

Uncomfortable Shoes

by Kathy Khang, p. 38

Columnist Kathy Khang looks at what it means to walk in the shoes of someone else and her desire to be part of a church that walks in empathy with others.

1. Describe your favorite pair of shoes.
2. Kathy Khang acknowledges that it might be uncomfortable but hopes that others will have the empathy required to walk in her shoes. Which of your “shoes” do you wish more people could step into to understand you better?
3. Khang says comfort, proximity, and intimacy are required to walk in someone else’s shoes. How do each of these elements function in increasing our understanding and empathy for others?
4. Sometimes life circumstances bring us into greater empathy for others much like the shooting in Orlando increased Khang’s awareness. What situations have led you to a greater empathy for someone else’s circumstances?
5. Sympathy means expressing pity for someone’s pain; empathy involves intimately identifying with someone’s experience. Do you see your church as more sympathetic or empathetic? What is your role moving it to greater empathy?