

THE GIFTS CONVERSATION

- What are spiritual gifts as compared to natural abilities?
- How do people discover if they have a spiritual gift?
- What are your spiritual gifts? What are your natural abilities?
- Who has affirmed these gifts in you?
- Has there been a time when you doubted your gifts and abilities? If yes, what did you do about it?
- How have you used your gifts and abilities to benefit others?
- How do you see your spiritual gifts being used in the life of the church?

1 Corinthians 12

THE PASSION CONVERSATION

- What is the difference between doing something out of passion or obligation?
- Nothing could stop Ruth from going with Naomi and accepting her God. What is the one thing no one could deter you from doing for God?
- What are some things that truly “fire you up” about church? about ministry?
- If you could give a million dollars to a cause, what would it be? Why?
- Where have you acted on your passion, inside or outside the church?
- How do you show passion for God?
- What does offering your life as a “living sacrifice” mean?

Ruth 1:15-16

THE SPIRITUAL GROWTH CONVERSATION

- In the Wesleyan tradition, we speak of “acts of piety” (Bible study, prayer, fasting, worship, sharing your faith, accountability, etc.) as ways to grow in our relationship with God. What acts of piety do you practice consistently?
- What would it look like for you to connect with God daily? How do you make that happen?
- How does your faith/spiritual life grow as you do these practices?
- When was a time in your faith you feel like you plateaued? What did you learn about yourself and your role in it during that time?
- How would others describe your spiritual growth as demonstrated through the fruits of the Spirit?
- How do you determine God’s will for you?

Romans 12:1-2

THE OPPORTUNITIES CONVERSATION

- Has anyone ever given you an opportunity to use your spiritual gifts and abilities in leadership and service in a ministry setting? If yes, in what capacity?
- If you were to create your dream job description, what would it entail?
- What kind of opportunities are available for you to use your gifts, abilities, and passions in the world/church in the months ahead?
- What are you willing to do to open up more opportunities?
- Is there something you feel God is calling you to do but you don’t know where or how to start?
- Has there ever been a time when you made excuses to not have to follow God’s call? If yes, how did you change your behavior?

Exodus 3

WHAT'S NEXT...

Now that you've had 5 cups of coffee and enjoyed some conversation, what do the next steps look like for you? Continue to meet and discern where God might be calling you to presently serve and get involved. Or, if you feel a call to ordained ministry and want to explore further, there are several options for you.

If you want to learn more about the opportunities to share in the ministries of the California-Pacific Conference, continue to have conversations with your pastor, contact your district office or the conference office, or come check out the Candidacy Summit.

We pray God's blessings on you throughout this process as you continue to seek God's leading in ministry.

Cal-Pac Board of Ordained Ministry

 California-Pacific Conference
The United Methodist Church



5 CUPS OF COFFEE

Discussion Starters to Help
Discern Your Calling



GETTING STARTED...

At some point, everyone hopes to figure out their purpose in life – the “why am I here” question. Maybe our purpose is to use our passions to make a meaningful impact on the world. Our purpose could be to use our abilities and gifts to help others. Perhaps our purpose is to walk with others in relationship. Though we might all have a unique purpose in life, as Christians, one purpose we all share is to bring God's love to the world around us. The challenge is learning to live out that purpose according to God's desire for us.

If you have ever asked, “what is God calling me to do with my life?” this is a good place to start. To know God's call on your life begins with asking questions. This brochure is designed for you to meet with someone you trust for 5 cups of coffee and engage them in each of these five important conversations. The impact of this will be far greater than five simple cups of coffee.

THE GOD CONVERSATION

- What do you believe/know/hope about God?
- How do you experience God in your life today?
- How does belief in God shape how you understand yourself, others and the relationships you build?
- What do you believe is God's greatest concern and greatest desire for people?
- In Moses' story, God speaks through a burning bush. How do you hear God speak to you?
- Where do you see God most at work in the world?
- How is this understanding of God in Exodus 34 viewed in light of the New Testament?

Exodus 34:5-7