

## **PERSONALITY TYPE & MINISTRY: *Living Out Your Giftedness & Calling***

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- Am I a good fit for ordained ministry, or even interested in it...? Or would I be a better match for a more specialized Associate in Ministry or diaconal role...?
- Am I ready to handle all the various aspects of church business administration...? And if not, what kinds of training and skill-building do I need to be working on...?
- Should I be exploring a specialized ministry track after seminary, such as Institutional or Military Chaplaincy... or Youth Programming... or Evangelism... or Pastoral Counseling... or Global Ministry... or Graduate Study in Theology...?
- What personal strengths do I bring, and what growth areas do I need to take account of, as I seek to serve God and God's people...?

These are some typical questions on the minds of persons in the ministerial candidacy process. We all wonder where God might be leading us, and for what God might be equipping us. While no one can ever be certain of what's coming next in their lives, it *is* possible for a person to know themselves more fully as a *person* and as a *person-of-faith* called by God.

One excellent tool for doing that is the Myers-Briggs Type Inventory<sup>®</sup> (MBTI<sup>®</sup>), the world's most widely-used psychological assessment. The MBTI<sup>®</sup> is not a "screening" test used to decide who will be accepted for rostered ministry and who won't. Quite the contrary: All MBTI<sup>®</sup> personality Types can be found on the church's ministry roster, and all can find effective ways to contribute their gifts in the church. But by knowing your own Type, and by using information from the MBTI<sup>®</sup> to clearly articulate your personal and spiritual gifts, you can more effectively focus your energies and your education on the strengths that God has given uniquely to you.

Many of our ELCA seminaries make the MBTI<sup>®</sup> a required part of the student's educational experience, but not all of them do. Our Indiana-Kentucky Synod Candidacy Committee feels that you will benefit greatly from knowing yourself better in terms of your gifts and God's calling. So we offer an optional workshop on the MBTI<sup>®</sup> at the annual Waycross Candidacy Retreat, titled ***"PERSONALITY TYPE & MINISTRY: Living Out Your Giftedness & Calling."***

*The workshop facilitator is Pr. Alan Rider. Al is currently parish pastor at Servants of Christ, Indianapolis, and also an experienced career & vocational advisor with advanced Myers-Briggs training, an MA in Community Counseling, MCDP professional certification, and 10 years experience working with more than 1,200 career clients. Al has been a corporate trainer, has taught career development at the university level, and has trained and coached over 40 career development professionals.*

The cost of this optional workshop is \$10/participant. It is open to all I-K ministry candidates who have been formally "entranced". We recommend it for all of our candidates; and even if you have taken the MBTI<sup>®</sup> in the past, this workshop can still be valuable for relating your Type to your new ministry goals. The workshop begins on Friday, 90 minutes before the retreat itself.

To register for the workshop, please indicate on the Retreat registration blank. Pr. Rider will send you the pre-workshop MBTI<sup>®</sup> assessment materials directly; these need to be completed and returned to him no later than July 29th. Lunch on Friday will be included with the workshop.