Appendix C

**Parable Assessment**

*THIS FORM IS AVAILABLE TO DOWNLOAD AT THE DIOCESAN WEBSITE*

This assessment is to aid Aspirants, and rectors, in discerning a call to ordained ministry and, in particular, to which order of ministry one may be called. It is simply a tool for reflection and discussion, and may be helpful, in conjunction with the Lifeway online Gifts and Leadership Assessment, in discerning whether one is called to be a Deacon or a Priest.

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Imagine it is the year 100 A.D. The Gospel of Luke has come to your small community. For the first time, you are hearing Luke’s gospel read and this story catches your attention.

***25****And behold, a lawyer stood up to put him to the test, saying, “Teacher, what shall I do to inherit eternal life?”****26****He said to him, “What is written in the Law? How do you read it?”****27****And he answered, “You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength and with all your mind, and your neighbor as yourself.”****28****And he said to him, “You have answered correctly; do this, and you will live.”*

***29****But he, desiring to justify himself, said to Jesus, “And who is my neighbor?”****30****Jesus replied, “A man was going down from Jerusalem to Jericho, and he fell among robbers, who stripped him and beat him and departed, leaving him half dead.****31****Now by chance a priest was going down that road, and when he saw him he passed by on the other side.****32****So likewise a Levite, when he came to the place and saw him, passed by on the other side.****33****But a Samaritan, as he journeyed, came to where he was, and when he saw him, he had compassion.****34****He went to him and bound up his wounds, pouring on oil and wine. Then he set him on his own animal and brought him to an inn and took care of him.****35****And the next day he took out two denarii[*[*a*](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Luke+10%3A25-37&version=ESV#fen-ESV-25390a)*] and gave them to the innkeeper, saying, ‘Take care of him, and whatever more you spend, I will repay you when I come back.’*

***36****Which of these three, do you think, proved to be a neighbor to the man who fell among the robbers?”****37****He said, “The one who showed him mercy.” And Jesus said to him, “You go, and do likewise.”*  (Luke 10:25-37. ESV)

**Response**

Read through these responses, and circle verbs you find most compelling and cross through verbs you find the least compelling.

1. I’d want to go to the Jericho road as soon as possible, share the story with all passersby and what we can learn from it.
2. I’d want to visit the sick wherever I could find them, and try to lighten the load of their caregivers, and comfort them.
3. I’d have to try to tell everyone everywhere! This is the gospel, what Jesus did for us, let’s do for others!
4. I’d want to gather people I know in a home with the goal of helping each other share the good news of Jesus and living for and like him.
5. I’d want to connect with all the house church leaders (since I’m already in relationship with many), teaching and encouraging them and their groups about Jesus and his kingdom.
6. I’d want to collect money, clothing and food to give to those in need that are in my community (some come immediately into my mind).
7. I’d want organize a guild of people, in order to better identify the needs of the stranger, the poor and the helpless, and to meet those needs in an organized and systematic way.
8. I’d want to find that Priest and Levite and rebuke them!
9. I’d want to require and lead sensitivity and misconduct training for all ordained people!

**Rank**

Identify the top three or four that express how you would be motivated on hearing this moving story.

1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_
4. \_\_\_\_\_

**Reflect**

Finally, indicate why you made your top choices and why you left the others off.

Please elaborate the selection(s) with which you resonate most; how does this, and the characteristics named, represent your motivation to respond in this manner to ministry needs?

Please elaborate on those you left off; how do these, and the characteristics named, represent your least likely inclination to respond in this manner to ministry needs?

*PLEASE COMPLETE THE ABOVE PORTION BEFORE CONTINUING ON TO THE NEXT, WHICH SHOULD ALSO BE DONE WITH YOUR RECTOR, AND FRIENDS JOURNEYING WITH YOU IN DISCERNMENT*

FOR PARABLE ASSESSMENT DISCUSSION AND DISCERNMENT

The following are some different ways the Scriptures identify or categorize gifts and ministries in the Church:

* Apostles, prophets, evangelists, pastors and teachers (Ephesians 4:11)
* Apostles, prophets, teachers, miracles, healing, helping, administrating, tongues (1 Corinthians 12:28)
* Prophecy, service, teaching, exhortation, contributing, leading, acts of mercy (Romans 12:6-8)
* Bishops, Presbyters, Deacons (Acts 6:1-7; 20:17-35; 1 Timothy 3:1-18; 5:17-22; Titus 1:5-9)

Note: in the English Standard Version Bible, Bishop is translated as “overseer” and Presbyter is translated “elder.”

For discussion, here are some ways to connect one’s motivational response to the Parable of the Good Samaritan with the gifts and ministries that Jesus, through the Holy Spirit, gives to members of his Body for the sake of the Church and the world. You may think of other ways to interpret and connect the response to different gifts above.

Some of the gifts and ministries listed here explicitly say Presbyter or Deacon (or Bishop), others from the Scriptures listed above, will require thought and discernment as to how they may connect with the ministry of a Deacon or a Priest. For example, one that could be an Apostle or an Evangelist may indicate a calling to the Diaconate, because evangelism is part of diaconal ministry.

1. I’d want to go to the Jericho road as soon as possible, share the story with all passersby and what we can learn from it.

TEACHER. EVANGELIST.

1. I’d want to visit the sick wherever I could find them, and try to lighten the load of their caregivers, and comfort them.

SERVING. HEALING. MERCY EXTENDER.

1. I’d have to try to tell everyone everywhere! This is the gospel, what Jesus did for us, let’s do for others!

APOSTLE. EVANGELIST.

1. I’d want to gather people I know in a home with the goal of helping each other share the good news of Jesus and living for and like him.

PASTOR. PRESBYTER. BISHOP. APOSTLE. LEADING.

1. I’d want to connect with all the house church leaders (since I’m already in relationship with many), teaching and encouraging them and their groups about Jesus and his kingdom.

BISHOP. APOSTLE. PROPHET.

1. I’d want to collect money, clothing and food to give to those in need that are in my community (some come immediately into my mind).

DEACON. PASTOR. HELPING. SERVICE.

1. I’d want to organize a guild of people, in order to better identify the needs of the stranger, the poor and the helpless, and to meet those needs in an organized and systematic way.

DEACON. PASTOR. HEALING. ADMINISTRATING. LEADING. ACTS OF MERCY.

1. I’d want to find that Priest and Levite and rebuke them!

BISHOP. PRESBYTER. PASTOR. PROPHET. EXHORTATION.

1. I’d want to require and lead sensitivity and misconduct training for all ordained people!

BISHOP. PRESBYTER. DEACON. APOSTLE. PASTOR. TEACHER.