St Stephen’s Uniting Church, Sydney.

**MY MINISTRY PROFILE – 2020**

**Introduction.**

Thank you for starting this exercise by reading this page. Already you are showing a willingness to learn and build, not only growing your own self, but also the ministry and mission of Jesus Christ.

In this three-part exercise, you will be helped to identify the spiritual gift the Holy Spirit has placed within you for ministry as a follower of Jesus. Each gift is of equal value to the other gifts. No gift is without its corresponding ministry. (To read the fuller text from the Uniting Church Basis of Union, see below.)

Knowing your gift, and what you are passionate about to make the world a better place, and how you best work, there are two other sections in these pages: Passion, and Personal Style.

With the results, we can work together to provide an opportunity that you agree with to serve in ministry, in the light of the time you are able to make available.

Not all ministries are a church program, and may be a in community group, your place of work, your neighbourhood, etc.

Some people already know their gift. You are encouraged to still do this exercise. God changes people’s gifts at times. It is also strengthening to have your ministry affirmed.

No one can fail; the Holy Spirit has endowed all the members of Christ’s church with gifts.

You may want to simply observe the church in action as you feel you are not able to serve in any way at present due to your health. While not all ministries are strenuous, nor require you to leave your home, we understand some people do need time to be still. Nonetheless, in this time you are able to rejoice in the ministry of others, and we value your encouraging the work of the church.

Honesty from the beginning is best. This exercise is for those who want to attend worship, and during the week use the gift God has given them to help serve in the Kingdom of God. Serving is doing something that another person (not *just* yourself) is blessed by and assists their life to be more whole, or joyful, or provided for, or experiencing love, etc. When you minister in your gift, you too will find fulfilment, but it is not the aim of the ministry. The aim is to bless others. In Byron Bay some might called it *karma*. Jesus had already described it as “Give, and it will be given to you. A good measure, pressed down, shaken together, running over, will be put into your lap; for the measure you give will be the measure you get back.” *Luke 6:38* The writer of Ecclesiastes even ventured to say it will return to you ten-fold. But the reward is not our motive.

Your ministry profile will remain confidential until you are ready to release the results to whom you choose. It only goes to Ken Day.

**Uniting Church Basis of Union paragraph 13. GIFTS AND MINISTRIES**

*The Uniting Church affirms that every member of the Church is engaged to confess the faith of Christ crucified and to be his faithful servant. It acknowledges with thanksgiving that the one Spirit has endowed the members of Christ’s Church with a diversity of gifts, and that there is no gift without its corresponding service: all ministries have a part in the ministry of Christ. The Uniting Church, at the time of union, will recognise and accept the ministries of those who have been called to any task or responsibility in the uniting Churches. The Uniting Church will thereafter provide for the exercise by men and women of the gifts God bestows upon them, and will order its life in response to God’s call to enter more fully into mission.*

**It's time to start. ☺ If you would prefer, Ken is happy to sit with you as you answer this, and answer any questions.**

**Identifying the spiritual gift(s) given to me by God.**

Next to each statement describing ways spiritual gifts are lived out in a person’s week, put a 1, or 2, or 3.

1 = I have never demonstrated that. That’s just not me.

2 = I can do that adequately, but I am not sure I’d rush to do it. (Maximum of two ‘2’s.)

3 = I could perform this very well if I had the opportunity. (Maximum of three ‘3’s, or else you’ll be in a pickle.)

Important: Answer according to **who you are**, not who you would like to be or think you ought to be. How true are these statements of you? What has been your experience? To what degree do these statements reflect your usual tendencies?

Remember: \* There is no right or wrong spiritual gift.
\* No gift is more important than another.

\* As these gifts are God-given from the Holy Spirit, you are not boasting when you say you are good at something. It is God who made you good at it, so it is acknowledging God’s action.
\* Our gifts and ministries can change. The living God can re-arrange things. (As they say, we are God’s chosen people, not God’s frozen people.)

**WHEN YOU HAVE COMPLETED PAGES 3 to 6, please choose one of these ways to pass it to Ken Day.**

1. Place the offering at worship.
2. Place in the large wooden donation box in the centre of the foyer.

3. Email to minister@ssms.org.au

4. Post to Ken Day. 197 Macquarie St, Sydney NSW 2000

**CONFIDENTIAL TO BE READ ONLY BY REV. KEN DAY**St Stephen’s Uniting Church, Sydney.

**MY MINISTRY PROFILE - 2020**

**Name:** Print **\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**Email address: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**And / Or**

**Postal address: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

\_\_\_\_ I have the ability to help steer the church or a ministry toward the successful completion of God-given goals, with skills in planning, organization, and supervision.

\_\_\_\_ I like to be sent to new places with the gospel. (You may have heard of missionaries going to different countries to help spread the Word; they could be described as apostles. You have/could provide leadership to other churches or ministries and offer advice on spiritual matters. Perhaps you would like to plant a new congregation, either in an existing church building, or where there is no church at present, or in a home.

