

# In Ministry Together: How Laity Can Embrace Their Call

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# Toward a More Inclusive Paradigm of Ministry



# What is Ministry? Who is a Minister?

Our English word *ministry* has its origin in the Greek work *diakonia* (in Latin, *ministerium*) which is best translated simply as “*service.*”



# Myths about the Nature of God's Call

- God's call is only for certain categories of people.
- God's call is shrouded in mystery and supernaturalism.
- Some people are “more called” or have a call of a “higher order”



# The Inclusivity of God's Call



*Everyone ...*

*Everywhere ...*

*Everything...*



# Discussion Questions

- Have you ever thought of yourself as called by God?
- If so, what was your understanding or perception of that call?
- If not, what might have inhibited your awareness of a calling?

# Listening for the Whispers of Call

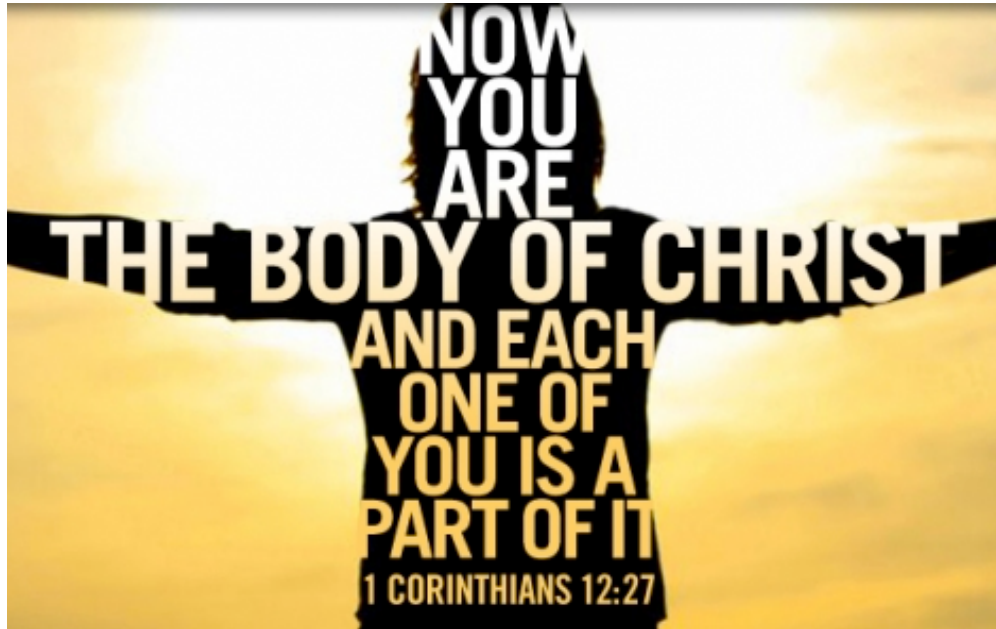
- What are you particularly passionate about?
- What are you particularly good at?
- Are there clues in your life history, especially significant turning points?
- What do other see in you?

# The Power of Synergy





# One Body — Many Members



- *Unity in diversity*
- *Mutual respect*
- *Christ as the head of the body*

# Claiming Your Spiritual Authority

- Take responsibility for developing your own leadership.
- Feed your soul.
- Credibility is earned as you exercise leadership in spiritually sensitive ways.

# Rethinking the Language of Ministry

- Laity are the people of God.
- The people of God aren't sheep.
- Banning the “J-word.”



# Hungry for More?

Available at the Lewis  
Center display table.

