



Dear Friend,

We believe that God has gifted every believer to serve, which means you have unique gifts and abilities that you can contribute to the body of believers. We as the people of God are the individual parts of the body who work in concert with one another to support the maturity and growth of the entire body.

Thank you for embracing and applying this Truth from God's Word in your life and the life of Williamston Free Methodist Church.

As we strive to build a mature body and reach lost people for Christ, we recognize that unity and alignment with the Body of Christ is critical. To assist us all in achieving unity and alignment of our ministries, we have developed some simple yet hopefully useful tools to help you discover who we are as a church, your unique giftedness, and how you may engage in serving God through our fellowship.

These tools include:

- A simple outline to assist you in sharing your spiritual journey
- A chart entitled "The Transformational Process" a guide to help you sense where you are at as a growing Christian
- A S.H.A.P.E inventory to guide you in learning how God has designed you to serve Him
- Servant Expectations – A covenant designed to help you start strong and succeed!

If you have any questions regarding these statements and/or you would like to discuss them with a staff person, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Thank you again for taking the time to honor God with your time and talent. We are humbled by the sacrifice of your time and appreciate the fact that you are glorifying God with your service.

In Christ,

WFMC Staff

My Journey with Christ

Name _____

Date _____

Before I Met Christ ...

(Your exposure to faith? Important moments in your life?)

When I met Christ....

(How did you come to know Christ?)

Since I met Christ...

(Bible studies you have enjoyed, Christian community?)

Where are you at in your journey with Christ?

To help you discern where you are at in your journey with Christ we have included in this spiritual inventory packet a helpful tool that, in “broad strokes”, describes some rather typical “phases” of spiritual growth.

Please know that this tool is not intended to judge you or to put you in some form of “category”. Rather, it is our hope that this tool can be a discussion starter to help you learn where you are at in your relationship with Christ and how you can continue to grow strong in your faith.

So, take a moment and look at these various “phases” of a rather typical spiritual journey. Yes, everyone is different and quite possibly you have an experience that is “outside” the phases represented on this paper. Or, you maybe you have found yourself wavering from one phase to another. It’s ok, let’s just talk. It is our goal to help you grow in your faith and to encourage you along the way!

Sincerely,

The staff of Williamston Free Methodist Church

Uninterested in Christ

“These people are asleep spiritually and unaware of any need for God in their life.”

Attitudes/Behaviors

- They live self-absorbed lives.
- Life experiences and events are not seen as spiritual issues.
- They have little or no knowledge of who Christ is.
- They define God as something other than Christ.
- They have no or little contact with the church.
- They may possess a distorted view of the church.

Needs

- A spiritual awakening.
- Christ-centered people living out their faith and demonstrating love.

Exploring Christ

“These people are taking the first steps in spiritual growth and are marked by significantly lower levels of agreement with belief statements such as ‘I believe salvation comes only through Jesus Christ.’”

Attitudes/Behaviors

- They do not involve God in their daily lives.
- They view the Bible as irrelevant.
- They need others to help them interpret spiritual issues.
- They seek God’s guidance only in times of need.
- They do not serve in the church.

Needs

- Seeker services.
- Opportunities to connect with others.

Growing in Christ

“These early believers are growing in their faith through church experiences and are also starting to incorporate personal spiritual practices into their normal routine outside the church.”

Attitudes/Behaviors

- They are discovering faith.
- They need others to help them interpret spiritual issues.
- They willingly participate in small groups.
- Some of them serve in the church.
- They sometimes read the Bible or Christian books.

Needs

- Small group opportunities.
- Basic personal spiritual practices.

Close to Christ

“These believers report much higher levels of personal spiritual practices than earlier segments. Serving emerges as an important expression of their faith. While their devotion to Christ is growing, they still hold back from full commitment.”

Attitudes/Behaviors

- The Bible provides direction for their lives.
- Prayer is central to their lives.
- They have not surrendered everything to Christ.
- Small groups are less important to them.
- Spiritual friends increase in importance to them.
- They serve regularly.

Needs

- Serving opportunities.
- Advanced personal spiritual practices.

Christ-Centered

“These people have fully surrendered their lives to Christ, demonstrated by their dramatically higher level of spiritual behaviors and attitudes across the board. They ‘very strongly agree’ that they seek God’s guidance in every area of their lives—at two times the level of any other segment.”

Attitudes/Behaviors

- They love God more than anything.
- For them, prayer is constant conversation with God.
- They help to mentor others.
- Service to others is a way of life.

Needs

- Mentoring opportunities.
- Wide range of serving opportunities.
- Serving the poor is significant.

