

MANY GIFTS:

THE POWER OF TEAMWORK



*Think about adding some
short term ministry teams*

These teams differ from committees. They have concrete goals. They require a deliberate mix of skills, personalities, and GIFTS. They are made up of people who have a commitment to the work of the team, and who expect to form very close working relationships, for a limited period of time. They form covenants for ground rules.

A ministry team will usually be linked to a board or committee which authorizes and receives its work. Members of the sponsoring committee will need to be prepared to **share their ministry** in this way: equipping the team well, then letting go, trusting in God's guidance.

A team gains strength when it understands its own dynamics and means of discernment. Team members share or rotate leadership roles. They allow, and even encourage, creative conflict to help lead toward their goal. A little basic training in group dynamics will get you started (see inside for some resources). A church-wide focus on gifts and vocation helps to develop a team orientation.

Parish Life and Leadership Ministry Team of
Local Church Ministries
United Church of Christ
700 Prospect Avenue
Cleveland, OH 44115
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**UNITED CHURCH
OF CHRIST**



REVITALIZING LEADERSHIP

Ministry Teams

Discernment

Gifts and Vocation



Parish Life and Leadership
Ministry Team

Local Church Ministries

PERSPECTIVES AND TOOLS FOR COMMUNITY

COMMUNITY IS AT THE HEART OF ALL THAT WE DO



In teams or committees, anywhere we work together in the church, building significant Christian community is as important as any other goal we have. **We are Christ's disciples.**

As a way to nurture community, share **what God is doing with your lives** every time you meet. You'll build Christian community through the regular, shared practice of prayer .

WE MAKE DECISIONS IN CHRISTIAN COMMUNITY

Discernment is a traditional Christian practice of seeking in community to know God's will for our lives, individual and corporate. Introducing this idea into your church life will take time. Begin when agendas are less crowded, and/or in small fellowship or study groups.

Attentive To God: Spirituality in the Church Committee includes general guides and specific suggestions for Christian Education, Evangelism, Mission, Parish Life, Stewardship, and other committees. By Karen Marie Yust, at www.chalicepress.com.

At www.alban.org you'll find *Discerning God's Will Together: A Spiritual Practice for the Church* by Morris & Olsen; and *Selecting Church Leaders: A Practice in Spiritual Discernment* by Olsen & Morseth. Explore the riches of the Alban Institute, and see links to articles from their magazine, **Congregations**. Also explore www.congregationalresources.com.

MORE RESOURCES



A practical toolkit for understanding group process and for basic leadership training is packed into *Leading Small Groups: Basic Skills for Church and Community Organizations*, by Nathan W. Turner, Judson Press.

From the Laity Empowerment Project: *Unwrapping our Gifts*, and the *Small Group Program* manual. Visit www.laityempowerment.com or contact Rev. Ron Farr at 315-583-5821 (Developed by UCC pastors and used in several Conferences.)

Another resource for discerning gifts in community is at www.equippedforeverygoodwork.org; or order the book by that name from Discipleship Resources, online or at 1-800-685-4370. Four inventories explore gifts, spiritual types, interaction style and work preferences.

Two comprehensive program planning notebooks by Jean Morris Trumbauer, from Augsburg Fortress Press: *Created and Called: Discovering our Gifts for Abundant Living* and *Sharing the Ministry: A Practical Guide for Transforming Volunteers into Ministers*. (www.augsburgfortress.org)

The "Listening Hearts" series from Morehouse Publishing includes a number of useful guides and tools, including *Listening Hearts: Discerning Call in Community* and *Grounded in God: Listening Hearts Discernment for Group Deliberations*. Find them, along with leaders guides, at www.listeninghearts.ang-md.org.

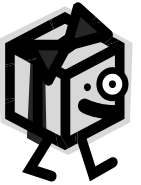


Not online? Contact Parish Life and Leadership for more information.

Conferences and Associations that sponsor programs to help the faithful discern their gifts, and their unique vocations as ministers in everyday life, are encouraged to apply for grants from the Keppel fund. Contact Parish Life and Leadership.

WE ARE GIFTED BY GOD...

Each and every one. Much of our life's journey is spent discovering the nature of these gifts- "unwrapping" them. Discernment of one another's gifts in small groups gives unique insights. In this way we also build community, encouraging one another.



...AND CALLED TO MINISTRY

God has a purpose for each of us. Traditional Christian language calls this our VOCATION (from latin, to be "called out" .) Our gifts are a big clue to discovering that vocation, God's direction for us. We are all ministers of the gospel- all called to ministry in unique ways, distinct places. This call is for *all* parts of our lives. In our church community, discerning gifts and call directs us to leadership roles which "fit" us. In turn, together we discover, explore, and refine the special call of our team and of our entire congregation as well. In Paul's letters we find our biblical foundation and inspiration. Try using these scriptures in your group or team.

I CORINTHIANS 1, 12, & 13;

II CORINTHIANS 4

EPHESIANS 4, ROMANS 12

LISTEN: GOD IS STILL CALLING!

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