ago, and I'm not sure how long ago, maybe our guest can answer this question to a while ago, Community of Christ started saying that we're not necessarily just a people with a prophet. We are and we feel called to be a prophetic people. And we work really hard to live that way. But what this podcast is about, and what this little series is about is, I'm curious about what that means to our people. So, I'm interviewing a number of people about what that means to them, what it means to them to say that we're a prophetic people. And today, I'm interviewing Linda booth. She is a quote unquote, according to Andrew Bolton, a graduated apostle from Community of Christ.

Linda Booth 01:28

Hello, Carla, and hello, all you who are listening in on this conversation. Linda, tell us a little bit about yourself. Well, I recently retired at the last World Conference after 22 years of serving as a minister in Community of Christ. Most of that time, all but one year as a member of the Council of 12 Apostles, also served as Director of Communications, and then the last six years of my leadership was as President of the Council of 12. I'm married nearly 52 years; I have three grown sons and three grandsons and delightful daughter in laws. And so, I laugh, and like to joke and say that having been around males, so much of my life, it prepared me for the ministry that in the beginning, was nearly all males.

Carla Long 02:21

Well, that's for sure. But that's not really true in Community Christ anymore. Like there are oh, I mean, women are kind of rocking this, I'm going to tell you, and men too. but women, definitely. I got to keep going. Okay. So, Linda, you have been working for Community of Christ for 22 years. Do you know when we started talking about that we want to be a prophetic people versus people with a prophet.

Linda Booth 02:45

I do remember that. And I remember it specifically because it caught it was sort of jarring. And it happened like a couple of days after grant McMurray was set apart to serve as the prophet president of the church. And that would have been in 1996. And it was in his sermon just a few days later that he said to the people, he said, you know, we need to talk about this. He said, we have always had our identity as a people who have a prophet. But he says it's time for us to realize and accept our calling to be a

prophetic people. And for some people, when they heard that it was jarring in that and uncomfortable, because they had always thought and been prideful that they had a prophet, and their prophets were always from the lineage of Joseph Smith, Jr. And so now we have a new prophet president who, but that's not related to Joseph Smith. And he says these disturbing words. And some people thought that meant that he wasn't going to serve as a Prophet that he was just going to be the president of the church. But it but it was soon found out especially as he brought the wonderful words that are now in the doctrine covenants in Section 161 and 162. That we definitely had a prophet and a President.

Carla Long 04:27

Well, that is really helpful, actually, because you're my third interview on talking about prophetic people, and I haven't known that. So that's really helpful. So, you're thinking like the early 2000s, that's when we kind of came out? Well, it came out

Linda Booth 04:39

in 1996. Oh, 96. And people were surprised by that. In fact, he had to oftentimes, at even World Church Leadership Council, share with people, he would say, you know, people are saying that I don't want to be Prophet and that's not what this is about. He said, this is a joint event, joint venture with God. He said, uh, being a prophetic people means that we are discerning God's presence and God's will for the world. And we as a people to be prophetic is to express through our actions, and our relationships, the care and the compassion, that we saw it that we read about in the scriptures in Jesus's ministry. So, he really pressed the fact that, you know, you've been prideful, he didn't say this, but you've been kind of prideful, that you have this prophet who was of the lineage of Joseph Smith Jr. Now you have this new guy who's been called by God and ordained to be the prophet, President of the church. And what I'm saying to you all along, that God has been asking us not just to be led by a prophet, but to be a prophetic people who will lead others into the kingdom of God. And he's had to say that several times before people began to understand well, yeah, that's this is what God has always done throughout creation, is helping people to lead them into that understanding of what it means to be prophetic.

Carla Long 06:25

Well, that's really good to know. And I kind of understand the push back in some ways, because to be a prophetic people means we have to do a little bit of work to like, we can't just sit back and let somebody speak at us and tell us what we should do. And then we're like little robots and do it. We actually have to discern for ourselves, pray about it. Think about it, being in community with each other, talk about it, and actually do and listen to where God is calling us. So, I kind of understand the pushback. I mean, it's much, much easier just to sit in the pew and have someone talk at us, much easier.