**“You Were SHAPED for Serving God”
Discovering My S.H.A.P.E. for Ministry**

Dear Friend,

We are excited that you have taken the time to discover more about how God has SHAPED you for ministry. We desire that you find a place of service here at Williamston Free Methodist Church that fits the unique way God has created and designed you. Your SHAPE (Spiritual Gifts, Heart, Abilities, Personality, and Experience) is a key way to discern your ministry. Our prayer is that as you journey through this personal spiritual inventory you will discover more about how you were SHAPED for serving God.

As you begin, pray and expect God to grant you wisdom, discernment, and understanding. Remember that there are no wrong answers because this is your unique S.H.A.P.E! Expect exciting results! We are thrilled to help you find a fulfilling place to serve where you can use your gifts and experience all God has for you.

Blessings,

WFMC Staff

You were SHAPED for Serving God

Table of Contents

WHAT IS S.H.A.P.E.?	3
SPIRITUAL GIFTS	4
UNWRAPPING MY GIFTS	5
HEART	8
MONITORING MY HEARTBEAT	9
ABILITIES	11
APPLYING MY ABILITIES	12
PERSONALITY	14
PLUGGING IN MY PERSONALITY	15
EXPERIENCES	16
EXAMINING MY EXPERIENCES	17
DETERMINING MY AVAILABILITY	21
MY NEXT STEP	22
5 Ways to S.T.A.R.T. to Deepen Your S.H.A.P.E.	23
S.H.A.P.E. Discovery Session FAQ's	24

You were SHAPED for Serving God

WHAT IS S.H.A.P.E.?

You were SHAPED to serve God

God formed every creature on this planet with a special area of expertise. Some animals run, some hop, some swim, some burrow, and some fly. Each has a particular role to play, based on the way it was shaped by God. The same is true with humans. Each of us was uniquely designed, or “shaped,” to do certain things.

Before architects design any new building they first ask, “What will be its purpose? How will it be used?” The intended function always determines the form of the building. Before God created you, He decided what role He wanted you to play on earth. He planned exactly how He wanted you to serve Him, and then He shaped you for those tasks. You are the way you are because you were made for a specific ministry.

Not only did God shape you before your birth, He planned every day of your life to support His shaping process. David continues, “Every day of my life was recorded in your book. Every moment was laid out before a single day had passed.” (Psalm 139:16) This means that nothing that happens in your life is insignificant. God uses all of it to mold you for your ministry to others and shape you for your service to Him.

(The Purpose Driven Life, By Rick Warren)

God never wastes anything. The Bible says you are “*wonderfully complex.*” You are a combination of many different factors. By identifying and understanding these factors you can discover God’s will for your life. To help you remember five of these factors, we have created a simple acrostic: S.H.A.P.E. In this discovery book we will look at these five factors and explain how to discover and use your shape for Ministry.

How God Shapes You for Your Ministry

Whenever God gives us an assignment, He always equips us with what we need to accomplish it. This custom combination of capabilities is called your SHAPE:

- **S**piritual gifts
- **H**eart
- **A**bilities
- **P**ersonality
- **E**xperience

Ministry is using what God has uniquely given you to uniquely serve Him and the needs of others. The above five factors will help you determine where you can best serve Him with joy, fulfillment, and fruitfulness. Discovering your set of spiritual gift(s), heartfelt passions, abilities, personality, and life experiences will help you understand how God has designed you to uniquely serve.

*God takes **ordinary** people and accomplishes **extraordinary** things through them!*

You were SHAPED for Serving God

SPIRITUAL GIFTS ("S" in SHAPE)

*"The Holy Spirit displays God's power through each of us as a means of helping the entire church."
1 Cor. 12:7*

Many of us have heard of spiritual gifts, but we are not quite sure we understand them. A spiritual gift is a special ability, given by the Holy Spirit to every believer at their conversion, to be used to minister to others and therefore build up the Body of Christ. Although spiritual gifts are given when the Holy Spirit enters new believers, their use and purpose need to be understood and developed as we grow spiritually. A spiritual gift is much like a muscle; the more you use it, the stronger it becomes.

A Few Truths About Spiritual Gifts

- | | |
|--|-----------------------------|
| 1. Only <i>believers</i> have spiritual gifts. | 1 Cor 2:14 |
| 2. You can't <i>earn or work for</i> a spiritual gift. | Eph 4:7 |
| 3. The <i>Holy Spirit</i> decides what gifts I get. | 1 Cor 12:11 |
| 4. I am to <i>develop</i> the gifts God gives me. | Rom 11:29 |
| 5. It's a sin to <i>waste</i> the gifts God gave me. | 1 Cor 4:1-2 and Mt 25:14-30 |
| 6. Using my gifts <i>honors</i> God and <i>expands</i> me. | John 15:8 |

Unwrapping My Gifts

God desires you to know the spiritual gift(s) He has chosen for you. "Ask, and it shall be given to you; seek, and you shall find; knock, and it shall be opened to you. For everyone who asks receives, and he who seeks finds, and to him who knocks it shall be opened." (Matt. 7:7,8) Learning more about His gift(s) to us, and the many ways we can use those gifts within the church is a life-long process.

