**“L’Arche communities are communities of faith, rooted in prayer and trust in God.”** – Charter of the Communities of L’Arche

**Invitation**: To discern a commitment to daily life membership with L’Arche Greater Washington DC.

Welcome!

We would like to invite you to begin the process of mutual discernment of *Daily Life Membership* with L’Arche GWDC. Daily Life Membership is a commitment to share our lives with our brothers and sisters in community within an ongoing and growing commitment.

Community members come to L’Arche at many different places in life and are welcomed as they are. A welcome into Daily Life Membership is part of your journey with yourself, God, and the other community members. At L’Arche GWDC many of our practices are from the Christian tradition.

We hope that through this application, we can begin to uncover if daily life membership at L’Arche is a place for growth to which you are being called. Our community will be praying for you throughout the process.

We hope you will be able to visit us or another L’Arche community during your discernment of membership. Experiencing community is great preparation. We ask that you also prepare by:

1. Speaking with someone at L’Arche GWDC,
2. Seeking spiritual guidance[[1]](#footnote-1),
3. Reviewing the What Is Membership information and the Charter of the Communities of L’Arche [[2]](#footnote-2), and
4. Completing 5 short-answer essay questions.

The next steps are to meet with people from the community and learn more about the practical aspects of living Daily Life Membership. It is through your honest and intentional preparation and sharing that we will truly come to know one another. We commit to get to know you and to share our community’s expectations of Daily Life Members.

We look forward to hearing more from you and meeting you!

Luke Smith

Community Leader/Executive Director

Short Reflection Questions

*Your answers should be honest and genuine. L’Arche GWDC hopes to get to know YOU!*

*Please fill in your answer below each question.*

*Your answers should each be between 1-3 paragraphs in length.*

1. What attracts you to community life at L’Arche?

OR

What are you aware of about L’Arche GWDC that has influenced your decision to apply to Daily Life Membership?

1. Together L’Arche communities across the world wrote the Charter of the Communities of L’Arche. It is a manifest of the lived experience of L’Arche. What in the Charter is something you hope for in your own life?
2. How have you taken responsibility for your personal growth; i.e. emotional, psychological, spiritual, and physical health? What challenges have you faced in this area?
3. “L’Arche communities are communitiesof faith … Each community member is encouraged to discover and deepen his or her spiritual life and live it according to his or her particular faith and tradition. Those who have no religious affiliation are also welcomed and respected in their freedom of conscience.” – Charter

What is your practice of faith? If none, how do you believe you will experience faith at L’Arche?

1. What has been your experience of belonging? Where and when have you felt that you belonged to a group?

Thank you for your answers. Please return them to our recruitment coordinator Crisely Melecio-Zambrano at [join@larche-gwdc.org](mailto:join@larche-gwdc.org).

1. A list of suggested people can be found at <http://www.larche-gwdc.org/wp-content/uploads/2014/08/spiritual-guidance.docx> [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. Documents are found at <http://larche-gwdc.org/get-involved/join-larche/daily-life-membership/> [↑](#footnote-ref-2)