Linda Booth 07:00

Well, yes, and just to have those words given and then, we vote on it by common consent. It goes into our canon of Scripture, the Doctrine Covenants, and, and then we read it, we read it during worship services, maybe during personal reflection. But that's

where it sort of stays, it stays in the book. And we're called to be that a part of that open canon, that prophetic people who then live the concerns and Passion of Jesus Christ and in the world. And, in fact, I remember Peter Judd, talking about how Joseph Smith, Jr. was asked about whether or not he was a prophet. And I looked up these words, and Joseph Smith, Jr. said, when he was asked, do you believe that you're a prophet? He said, He gave a really strange response. If you think about it, he says, yes, and every other man who has the testimony of Jesus, or the testimony of Jesus as a Spirit of prophecy, and that last line for the testimony of Jesus as a Spirit of prophecy comes from the Book of Revelations, the 19th chapter, the 10th, thirteenth. And so even Joseph Smith, Jr, who was very specific sometimes in what his prophetic words told people to do. He even recognizes that the role of being prophetic is not alone for the prophet president of the church. But it's for any he said, man, but it's for any person who has a testimony of Jesus and lives that testimony in a way that brings wholeness and restoration in the lives of people and communities. So, so we kind of lost that element of what it meant to be prophetic. And we just focused on the man at the time, who was the, quote, prophet, and what happened into the doctrine covenants, and we expected it on a regular basis. And instead, all along this faith movement has pointed to the fact that being prophetic is a joint responsibility between the leadership of the church and all those who call themselves disciples.

Carla Long 09:23

Amen. Amen. Well, thank you for that. That was really helpful for me. And so, we've thrown around the word prophetic, quite a bit. Can you tell us what the word prophetic actually means to you?

Linda Booth 09:36

Yeah. And I've been thinking about this because it just feel sort of like it's always been a word that was a part of my life. But I've realized that that word was expressed in different ways as I was growing up. So, I was raised in a very loving home with grandparents, both sides who were Men were obviously ministers, the women were ministers to, even though they weren't ordained, and, and in that environment of being raised, I was told over and over again, that all are called. And that's a part of being prophetic to understand that you are called that you uniquely are created, whether you're a baby, or five years old, or 15, or 35, and on and on, that you have been created uniquely, for God's purposes. And that is a prophetic call. And a part of that prophetic call is then to desert, God's presence in the world, to do those spiritual practices that connect you with the divine in such a way that your eyes are open spiritually, that your ears are open spiritually, to discern what it is that God wants you to do. And so that is a leading of what I was told over and over again, be led by the Holy Spirit. Well, that is, that is part of the profane a prophetic person or a people is allowing God to leave you to those who God knows needs to have a good friend, who needs to have words of encouragement to needs to have a story tool that shares of God's love, that needs to be able to embody and live Christ concerns and passion. So that that's kind of a long statement, what it means to, for me to be prophetic person, it means that I deserve God's will and what God wants the world to be. And then I do my part, to help make the world through the power of the Holy Spirit in God's direction. What it is God wants?

Carla Long 12:01

Yeah, I understand that. And I think it's okay to have a long definition for the word prophetic, I don't think it's an easy term at all. So, you've worked in Independence for quite some time, how has the temple been a part of your prophetic journey.

Linda Booth 12:20

But temple as a symbol, it is, for me a symbol, it's not just a place, the temple is, for me a prophetic symbol of the inward spiritual journey as you go into that sanctuary. And as you look up into the temples, spiraling inside that beautiful shell-like interior, it has that sense that you are being prepared to be set out. And wherever I travel. And even in Australia, I remember talking about the temple because people would say to me, I'd sit in their little homes, it was wintertime there, and they don't have essential heat. So, you gather around these little stove light elements. And I remember this one elderly woman, particularly saying, I'm never going to be able to go to the temple, would you describe it to me, and as I talked about the temple, and I watched her eyes, as I shared this symbol of spiritual preparation, and then going out in God's mission to the world, I could see that she connected to what I was saying. But more importantly, she caught a glimpse of the fact that that temple is a symbol of her life, where she lived north of Melbourne, Australia, and a little community called Bendigo, that she was a part of that preparation, that inward preparation in that sending out into the world. So for me, that's what the temple represents. When it comes to being prophetic. It's being discerning and then being in action, what it means to be disciple.

Carla Long 14:09

Oh, that's awesome. Thank you for sharing that. So, everyone loves a good story. And I know that you're a great storyteller. So, I was wondering if you would talk to me about a prophetic moment that you have experienced, like, what was going on? Where were you where it wasn't in community or by yourself? What is yeah, just talk to us about a prophetic moment that has happened in your life.

