



Focus on Faith



Some people live out their faith in ways that are obvious. Randy Hollowell is one such person. His personal credo is to make every interaction with each and every person a positive one, and it shows. Whether on campus, at the grocery store, at a ball park, at church, or simply around town, Randy's love of the Lord and trust in God allow him to care for the people he encounters in daily life. Randy also uses his experience and the tools of his professional repertoire as manager of IT and Communications and Client Advocacy—part of the IT and Intercollegiate Athletics divisions of Miami University—to guide and direct our Tech Committee here at Faith, helping us prepare for today and into the future. He is genuinely invested, empathic, and wants the best for everyone he engages with, so he strives to make good things happen – often quite successfully.

Randy grew up on a small ranch in Parker, Colorado. His mother was a major influence in his Christian upbringing, modeling her faith by playing in the chime choir at the Lutheran church, teaching Sunday school, and strongly encouraging her son to participate in youth events. If you know Randy, you know he loves sports. You may hear him on ESPN+ announcing games for Miami, including men's basketball, women's basketball, women's field hockey. All of this began years ago when Randy reached out to Miami Athletics, asking if they ever needed help, which led to allowing Randy to start by calling soccer games. In his college years, his athleticism brought him to a Danish Lutheran school, Dana University, in Blair, Nebraska, where he was recruited for basketball. While he went to chapel twice a week with his teammates at Dana, he truly enjoyed attending the in-town Lutheran church for worship on Sunday mornings. "Faith Lutheran is very much like that congregation, all in good ways,"

Randy claims that he was very shy when he was younger, and he attributes participation in speech and drama classes—which were way beyond his comfort zone—for helping him to grow in confidence. Working as a camp counselor his sophomore and junior years of college through Nebraska Lutheran Outdoor Ministry was very impactful for his faith development. He loved performing the skits and other aspects of being a counsellor, but it was his interactions with campers and peers that truly enriched his appreciation of a Godly life.

Randy is passionate about parenting his son Reece, who actively attended Faith events from his younger years all through high school, then double-majored in journalism and professional writing at Miami. While Reece was a student at Miami, the two would meet together for lunch once a week, and it's a practice they strive to maintain. Part of the life lessons he tries to share are to strive to do better, even in small increments, to help out, and to make things better for others. It's rather simple: love God, love your neighbor.

Randy's wife, spouse, and partner Micheline is a major influence in his life. He loves how she loves the Lord. He also respects her commitment and leadership in Faith, which is much like his own. Both have been church council members, both served terms as council president, both have taught others, and they both are fully invested in growing in their faith. One way they do that is by participating in the Wednesday evening on-line Bible study. Beyond this, it's in his rare, quiet moments that Randy relishes listening, thinking, and praying about his daily journey in life, seeking the hidden meanings that God offers for all to follow.

He also has achieved a top-notch reputation on campus for his sincerity, integrity, and wholehearted good sense of humor. It doesn't hurt that he knows his job inside and out and can relate well, even when people are exasperated or in panic mode. Randy's abiding faith affords him the perspective of the power of our Creator all around us, loving us, guiding us, and providing the best for us, and that's the Spirit in which he lives, and moves, and maintains his being. If you know Randy at all, you know how very true this is!

Often, on Sunday mornings, you can see Micheline and Randy contributing to the enrichment of our life together at Faith; she by operating the Power Point and he by streaming the worship so people who are not able to be with us in the pews may still find connections and community. As part of the Technology Committee, Randy is working to refine our offerings beyond Facebook and aiming towards streaming on YouTube. "We're not there yet, but we're making progress." That's hopeful, isn't it?! Randy lives out his faith in ways that are obvious. And, it's nothing less than Randy's deep and abiding commitment to God that propels him to offer his very best to others, giving all whom he encounters genuine respect and regard.