The Bible does not lock us into tight restrictions as to the number of spiritual gifts or even their definitions. The four major lists of gifts are found in Romans 12:3-8, 1 Cor. 12:1-11, 27-31, Eph. 4:11-12, and 1 Peter 4:9-11, and there are other passages that mention or illustrate gifts not included in these lists. One person can have many gifts.

This list can serve as a helpful guideline, giving us ideas about the kinds of gifts God gives...The key is to find the areas in which the Holy Spirit seems to supernaturally empower your service to others.

Instructions: As you read through this list, prayerfully consider if the biblical definition for each of the gifts describes you. Remember, you can have more than one gift, but everyone has at least one.

Example: Cindy has the gift of service and expresses this gift in the Children's Ministry. She helps secure the textbooks, prepares the handouts, and helps with registration. Cindy is willing to serve in any way possible to take the load off the teacher so she can focus on using her speaking gift more effectively. The gift of service edifies the gifts of others, freeing them from temporal tasks to focus on their spiritual gifts. People with the gift of service often like to work behind the scenes.

You were SHAPED for Serving God

UNWRAPPING MY GIFTS

Please remember to record your responses on your S.H.A.P.E. profile.

A SHORT LIST OF SPIRITUAL GIFTS

(From I Cor. 12, Eph. 4, Rom. 12)

I'm pretty sure I have this gift	I may have this gift	I don't think I have this gift
--	----------------------------	--------------------------------------

ADMINISTRATION

I Cor. 12

(This is sometimes called "Organization")

The ability to recognize the gifts of others and recruit them to a ministry. The ability to organize and manage people, resources, and time for effective ministry.

<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
--------------------------	--------------------------	--------------------------

APOSTLE

I Cor. 12

The ability to start new churches/ventures and oversee their development.

<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
--------------------------	--------------------------	--------------------------

DISCERNMENT

1 Cor. 12

The ability to distinguish between the spirit of truth and the spirit of error. The ability to detect inconsistencies in another's life and confront in love.

<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
--------------------------	--------------------------	--------------------------

ENCOURAGEMENT

Rom. 12

(This is sometimes called "Exhortation")

The ability to motivate God's people to apply and act on biblical principles, especially when they are discouraged or wavering in their faith. The ability to bring out the best in others and challenge them to develop their potential.

<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
--------------------------	--------------------------	--------------------------

EVANGELISM

Eph. 4

The ability to communicate the Good News of Jesus Christ to unbelievers in a positive, non-threatening way. The ability to sense opportunities to share Christ and lead people to respond with faith.

<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
--------------------------	--------------------------	--------------------------

FAITH

I Cor. 12

The ability to trust God for what cannot be seen and to act on God's promise, regardless of what the circumstances indicate. The willingness to risk failure in pursuit of a God-given vision, expecting God to handle the obstacles.

<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
--------------------------	--------------------------	--------------------------

GIVING

Rom. 12

The ability to generously contribute material resources and/or money beyond the 10% tithe so that the Body may grow and be strengthened. The ability to manage money so it may be given to support the ministry of others.

<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
--------------------------	--------------------------	--------------------------

You were SHAPED for Serving God

UNWRAPPING MY GIFTS

Please remember to record your responses on your S.H.A.P.E. profile.

I'm pretty
sure I have

this gift

I *may*
have

this gift

I don't think
I have

this gift

HEALING

I Cor. 12

The ability to pray, in faith, specifically for people who need physical, emotional, or spiritual healing and see God answer. The ability to sense when God is prompting you to pray this kind of prayer.

HOSPITALITY

1 Peter 4:9-10

The ability to make others, especially strangers, feel warmly welcomed, accepted, and comfortable in the church family. The ability to coordinate factors that promote fellowship.

LEADERSHIP

Rom. 12

The ability to clarify and communicate the purpose and direction (“vision”) of a ministry in a way that attracts others to get involved. The ability to motivate others, by example, to work together in accomplishing a ministry goal.

MERCY

Rom. 12

The ability to manifest practical, compassionate, cheerful love toward suffering members of the Body of Christ.

MIRACLES

I Cor. 12

The ability to pray, in faith, specifically for God’s supernatural Intervention into an impossible situation and see God answer. The ability to sense when God is prompting you to pray this kind of prayer.

PASTORING

Eph. 4

(This is sometimes called “Shepherding”)

The ability to care for the spiritual needs of a group of believers and equip them for ministry. The ability to nurture a small group in spiritual growth and assume responsibility for their welfare.