Linda Booth 14:30

Okay, and so that's a little hard to think of one. So, the first one that popped in my mind, and I've been thinking about a lot of them. Because I really believe that those prophetic moments happen every day if you're just paying attention. And so, this this prophetic moment, since the conversation that you and I had before we began this conversation when we were talking about giving birth and children and grandchildren, I'm going to tell about the birth of our grandson, our first grandson and how we had prepared for him. He had been named, his name was going to be Brock, and so we all anticipated his birth and we all gathered at the hospital my son's brothers and their wives and, and we, we sat there and prayed and rejoice that he was going to be born. And finally, Bart came walking into the waiting area, he was dressed in green scrubs, and he was beaming. And he said, Brock's been born, he weighed 10 pounds, four ounces, he's a keeper, would you like to meet him? And we were like, Whoa. And so, we all filed into this little room. And I remember the attendant who was caring for the baby stepped back. And we gathered around this little plastic cocoon where the baby was lying, and

he was this big brood of a baby. And I remember looking down at him and feeling this intense love that vibrated from the tip, the top of my head to the tip of my toes. And in that intense feeling of love, I realized that what I was feeling was just a portion of what God was feeling for the world. And then not only was I to love Brock with this intense, Godly love, but then I was to love every person, as a child of God, and in that, like every ordinary experience, that prophetic moment has changed and enriched my ministry in my ability to connect with other people. So those prophetic moments show up in just moments of living. Some are maybe dramatic, like the birth of a child, but I sense them when I'm walking my dogs, Luke and Gabriel. As I walk, and I pray for people on that walk in my neighborhood, and I sense God's love for them. And there's moments for example, when I might take a newspaper up to a person's door, and as I'm praying, as I'm putting the newspaper down on the front porch, the door will open and the person's surprised, and I'm surprised they see me there. But we have this conversation, and it's a God moment. It's a prophetic moment of God breaking through in the ordinary. So, for me, prophetic moments, surround me every day. And I try to pay attention to those moments.

Carla Long 17:50

I'm totally 100% with you. I've mentioned this before on this podcast, but one of my favorite spiritual practices at church camp with kids with senior high kids or junior high kids and ask them what their god moments were for that day. And, and God moments or just any time when you recognize the Holy Spirit is breaking through and recognize that God is present, right then in that moment, and I think they happen all the time. I just think that we are too distracted or whatever to see them. And so, listening to those kids' God moments. helps me to remember that God is always breaking through the prophetic isn't every single moment if we just if we just took the time to, to listen and watch, we could have perfect moments while washing the dishes. Absolutely. If only we paid attention, and we're intentional about it. So, I'm with you. And gosh, I'm hearing your story about the birth of your grandson. I mean, what a profound experience, you know, to even think about that the love that you have for your grandson is so huge for you, but it's just a drop in the bucket for the love that God has for us. Oh, it's huge.

Linda Booth 19:00

Yes. And that plan that God has for us, not just to love our families, not just to love our own children, but to love all the children, you know, that that we are a family, whether or not through blood, we are the family of God and, and it's not just the Community of Christ family. It's the people who live in our neighborhoods. It's the people we work with. It's the people we stand in the grocery line with. And we have the ability to touch those lives in insignificant ways sometimes, even through just a conversation in a in a grocery line.

Carla Long 19:39

I think that is absolutely true. And I mean, if only we were I don't know what the word is if only we were secure within ourselves or if we were awake. That's it, if we were awake enough to see that. I mean, what a change we could make in our community and in the world. Yes. So, we talked a little bit about this at the very beginning, but has your

understanding of what it means to be a prophetic people evolved as you continually work at work for the church?

