



4 Tasks of the SPRC in *Cultivating a Culture of Call*

Please use this handout with the training video, 4 Tasks of the SPRC in *Cultivating a Culture of Call*. The video can be found at www.greatplainsumc.org/equippingcall.

1. Identify Gifts in members of your church

A Staff Parish Relations Committee has an important role in its local congregation to “identify, develop, deploy, evaluate, and monitor Christian spiritual leadership for the local congregation” (Para 258.1 of the *Book of Discipline*).

- Whom do you see (all ages) in your congregation with gifts for leading others in mission & ministry?
- How can you cast a vision for members of your congregation to explore their gifts and calling?
- Check out the Conference website (www.greatplainsumc.org/nurturingcall) for more ideas to identify gifts of your church members

2. Ask Key Questions of church members with gifts for ministry

- Consider following up with church members of any age after attending camp, a mission trip or other spiritual events to ask questions such as:
 - How did you experience God in this event?
 - What is God saying to you after this?
- Do you see gifts in someone? Consider inviting him or her to coffee and working through some of the questions found here: www.greatplainsumc.org/5cupsofcoffee.
- Other key questions could include:
 - Have you ever thought about using your gifts in a full-time ministry capacity?
 - If you could do anything without fear of failure, what would that be?
 - Have you ever wondered if God may be calling you to ministry?

3. Support an Exploring Candidate through scholarships, prayer or providing ministry opportunities

- Find ways to meaningfully support people exploring ministry through prayer and encouragement.
- Does your church have scholarships for people in college or seminary who are pursuing ministry? Consider starting one or even enlisting others in buying a book each semester that one of your church members is in seminary.
- Provide a ministry opportunity as an internship or other short-term experience.
- What are other non-financial ways that you could support someone exploring ministry?

4. Interviews for Ministerial Candidates for the dCOM recommendation

- Your discernment in advising ministerial candidates is crucial to the work of the Board of Ordained Ministry (BOM) and District Committee on Ordained Ministry (dCOM)
- Your pastor will be able to help you navigate your interview responsibilities to determine fitness for ministry by completing Form 1 found here <http://www.greatplainsumc.org/greatplainsboomforms>.
- **Important note:** You do not have to say yes to each candidate for ministry. In fact, the Board of Ordained Ministry relies heavily on your wisdom and perspective as they discern the work of God in this person. You may whole-heartedly say, “YES!” we see the call of God and the gifts for ministry in this person. You may have concerns and reluctantly say, “No, we cannot endorse this person for ministry.” And you may say, “We can’t unreservedly endorse this person at this time.”