**Board of Ministerial Education**

**The Calling to Ministry**

Our Board members are so grateful that you sense God calling you to serve Him for a lifetime of ministry in a Church or on the Mission field. But we also know that at this stage in life, each student can have a very different sense of the strength and/or direction of His call. Since we desire that you be affirmed in your calling, we want to give you some questions and thoughts on how to discern the call of God on your life for vocational ministry.

While every Christian is called to serve God, and therefore be a minister where God has placed them, not every Christian is called to the vocational ministry of serving as a pastor, a church-staff minister, or a missionary. Here is a list of questions for discerning whether God is calling you to vocational ministry (These questions are taken/adapted from the book *Discerning Your Call to Ministry* by Jason K. Allen.)

1. Do you desire to serve God in a church-related vocation or on the mission field?
2. Does your character meet God’s expectations by reflecting Christ to others?

See 1 Timothy 3:1-7 Titus 1:5-9

1. Has God given you the desire to preach and/or teach His Word?
2. Does your church family affirm your calling?
3. Do you love the people of God by being connected with them in a local church family?
4. Are you passionate about the gospel and about the Great Commission?
5. Are you presently serving your church family in some way (whether paid or not)?
6. Are you willing to share your faith and defend your Christian beliefs?
7. Are you willing to surrender and go wherever God sends you - to anyone, anywhere, anytime?
8. Are you spending time regularly reading God’s Word and praying?

Are you able to say yes to each of these questions?

If you are able to say yes to each of these questions, then it is time for you to meet with your pastor and to ask him to provide you with counsel and prayer regarding this call. From that meeting, he can help you determine the best way to proceed with sharing this calling with your church family.

If you are unable to say yes to each of these questions, it does not necessarily mean that you are not called. While it is possible that God has not called you at this moment, it may simply mean that God is working on you in some important ways. Even through this application process, God is fine-tuning your life so you will be fully yielded to Him. Answering “no” to one or more of these questions simply speaks to our reality of life. But the reason why you answered “no” may be very important. Therefore, at this point, we would encourage you to meet with your pastor and the other leaders in your church family to allow them to provide you with counsel and prayer. Trusted Christian leaders in your church can help you discern what God is saying to you at this time.

Our Board desires to see God do extraordinary things through the next generation of Christian servants. The Lord is moving among college students like you, and we want to be faithful to help you know your calling and be encouraged by what God is doing in your life. Our Board is praying with you as you consider this important calling and as you seek to discern God’s plan for your life. If you have any further questions or need clarity on anything we’ve mentioned in this article, please contact your Campus Representative.

Recommended Resource:

*Discerning Your Call to Ministry: How to Know For Sure and What to Do About It,* by Jason K. Allen.

*Is God Calling Me?: Answering the Question Every Believer Asks*, By Jeff Iorg

*Now That I’m Called: A Guide for Women Discerning A Call to Ministry* By Kristen Padilla ***(Possibly)***