Linda Booth 20:12

Oh, absolutely it, of course it has. I mean, because it just being a disciple causes you, if you're trying to get more in alignment with God's will, it does change the way in which you view the world. It also has helped me in my leadership in the church, to understand, for example, during the US National Conference, when we were given the provision in was it section 164, where we were given the provision and the freedom to have national conference, to address pressing issues that couldn't be done worldwide international because of context, as well as culture etc. And we, of course, it was the issue have nothing to do with same gender, marriage, and same and homosexuals and lesbians and all manner of people being ordained to the priesthood, and that the understanding of prophetic was profound in that process of discernment. And so, we had learned after the ordination of women, how not to do it, because people who disagreed, fought and got angry with each other and quit going to church with each other and started another faith movement. And we learn from that, that we needed as a people with this very contentious issue, to be able to walk together and discern together and be prayerful together and faithfully disagree together. And so, for three years, we use that idea of prophetic joint understanding of what it meant to walk together. And so, from 2010, to the National Conference in 2013, the US apostles made a decision not to share our own beliefs on what the church should do but encourage the membership to be prayerful about what God was calling us to do. And so, we didn't share. We didn't say, well, we think you should do this, we provided resources and our presence, to be able to share, have the people begin to share with the Holy Spirit, through scripture, study through prayer, etc., through conversation, to listen to one another and to understand. And I believe that was a prophetic process, led by God, to help us to be a people to walk through those three years, that could have been very divisive, to allow us to come together and to listen at that national conference, and then to take the vote and have over 80% of the people in favor of providing an opportunity for people of same genders to marriage or make a covenant commitment, as well as to ordain people who were in those covenant commitment, or eventually marriage to be ordained as ministers. And throughout that whole process. I mean, there were God moments all along the way. I remember, a man in Pensacola, Florida and a place that was having a lot of difficulty with the whole issue. And his name was Ward and he stood amongst the people as we were talking, he was evangelists. And he said, I want you to know that I was told from the time I was very young, that any homosexual activity was sinful. And he said, I believe that all my growing up years, he said I recently went to a winter reunion in Florida and there saw man, his name was Mark, lead the worship, and leave that reunion and he said, I cannot deny that God work through him. And just by him sharing that prophetic understanding, something happened in that mission center that was struggling mightily. Something happened and it allowed them to have a glimpse of the kingdom. I believe in a way that changed some of their perspectives on what God Godswill was.

Carla Long 25:02

That's fantastic. That's so good to hear. Yeah, I, I come from a place that's there where there's a lot of people that has that struggled with the idea of full inclusion for LGBTQIA plus people and going through that national conference the way we did and listening carefully and prayerfully and not just wanting to insert our own voice, I think was an incredibly prophetic thing to do. Not forcing what we thought that listening I was, that was a huge moment for me.

Linda Booth 25:41

Was and I want to, ironically, President Grant McMurray was the one who said those words you know, it's time to move from our identity as a people with a prophet to our calling to be in a prophetic people. Ironically, it was in his resignation, that I believe that the church first had well, I shouldn't say first, but it did have a very profound journey together to determine and to give the name of the one who now be the Prophet president. And so, the man who said we need to be a prophetic people who resigned and then as a group, as a church, we worldwide, we began to pray for who it was God was asking to lead the church's prophet president and the church with that I was in congregations that prayed on a daily basis, and communally together. We received letters from people who were praying, and with, and when the council of 12, who was tasked with speaking the name of the person came together in colleagues home, all of us, came up with the same name, different experience and reason why, but the name of Steven M. Veazey, to serve as the president prophet of the church, came through that discernment prophetic process of choosing who would be our leader. So, I find that is ironic that the one who spoke the words because of his resignation, we as a people really lived out what it meant to be prophetic. Oh, that is

Carla Long 27:27

interesting. And what a what a responsibility. That was for not just for the Council of 12, but for the church leadership council, but for every single person. It was, it was a wonderful experience, from what you've said, and what I've heard before, it was a really wonderful experience to go through that it was a vulnerable experience, and it was a little bit the word scary is not right. But it was a little bit, maybe anxiety producing, it's like, what if, what if, what if but trusting in that process does take a lot of effort, it does take a lot of being present. And so anyway, so the what ifs did never come to happen, right? I mean, we were right.

Linda Booth 28:13

Yes, yes. In fact, when, when the Peter Judd and Ken Robinson, who were then in the First Presidency, met with the Council of 12, to share that President Murray had given his letter of resignation, we were all in the room, except for going to chip while he was traveling in Africa, and he had connected through phone line. And when they announced that the letter of resignation had been received, there was dead silence in the Council of 12 room. And you heard Buddha from Africa over the phone line said, oh, dear Lord, and it was, I think it was an oh dear Lord, for the whole church, because, oh, my goodness, I mean, that was not something that had been our experience. And the Council 12 made a decision, we weren't going to talk about it together. We met, you

know, together in prayer and prayed every day for each other and for the church. And we really, were vulnerable, as well was the church to where it was God was leading us and who God was calling to serve as that Prophet president. So, it was it was a remarkable experience, one that has blessed the church and has taught the church what it means to be prophetic and to trust and to rely upon and have the assurance that God will walk through us during those difficult experiences.

