

Sherwood Presbyterian Church **“Discovering Your SHAPE for Ministry”**



*For we are God's workmanship, created in Christ Jesus to do good works,
which God prepared in advance for us to do. --Ephesians 2:10*

Welcome to the self-study version of “Discovering Your SHAPE for Ministry.” God has put within each of us a unique imprint to reflect His love to others, and this tool is designed to reveal how God has “wired” you to serve others. This wiring is made comes out of our SHAPE (**S**piritual Gifts, **H**eart, **A**bilities, **P**ersonality, and **E**xperiences). God can and does use all these aspects of our lives to accomplish His work in the church and in the world.

Frederick Buechner says that the place that you ought to serve is “where your greatest joy meets the world's greatest need.” Our prayer is that by utilizing this tool, God will reveal to you this place of joy.

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Personal Information

Name _____
Address _____
City _____ Zip _____
Phone (day) _____ Phone (eve) _____
Email _____

Marital Status _____ Spouse's Name (if married) _____
Children (with ages) _____
What brought you to our church? _____
Are you currently in a small group at our church? Yes No

Experiences

My primary area(s) of educational training are in

My primary area(s) of work experience are in

My primary area(s) of life experience are in

What events, activities or accomplishments have you found most fulfilling? Why?

Abilities

What are three things you feel particularly competent or confident doing (these could be talents, abilities or skills)?

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

Interests (circle any that apply)

I prefer to work with:

- | | |
|--------------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> things | <input type="checkbox"/> people |
| <input type="checkbox"/> information | <input type="checkbox"/> processes |

2. I am attracted to and have the greatest concern for:

- | | |
|---------------------------------------|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> babies | <input type="checkbox"/> singles |
| <input type="checkbox"/> children | <input type="checkbox"/> single parents |
| <input type="checkbox"/> youth | <input type="checkbox"/> couples |
| <input type="checkbox"/> young adults | <input type="checkbox"/> divorced |
| <input type="checkbox"/> adults | <input type="checkbox"/> families |
| <input type="checkbox"/> elderly | <input type="checkbox"/> other group of people |
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A NEW WAY OF LOOKING AT SPIRITUAL GIFTS...

Check 2 to 4 of the following that you feel like you are good at.

- _____ 1. Explaining things to people
- _____ 2. Telling others about Jesus Christ
- _____ 3. Tending to people's practical needs
- _____ 4. Helping persons understand each other
- _____ 5. Speaking in another language(s)
- _____ 6. Taking charge when needed
- _____ 7. Understanding the deeper meaning of things
- _____ 8. Making people feel cared for
- _____ 9. Giving graciously
- _____ 10. Speaking my mind before groups
- _____ 11. Making unusual things happen
- _____ 12. "Seeing through" people or situations
- _____ 13. Encouraging and supporting others
- _____ 14. Gathering and using information
- _____ 15. Listening or acting sympathetically
- _____ 16. Helping people towards health
- _____ 17. Maintaining calm in times of stress
- _____ 18. Organizing people, meetings, systems or programs
- _____ 19. Asking God to intervene in situations
- _____ 20. Opening my home to guests
- _____ 21. Communicating effectively (written, spoken or graphic)
- _____ 22. Designing and/or creating hand-made things
- _____ 23. Conceiving and pioneering new programs
- _____ 24. Embracing and engaging other cultures
- _____ 25. Making music (vocal or instrumental)
- _____ 26. Other (fill in) _____

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Spiritual Gifts Continued...

Match the number of the ability you checked on the previous page to the corresponding spiritual gift below. When the Holy Spirit is enhancing, or completely causing, these particular abilities through members of the Body of Christ, we call that ability a *spiritual gift*. "God shows up" (as Holy Spirit) amongst Christ's Body and works (ministers) through individual members in diverse and unique ways. The individual member, along with the rest of the Body, experiences the member's service (ministry) especially effective as it is actually a *manifestation* of the Holy Spirit!

(Note: The list below contains gifts mentioned in the Bible. The Holy Spirit *spiritually gifts* people in countless ways so these are just examples to get you thinking. Furthermore, the spiritual gifts are not defined in the scriptures so the definitions below are only *suggested*, based on inferences from the Bible):

