

Discerning Our Call to Service

The place God calls us is where our deep gladness and the world's hunger meet.

—Frederick Buechner

Deep Gladness

A. Awareness of Self

1. What did you love to do as a child? (Ask your parents, if possible.)
2. What are you good at? What special abilities or resources have you been given?
3. What intrigues you? What do you want to read about and learn about?
4. At the end of the day, where do you have the sense that . . . “I was the right person in the right place at the right time”?
5. Where has God touched and healed a broken place in your life so that you might also understand and touch others?

B. Awareness of Others

1. What gifts and talents do others see in you that you might not see?
2. For what do others thank/recognize you?
3. In what situations do others turn to you for help or inspiration?
4. What do people see as your ministry?

C. Awareness of God

1. When do you sense God smiling and saying, “You are my beloved child with whom I am well pleased”?
2. What part of Jesus’s life and ministry most attracts and intrigues you?
3. What do you sense God is asking you to be or to do?
4. In what way(s) are you involved in the work of the church?
5. In what way(s) are you involved in the larger community?

The World's Hunger

- A. The world hungers for the light of Love in all places:
In your home and in your friendships;
In your work and in your volunteering;
In your local and global community.

Ask yourself:

1. How can I embody Jesus's presence in the world?
 2. What hurts need to be cared for?
 3. What outsider needs to be included?
 4. What misunderstanding needs to be seen in God's way?
 5. What injustice needs my advocacy and intervention?
 6. Who in my life needs Jesus's ministries—of preaching, teaching, prayer, care, welcome, forgiveness, healing, and hope?
- B. The world is hungry for the church to truly be the body of Christ.
1. What part of the life of the church do you connect with most?
 2. What gifts do you have that the church needs or can use?

God's Call Merges Deep Gladness with the World's Hunger

We believe in God's ability to work through us. Ask yourself:

1. Where in my life can I most vividly imagine God working through me and my gifts to accomplish God's will on earth?
2. We cannot do all things. Of all the things I might do, where do I sense God nudging me right now?