Carla Long 29:49

First, sure, so we've already been talking about this, but I want to I want to give you a list of something the things that have taken place in Community of Christ. and things that are important to us. And I'm going to give you the full list that we've come up with. And I want you to pick one or two of them and talk about how you saw the prophetic in those places, if that's okay, so just for our listener, you have the list in front of you, probably, but I'm going to give the whole list to the listener, then you choose one or two of those? How does that sound? Okay. Okay. Okay. So where did you see the prophetic in the concept of Zion, ordination of women, the different lenses of discernment, the LGBTQIA plus diversity and leadership, attention to the poor, international diversity and going across borders for ministry, nonviolence, the process of common consent, signal communities, the church's name change, or in the USA national conference.

Linda Booth 30:52

Okay, so I think I've already I've already talked about the National Conference. Yes. Um, I added other things on, and I'll let me talk about the name change.

Carla Long 31:05

Oh, yeah, that's a good one.

Linda Booth 31:05

That that was a biggie too, for the church. You know, the Reorganized Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints had been our name for so long, and people had defended themselves, and explained why they were not Mormon, and how they were not Mormon. And people had an unusual fixation on that name. And it meant a lot to a lot of different people. And, and so when the Council of 12 brought the idea of a new name to the World Conference Community of Christ, the conversate, we listen to each other. And I remember one man standing up and saying, you know, I've defended this name, and this is our name. And, you know, I don't want to change. And then others would say, well, I've defended this name, but I don't want to defend it anymore. I want a new name. And, and we listened to each other, and we heard each other. And we also listen to the Holy Spirit. And I remember sitting up on the rostrum, or the Council of 12, sits together as a quorum, looking out into the faces, of the delegates, the 2800 delegates from around the world. And I, it felt as if there was a Spirit moving in the midst of those people. And it was a moment, when I was listening to the people, I couldn't tell how the vote was going to go. But I remember and I don't remember who was speaking, but they said something like, this name, Community of Christ is not for us, the name Community of Christ is for others, because it is welcoming. And it speaks of who we are, who were called to be. We are called to be builders of community; we're called to be Zion in our

communities. And we're called to be centered in Jesus Christ. And so, this name, while it does say who we are and who we're called to be, and what we're called to do, it's for others. And that's what it means to be prophetic. And in that moment of that, giving voice to that idea, it was if I could see and know that, that the conference was going to accept the name, and they did, they voted over 80%, which was the benchmark and had to be at least 80% of the people to vote. But that was, that was a prophetic utterance by that conference, because it wasn't about us. It was about our calling, to be that Community of Christ, welcoming and being hospitable to and inviting others to join us and to be a part of the building of Zion or the peaceable kingdom of God. so, for me that was a very prophetic moment, but it was also a prophetic process, and that process continues as we try to understand what it means to be Community of Christ.

Carla Long 34:39

Oh, that's a wonderful story. And I've never heard that before. Thank you so much for sharing that that's it's an amazing how every once in a while, I'm sure it's happened to you and me and some others that you know, you say these words or you hear these words and you're like, and you know, in your heart, it is rested up your heart, and you know that that is where it was, you should have heard what that person should have said, and what needed to be said in that moment. I love those moments.

Linda Booth 35:10

And that's another thing like you said, we just have to pay attention. You know, I've had those God moments with the words of a child, I remember in a very distressful time, in my life, when a man in the congregation, the pastor of the congregation, right soon after, it was known that women would be called to be ordained. I had great respect for this pastor. He even looked like my grandfather, who I love so much, and he invited me to lunch. And in that lunch, he proceeded to tell me why I would not be called to the priesthood because he thought I was running for the office of priesthood, and I was crushed because I had only done what people had asked me to do if it was to say a prayer, or to give a testimony, and I was totally crushed, and I came home and I told my husband and he was furious, and he said, How dare he give you an unpriesthood call. And, and I got to the point where I could hardly go to church to face the man. And one Sunday, when I went to church to take communion, I couldn't reach for the bread and the wine, I hurt so much, because I thought that I had in some way disappointed God. And so, I went home and knelt beside my bed and cried out to God, and the words came, do not allow your hurts and frustrations to separate you from the people you're called to serve. And when I went back to church the next Sunday, there was a boy about nine years old, his name was David came up to me and said, Linda, did you know that you said a prayer on such and such, and he said, did you know, I didn't tell you before, but I felt as if God spoke to me in your prayer, this was just a little kid, and that gave me the assurance that God was not angry with me, and that I was to keep on keeping on, and to continue to be called, just as I had been taught that all people were called, and to allow the Spirit to continue to work in me and not to let my hurts and my frustrations separate me from the people that God actually was calling me to serve. So, it was a child who spoke the words that helped me to heal and to know that God was okay with me. And it was the words after that, crying out to God, to know that your going

to always get hurt and frustrated in ministry and in life. But don't let those stand in the way of continuing on to be the servant, your servant for God.