1. Teaching—communicating information relevant to the health and ministry of the church in such a way that others learn and grow in Christlikeness
2. Evangelism—communicating the Gospel to unbelievers in such a way that they respond in faith and move toward discipleship
3. Service—seeing opportunities to assist in practical and necessary tasks, and stepping in to help, often spontaneously and without being asked
4. Interpretation—interpreting the message of a member of the Body of Christ speaking in tongues* to others present
5. Tongues*—(a uniquely biblical concept referring to) Holy Spirit enabled speech, worship, or prayer, in a language unknown to the speaker
6. Leadership—casting vision, motivating, equipping and bringing out the best in others in order to accomplish God's purposes and work
7. Wisdom—understanding God's perspective on life situations and sharing those insights in a simple, clear way to meet a need in a specific situation
8. Pastor—walking alongside and caring for others, guiding others toward spiritual maturity and into their gifts-based ministry
9. Giving—cheerful and liberal giving of money and resources towards God's causes
10. Prophecy—God-inspired "telling it like it is" that challenges, comforts and/or convicts people to change and realign with God's will
11. Miracles—soliciting and/or being a conduit of God's supernatural intervention in a seemingly impossible situation
12. Discernment—adept at recognizing what *is* of God and what *is not* of God
13. Encouragement—strengthening others' courage, comforting and motivating them to walk with Jesus toward psychological and relational wholeness
14. Knowledge—understanding, organizing, and effectively using information from natural sources, or the Holy Spirit, for the advancement of God's purposes

15. Mercy—sensing the thoughts and emotions of people suffering physically, mentally or emotionally--empathetically ministering to and comforting them
 16. Healing—being God's means for restoring people to wholeness—physical, mental, emotional, and/or spiritual
 17. Faith—recognizing what God wants accomplished along with extraordinary confidence God will see it done despite what others perceive as barriers
 18. Administration—understanding, planning and executing the procedures needed to accomplish the goals of ministry within an organization
 19. Intercession—praying consistently on behalf and for others, seeing frequent and specific results
 20. Hospitality—warmly welcoming people and making them feel comfortable by providing fellowship, food and/or shelter
 21. Creative Communication—effectively communicating God's truth (verbally, written, graphics etc.) so that people feel that God has spoken "just to them"
 22. Craftsmanship—designing and/or constructing items that glorify God and minister to members of the Body of Christ and/or needs in the world
 23. Apostle—planting and overseeing the development of new churches or ministry structures.
 24. Missionary—flexibility and heart for bringing Jesus to a people or culture other than your own
 25. Music—making music, vocal and/or instrumental, that elevates people into God's presence
 26. Other—I believe God works through me when I am serving others in anotherway... (please explain)_____
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Identifying Spiritual Gifts

Spiritual gifts, by definition, show up in ministry to others; the "results" of spiritual gifts are visible to others or else they are not spiritual gifts. Ultimately, you'll need feedback from brothers and sisters in Christ to confirm your spiritual gifts. Before you write down one or more of your possible spiritual gifts below, check in with your spouse, a close brother or sister in Christ, your small group--a few fellow members of the Body of Christ who know you well. Ask them to comment on what you have selected from the "abilities" and corresponding spiritual gifts list. Ask them when or how they have seen you serving and sensed God empowering you as you served. (Some hints: You were probably quite effective, even with little practice or experience, may have had unusual confidence, and also looked very much "in your element"—your gift might feel so ordinary to you that you are unable to perceive just how exceptional—Holy Spirit endowed—others experience it!) Write down your spiritual gift(s) below:

Primary spiritual gift(s): When and/or how have believers seen this gift at work?

1.

2.

3.

Heart

God has given each of us a heart for something. These areas of personal passion are the things that motivate us to make a difference for God in this world. Serving in our area of passion enables us to do so joyfully and to avoid burnout.

1. If you could accomplish anything for God and knew you couldn't fail, what would it be?

2. What events, activities, or accomplishments in life have you found most fulfilling? Please briefly describe those events.

3. What topic(s) could keep you up talking late into the night, or what topics would friends say you get most excited about?

4. Have you had a difficult life experience that God used to motivate you to want to help others who are facing a similar difficulty?

5. Summarize your main area(s) of passion.

Faith Journey

1. What have been the most significant events, individuals, and communities in your faith journey?

2. Who is Jesus Christ to you?

3. If someone asked you how to become a Christian, what would you say?

4. What are some areas where you are seeking to grow in your walk with Christ?

5. In terms of spiritual maturity, I would consider myself:

- seeker (checking out Christianity, not yet committed to Christ)
- new believer (recently became a Christian)
- stable believer (walking with Christ but unsure of next steps)
- growing believer (walking with Christ and growing in faith)
- leading/guiding believer (deep walk with Christ, ministering to others)

6. Connections with others - how connected are you to the various groups of people?

	unconnected			highly connected	
Family	1	2	3	4	5
Unchurched friends	1	2	3	4	5
Church friends	1	2	3	4	5
Ministry Team	1	2	3	4	5

Availability

Are you currently involved in ministry in the church? If so, in what way?

In your current stage or season of life, how available are you to commit to ministry?

- Spontaneous/personal availability
- Short-term commitment
- Regular commitment
 - Low 1-2 hours per week
 - Medium 2-4 hours per week
 - High 4+ hours per week

Next Steps

Please return this assessment to the church and we'll contact you to follow up.