

When you think about the opportunities you've had to serve others, they usually align with the skills talents and interests you already have. If school is looking for a math tutors and you shudder just at the word “algebra”, it's probably not something you're going to step into. I know I wouldn't!

We're not as likely to serve in an area where we don't currently possess the skill set required for success - for us and the people we're serving. But sometimes serving can not only be a blessing to others but also help us to grow.

Insert your story of serving when you weren't as qualified as you would have liked and what you learned or the skills you acquired.

For example:

A friend of mine, Ken was president of a nonprofit board and approached me about being on the board. I had no experience serving on a board - like none. But they had a great onboarding process where I could attend and observe 3 board meetings before I made my decision. It looked pretty ow stress and wasn't going to demand a lot of my time apart from attending a monthly board meeting, so I said yes.

I was given the honorary title of being “Vice President” with few to any initial responsibilities. I hadn't been on the board a year when the Director of the center unexpectedly resigned. As Vice President, Ken charged with heading up the search committee to find the next director. It took six months, but working with volunteers, other board members and staff, we made a recommendation and hired our next executive director. I had gotten my feet wet.

Six months later, Ken was “termining out” of being Chairman; that means according to the bylaws, he couldn't serve another term. I was promoted to the role of President - and remember the only experience I had had was watching Ken! He gave me the keys to the building, put my signature on the bank accounts and handed over a file box of folders. “Let me know if you need any help.”

Ken was a great help, but I still had to do the job: create agendas, regularly meet with the new director, organize and administer committee work and launch a \$1.5 million renovation campaign I was now in the deep end of the pool. I stayed on the board as President for a total of 7 ½ years, before God moved me down here to Tampa.

But because of my willingness to serve even without the skills or experience I gained years of knowledge and training period I now understand a lot about what it means to lead a board of directors. I built a new and diverse relationships throughout the community. Best of all, the new executive director and I became best of friends an incredible resource and relationship that carry me through many challenges in life including the passing of my husband.

Now don't dodge an opportunity to serve just because you don't think you have what it takes. If you step into serving others whether you feel qualified or not, not only will you gain new skill sets, but relationships as well. It's a win-win. God can use anyone if you are willing to be used by Him. I know "that for those who love God all things work together for good, for those who are called according to his purpose" Romans 8: 28

What about you what are you being called to regardless of your ability?