Carla Long 38:09

what a wonderful story. You're such a good storyteller. I'm so glad that we get to hear these beautiful stories. Thank you for sharing them. Was there anything else on the list that you wanted to talk about where you saw the prophetic?

Linda Booth 38:20

Well, you know, I could go on each one of them. I don't know how long this podcast is supposed to be. But when you talked about the attention to the poor, and the worth of persons, I mean, for me, that's what being prophetic is all about. And it's in that definition, when we discern God's presence and God's will for the world and to be prophetic, then is to express in our beliefs and our actions and our relationships, the care and compassion of Jesus Christ. And so, I mean, I have so many stories of people who have really understood that in another person's welfare is their welfare that we've heard in our inspired counsel, that, that when you when you love another person, then you receive God's love, you don't do it to receive God's love, but that is actually what happens, it's a reinforcement of God's love for the world. I was preaching at a congregation in Tampa, Florida, and this woman named Debbie came up to me, she kind of lurked after everybody had gone through the line, and she came over to me and she asked to, she said to me, she said, I have a sense that I'm supposed to start a congregation in New Port Richey, which was, I don't know how many miles away from Tampa, she said, would you pray with me about it? And so, I prayed with her and then I got her connected with her mission center pros and I told her if she wanted to call me, I would get the names of people in that area New Port Richey, who might be connected with the church. And so to make a long story short, she started this little gathering of people and it grew and grew out of her home, and so they ended up going and having a service in the park in New Port Richey, in, you know one of those park places that have the picnic tables and tops over tops of the tables and, and they would sing and they were pray and pretty soon there were these people that would come out of the woods, and they would be carrying all of their belongings and they would sit on the picnic tables with the congregation and they started talking and they started joining them. Every Thursday night these people came out of the woods, people that didn't have a home and Debbie realized that her prayer to start a church, a church that she thought was going to be just like the church in Tampa, only a different place, became a church that was focused on people who had no home. And when I went down to New Port Richey several years later, we had rented a couple of storefronts. I preached to that congregation that was sitting packed into this area. I mean, they were so close, I could have reached out and touch the noses on the people in front of me, they were so close in that place. And through the glass windows of the storefront, I could see all these people out there sitting listening to what was being said, and following my portion, a man named Patrick was confirmed a member of the church and afterwards I went out looking for him. And I said, Patrick, how did you find the church and he said, well, I was invited by another person who was homeless. He said, I lost my job I and I didn't have any disposable income. So, I lived in my car for two years. And he said, you know,

when you don't have a home, you smell, and people don't want to get near you. They don't want to touch you because you smell, they're afraid you're diseased, and he said when I came to Community of Christ, they touched me, they hugged me, they shook my hand. And he said, not only did I feel physical touch, but I felt a touch of the Holy Spirit, and they say that's what it means to be prophetic. It's to step outside and risk something that's different, to have your congregation become new in the prophetic light of what it means to be God's people. And when you do, the ministry changes quite often. And the people that come to your congregation are often very different than those you would normally invite. And so, when I get excited about being prophetic, it's because I recognize there's so many people that need to be touched. And they need to be touched by a human being, and through the power of the Holy Spirit to be touched by something greater than themselves. And so that's, for me why it's important that we all are prophetic people.

Carla Long 42:59

Well, thank you so much for sharing that and sharing those stories. I do think that there's a lot of fear out there for something that you were just talking about, the fear of if I go where God is calling me to go, it's going to be uncomfortable, and it's not going to look like I really want it to look, and it might not smell the way I like things to smell and I might have to go outside of myself a little bit too much. And you know what, I'm pretty comfortable right here. Maybe I don't want to do that. So, what you're saying is to be that prophetic to be a prophetic people. It just takes it takes courage, and it takes the will to say you know what, I'm not going to let that fear stop me. Absolutely. So, I think it's really important. Thank you so much for sharing those stories. And thank you so much for sharing all of this incredible knowledge that you have by working for the church for 22 years. That's really awesome, Linda, that's really awesome.

Linda Booth 43:58

Thank you, friend.

Carla Long 44:00

Well, is there anything else you wanted to say? Any question I didn't ask you that you wish I would have asked you before we sign off?

Linda Booth 44:07

No, I think I've probably shared as much as needed at this time. But thank you for the invitation. I've enjoyed the conversation.

Carla Long 44:14

Thank you so much, Linda.

Josh Mangelson 44:24

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