

Tim Strickler – 14 Servant Leadership Characteristics

1. **We believe that life is too short to not begin finding and living our unique Purpose.** We all want to look back on our lives and see meaning, value and contribution. And the most meaningful of all is the way in which we've impacted lives, something no corporate downsizing or power-politics can ever take away.
2. **We believe that when we turn our focus from self to the service of adding value to others, we unlock gifts and Purpose beyond our current awareness.** It's a harder road, but a more meaningful one. And often, our self-interests are best served this way anyway. It aligns with a belief that "we get what we give."
3. We are attracted to goals transcending ourselves. **We believe there is higher meaning and power in being part of something greater than ourselves.** The greatest and most meaningful accomplishments in life involve group efforts, which can also inspire/transform people along the way. I am personally driven to Transformational Leadership, which can help people accomplish far more than they ever thought possible.
4. **We pay attention to the "nudge," that occasional circumstance or gut feeling or sense we should be open to something.** We're open to the possibility that our unique journey is unfolding, and we are listening with a primary focus on Purpose, not self.
5. We understand that it's all about the journey. We commit to the journey, which is both the organization and especially its people. Tony Robbins said "It is not what we get, but who we become, what we contribute... that gives meaning to our lives." **We are always seeking the highest/best version of ourselves as the journey progresses, and helping others do the same during their journey.**
6. **We cultivate a spirit of abundance, not scarcity. A spirit of faith, not fear.** It may be faith in the universe, or drawn from one's religion, or for some simply full openness to possibility.

7. **We cultivate humility.** We care more about what is right than who is right. We cultivate intellectual honesty, and welcome thoughtful disagreement. We value authentic competence and conviction, not smugness.
8. **We live with integrity, as a defender of truth.** We are a truth seeker, not a defender of self. Author Spencer Johnson said “Integrity is telling myself the truth. And honesty is telling the truth to other people.” We need both. We know our word is our integrity currency, so let it be stable and strong.
9. **We are much more interested in authentic power than positional power.** Authentic power is earned through daily credibility, and for the sake of doing good, not positional authority. We believe credibility and trust are earned, not demanded.
10. **We know that serving as a good example is both powerful and our responsibility.** We take that responsibility seriously. And we are willing to share, teach and mentor not for our own pride but rather in service of others.
11. **We are willing to do hard, uncomfortable things, as it’s where we grow and serve at the highest level.** We actively cultivate courage in ourselves and others. We are realistic but keep fear in check. We are willing to stand against injustices and tackle what seems overwhelming—all with trust that the path will reveal itself. We choose battles wisely, but when duty calls we stand. And we strive for a balance of grace and toughness, or what I call Graceful Toughness.
12. **We recharge ourselves and others regularly through heartfelt gratitude and a healthy sense of humor.** There must be joy in the journey too!
13. **We strive to be steady, to respond to all situations with thoughtfulness, wisdom and self-control.** We strive to be measured, and fair.
14. **We ultimately measure our success first and foremost by what we contribute to organizations and its people.** That authentic legacy success is more important than money or promotion or recognition.