**The Call to Serve: Understanding Your Role as a Board Member**

Imagine getting a master’s degree with an emphasis in spiritual growth, leadership and team building. Imagine earning this degree experientially, over the course of several years, all the while building a community and helping others. The cost to you is your commitment of time, talent and tithe.

Such deep and rich learning and growth is just part of what you get from serving on this board.

As board members and key lay leaders, you are in an interesting and challenging position. You were guided to serve as part of your spiritual journey and desire to “give back” for what you have gained. This journey includes taking responsibility for the mission of the ministry and being accountable to your colleagues on the board and the congregation. Attending to the myriad details required to be part of the leadership team of your ministry will at times frustrate you, but more frequently will stretch you to learn new ways of being a member of a board. This is all part of the journey.

**Spiritual Gifts**

Please reflect on the key spiritual gifts you bring to your board. What spiritual gifts do you possess that are or will be of value to your ministry? List them below.

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**How Can I Use My Gifts to Serve?**

When you were invited to serve on the board, what kinds of questions were you asked or did you reflect on prior to agreeing to run for the board? Take time to reflect on the questions below. How did you answer them when recruited? How will you answer them today?

* What is Spirit guiding me to do in a leadership role in the ministry?
* What is my level of commitment to my ministry?
* How will board service and/or leadership enhance my ongoing spiritual growth?
* How will my spiritual gifts be used?
* Am I willing to give the time needed to attend board meetings, ministry team meetings, special events, and other activities expected of board members and key leaders?
* What are my tithing and fundraising expectations? Am I tithing?
* What is there about the ministry that really excites me? Am I passionate about the mission of the ministry? What concerns me?
* Am I *really* a team player?
* How do my personal values and mission statement relate to those of the ministry?

One way to begin to develop relationships and create a team is by sharing your story about your personal spiritual journey and how board service is part of it. You will learn more about your colleagues on the board and their spiritual journeys. Through experiences such as this, relationships begin to form, trust increases and the congregation is better served.

**Board Member Self-Assessment**

Please answer the following questions about your personal experiences as a board member. The information from this personal self-assessment can be compiled by the facilitator, if used, and reported out as part of a board retreat. Or individual board members may wish to share their responses to the self-assessment as part of a board retreat. Begin by spending time in prayer and meditation.

1. What are your greatest rewards in serving as a board member?

2. What are your biggest disappointments in serving as a board member?

3. Do you feel you were an active board member who carried out your responsibilities this year?

4. Were you prepared for board and team meetings, and did you make significant contributions to discussions and tasks?

5. Did you attend all regularly-scheduled board meetings?

6. Do you feel you have sufficient opportunity to develop effective working relationships with other board members? If not, do you have any suggestions for how this may happen?

7. Have you had any specific job and/or personal goals toward which you have been working in connection with your present board responsibilities?

 If yes, what are they?

How much progress do you feel you have made toward achieving these goals?

What goals would you like to establish for your service on the board in the coming years?

8. What kinds of support do you need to assist you in carrying out your board responsibilities more successfully?

9. Additional comments, please:

Name: Date: