

A NOTE ON MY COMMITMENT TO COACHING

Written by Lynette R. Hawkins, Coach

Being a coach is a call that is hard to really train to do. To be called to listen and speak into people's lives so that they can connect more clearly to the vision they are called to do is a gift. Years of doing this without calling it coaching helped me to realize that one of my gifts allows me to listen deeply and assist others to move where they are being lead.

Early in my life when I took a Dale Carnegie course, the art of listening was introduced to me. It was then that I realized that hearing others' stories and allowing God to use the time to prepare my comments is so important in navigating life and building relationships. As a coach, one of my best attributes is my ability to deeply listen. It is my honor to give undivided attention, a trained ear and complete focus on the individual that is communicating. By deeply listening I am able to more clearly hear what is being by words and what may be said by the unspoken word.

After years of working in management positions and as a consultant with managers, pastors, leaders of organizations, a colleague brought to my attention the gifts of a good coach. It was then that she shared how my personal style lends itself to listen, ask questions and help people move in new directions. After much prayer and personal discovery, I have realized coaching is one of the gifts I share with others.

I tend to ask questions a lot. My first question in coaching is often, *"What do you want to accomplish?"* The answers to that question help to shape my next question and the design of our coaching sessions. If you have me as your coach, I am more likely to ask questions to spark new thinking, generate possible solutions and guide the conversation. I use my ability to ask questions as my way of helping others come to solutions. My

personal desire is not to tell people what to do but allow people to look at the entire picture and generate solutions.

Good coaches know how to listen, ask the right questions and navigate without steering too strongly. As a facilitator of strategic conversations and one who works with ministry leaders and organization leaders, that is what I do. I have been blessed with gifts that allow me to listen without judgment and allow people to move where they are feeling directed. I also use proven assessment tools and homework assignments to help shape action plans and guide our discussions.

If you think of a coach as a listening partner who asks the good questions to help you navigate through a decision or move to a new vision, then working with me will be easy. My commitment to be there, listen and move you to your personal best is what I can offer.

Let's start with a short trial session and go from there. I look forward to being there for you.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Lynette". The script is fluid and cursive, with a large initial 'L'.