

QUALITIES TO CONSIDER IN THE DISCERNMENT OF GOD'S CALL

Through our Baptismal Covenant, we are all committed to a common ministry, serving Christ and the Church. For many of us, this ministry is in the laity; for some, it is as a deacon, a priest, or a bishop. If we make the effort to become aware of our abilities and gifts and seek the guidance of the Holy Spirit, with the encouragement of those around us, we may discern a specific way God would like us to live out our ministry. It can be a particular lay ministry, or it could be a call to the diaconate or the priesthood. The Commission on Ministry has identified what we believe are five important qualities that should be considered when trying to discern God's call. These five qualities are listed below together with some specific elements of each, not listed in any particular order.

Christ Centered and Spiritually Grounded

- has a practiced life of Christian prayer and scripture study within the Episcopal tradition
- has a desire to seek and do God's will
- has a deep commitment to follow Jesus Christ as Savior and Lord
- has a deep familiarity with the content of the Bible
- demonstrates a durable Christian faith and witness
- offers evidence of a life commitment to the development of moral character patterned after the life of Christ
- receives spiritual direction and is willing to continue this path throughout their life
- articulates their faith and personal spiritual journey in a way that draws others into the gospel story
- finds strength within the Christian community
- displays qualities of humility and Christlike servant leadership

Gifted at Gathering and Developing Community

- has a creative and entrepreneurial spirit
- demonstrates a gift of gathering and developing a community
- has a history of connecting, inviting, inspiring and unleashing the gathered body
- has a deep and enduring love for the Church
- has a desire to help others grow in faith, knowledge, and service
- is committed to care for and serve others and to be with them in times of crisis
- has the ability to teach and give a reasoned account of the Gospel
- has a missionary heart and appreciation of ministry to and with the community beyond the church gathered
- has a deep appreciation of and experience with diversity
- has an awareness of and involvement in the issues and needs of society

Practices Good Stewardship

- has a demonstrated ability to lead, manage, and delegate
- has a personal history of serving as a leader in a congregation
- is able to discern and exercise gifts for ministry in self and others

- is mindful of the church's mission and has the ability to engage in the ministry of reconciliation
- is able to balance personal time and family relationships
- is able to care for self
- is able to clearly articulate their personal stewardship journey as it relates to money, resources and relationships
- is able and willing to talk about their current practice of giving and the tithe

Demonstrates Emotional Maturity

- is intelligent and imaginative
- has a relevant educational background
- has a desire to continue to learn
- has a healthy sense of personal and institutional boundaries
- exhibits a healthy sense of humor, with the ability to laugh at oneself
- has a self-awareness, including a firm grasp of one's personal strengths and weaknesses and their impact on others
- has the capacity for perseverance in difficulty, a resilience in adversity, and an ability to use life experiences as vehicles for personal growth
- has the ability and is committed to listen with sensitivity and understanding
- is able to hear and accept constructive criticism
- is able to relate to people of different personalities, ages, and varying religious, cultural, and economic backgrounds

Understands Authority

- has an appreciation and respect for the practice of authority in The Episcopal Church
- has a healthy respect for the balance of the orders of ministry
- is fully aware of personal and institutional authority and responsible for their respectful use with others
- has a firm understanding of the polity of The Episcopal Church
- has a personal understanding of their own ability to maintain the ordination vows
- has an understanding of their authority and is energized and empowered by the Holy Spirit