\_\_\_\_ I enjoy working creatively with wood, cloth, paints, metal, glass, cooking ingredients, or other materials. I can visualise how something can be constructed. I like working with my hands.

\_\_\_\_ I enjoy developing and using my artistic skills (art, drama, music, photography, etc.). I like finding new and fresh ways of communicating God’s truth. I have a good imagination.

\_\_\_\_ I am competent in offering encouragement, comfort, and support to help someone be all that God wants them to be.

\_\_\_\_ I have the ability to successfully communicate the message of the gospel, especially to nonbelievers, in a compelling way. I prefer to be with non-Christians than Christians so I can build relationships with them.

\_\_\_\_ I have such great confidence in the power and promises of God so I can stand strong in my belief, no matter what may try to shake this faith. I can move the ministry/mission forward, even in difficult times, I am so confident in God.

\_\_\_\_ I am willing and able to share what resources I have with pleasure, and without the need to see them returned. I give more than a tithe freely and I manage my money well so I can give it to others.

\_\_\_\_ I have a capability used by God to restore others, be that physically, emotionally, mentally, or spiritually. I have often seen a person healed when I pray for them.

\_\_\_\_ I happily step in to support or assist members of the body of Christ so that they may be free to minister to others. Working behind the scenes doing odd jobs to support the ministry is what I like doing.

\_\_\_\_ I find it easy to make people—even strangers—feel welcome in my own home or the church building or at a church function/worship service as I like everyone to feel at home.

\_\_\_\_ When it comes to my attention, I am honoured to regularly pray for someone or for a concern. Praying for a long period of time feels natural to me.

\_\_\_\_ I am able to make known a message spoken in an unknown language.

\_\_\_\_ I am able to stand before a church, to direct the body with care and attention, and to motivate them toward achieving the church’s goals. I can set goals and effectively lead people to accomplish them.

\_\_\_\_ I have great sensitivity for those who are suffering. It manifests itself in offering compassion and encouragement, and in a love for giving practical help to someone in need. I am drawn toward people who are sometimes regarded as undeserving or beyond help.

\_\_\_\_ I have been given the ability to perform supernatural actions that glorify Christ.

\_\_\_\_ I speak the message of God to others. This sometimes involves foresight offering encouragement or warning. It may be the word of God to those in power or government, to a group of people or an individual, to an event or a situation.

\_\_\_\_ I enjoy giving practical support, nurture, and spiritual guidance to a group of people or an individual over a long period of time.

\_\_\_\_ I have the skill to teach from the Bible and communicate it effectively for the understanding and spiritual growth of others.

\_\_\_\_ I sometimes pray in an unknown tongue.

\_\_\_\_ I seek certainty and truth in order to avoid superficial understanding and speculation.

\_\_\_\_ I am able to sort through facts and data to discover what needs to be done for the church or one of its projects, or a community support group. People seek my advice on personal and spiritual matters. In the midst of confusion of conflict, I can see a way forward. I see through phoniness and deceit before it is evident to others.

**Spiritual gifts: Passion and personal style.**

 **WHAT’S MY PASSION?**

**What do you have a heart for? It gets you out of bed in the morning with a spring in your step. It blesses you and others.**

Here are questions that might help you put your thoughts together.

When you have some ideas on this, please write them down in the space below.

What enjoyable activity do you get so involved in that you frequently lose track of time?

What would you like to improve for others/creation/the church/the world?

If you were asked to teach/speak to a class on any subject, what would it be?

What do you do consistently in your free time simply because you enjoy it and it makes other people happy?

What do you purposefully make time for, not because you have to but because you want to, and it helps make life /the world a bit better for others?

What makes you over-the-top excited, angry or emotional? You want to be part of it, or doing something about it.

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**WHAT’S MY PERSONAL STYLE**

Are you a people person, or task oriented? Or a bit of both?

These questions might help.

(**a) You’re at a party. You don’t know people.**

Would you prefer:
1. Give me a task to do, and I am happy. (such as washing up, setting up tables, taking ice to the barman.)

OR

2. I would prefer to just mingle and meet people and chat.

OR

3. I am happy to be the bar man. I like a task and a chat with the customers, but my main thing is the task.

**What is your answer for (a) above? Circle your response here:**1 or 2 or 3.

**(b) You’re going to a meeting.**

Would you:
1. Read the agenda and papers fully and have in mind the time this meeting should take so you can then go and do something else? Meetings are important, but efficiency and a strong chairperson pleases you.

OR

2. Turn up, enjoy the conversation, and offer coffee to create what you would see as a climate of discussion. Easy does it. You have skim-read the agenda and papers.

OR

3. Have a good idea of the agenda, and the papers, enjoy the coffee You are open to go to do more work after, or just go home.

**What is your answer for (b) above? Circle your response here:**1 or 2 or 3.