PRAYING WITH MY SPIRIT I Cor. 12

(This is sometimes called “Tongues/Interpretation”)

The ability to pray in a language understood only by God or one who is given the gift of interpretation at that time.

You were SHAPED for Serving God

UNWRAPPING MY GIFTS

Please remember to record your responses on your S.H.A.P.E. profile.

I'm pretty
sure I have
this gift

I *may*
have
this gift

I don't think
I have
this gift

PREACHING

Rom. 12

(This is sometimes called "Prophecy")

The ability to publicly communicate God's Word in an inspired way that convinces unbelievers and both challenges and comforts believers. The ability to persuasively declare God's will.

SERVICE

Rom. 12

The ability to recognize unmet needs in the church family, and take the initiative to provide practical assistance quickly, cheerfully, and without a need for recognition.

TEACHING

Eph. 4

The ability to educate God's people by clearly explaining and applying the Bible in a way that causes them to learn. The ability to equip and train other believers for ministry.

WISDOM

1 Cor. 12

The ability to understand God's perspective on life situations and share those insights in a simple, understandable way. The ability to explain what to do and how to do it.

You were SHAPED for Serving God

HEART **(“H” in S.H.A.P.E.)**

“Delight yourself in the Lord and he will give you the desires of your heart.” Ps. 37:4

The Bible uses the term “heart” to describe the bundle of desires, hopes, interests, ambitions, dreams, and affections you have. Your heart represents the source of all your motivations—what you love to do and what you care about most. Even today we still use the word in this way when we say, “I love you with all my heart.”

The Bible says, “As a face is reflected in water, so the heart reflects the person.” Your heart reveals the real you—what you truly are, not what others think you are or what circumstances force you to be. Your heart determines why you say the things you do, why you feel the way you do, and why you act the way you do.

In the same way, God has given each of us a unique emotional “heartbeat” that races when we think about the subjects, activities, or circumstances that interest us. We instinctively care about some things and not about others. These are clues as to where you should be serving.

(The Purpose Driven Life, By Rick Warren)

Another word for heart is *passion*. Passions are desires or purposes that bring us joy. There are certain subjects you feel passionate about and others you couldn't care less about. Some experiences turn you on and capture your attention while others turn you off or bore you to tears. These reveal the nature of your heart.

Please consider the three ways in which your heart or passion is directed:

- a passion for a **role** (what you like to do);
- a passion for specific **people** (whom you like to help); and
- a passion for a **cause** (what you would like to see changed).

You were SHAPED for Serving God

MONITORING MY HEARTBEAT

Please remember to record your responses on your S.H.A.P.E. profile.

Instructions: Circle or check the items that best describe you. If none of the words on the list fit you, feel free to add your own on the “other” line at the bottom of the page.

Circle the following Roles you enjoy fulfilling

1. My Passion for a Role: I love to...

DESIGN/DEVELOP - I love to make something out of nothing. I enjoy getting something started from scratch.

PIONEER - I love to test and try out new concepts. I am not afraid to risk failure.

ORGANIZE - I love to bring order out of chaos. I enjoy organizing something that is already started.

OPERATE/MAINTAIN - I love to efficiently maintain something that is already organized.

SERVE/HELP - I love to assist others in their responsibilities. I enjoy helping others succeed.

ACQUIRE/POSSESS - I love to shop, collect, or obtain things. I enjoy getting the highest quality for the best price.

EXCEL - I love to be the best and make my team the best. I enjoy setting and attaining the highest standard.

INFLUENCE - I love to convert people to my way of thinking. I enjoy shaping the attitudes and behavior of others.

PERFORM - I love to be on stage and receive the attention of others. I enjoy being in the limelight.

IMPROVE - I love to make things better. I enjoy taking something that someone else has designed or started and improve it.

REPAIR - I love to fix what is broken or change what is out of date.

LEAD/BE IN CHARGE - I love to lead the way, oversee and supervise. I enjoy determining how things will be done.

PERSEVERE - I love to see things to completion. I enjoy persisting at something until it is finished.

FOLLOW THE RULES - I love to operate by policies and procedures. I enjoy meeting the expectations of an organization or boss.

PREVAIL - I love to fight for what is right and oppose what is wrong. I enjoy overcoming injustice.

OTHER _____

You were SHAPED for Serving God

MONITORING MY HEARTBEAT

Please remember to record your responses on your S.H.A.P.E. profile.

Circle the following People on whom you feel you can make the greatest impact.

2. My Passion for People: I love to be or work with...

Infants/Babies	Women
Toddlers	Men
Preschool Children	Singles
Elementary Children	Single Parents
Jr. High Students	Families
High School	Couples
College/Career	Older Adults 60+
Young Marrieds	Other _____

Circle the following Causes you feel led to champion!

3. My Passion for a Cause: I get excited about...

Parenting	Evangelism
Families/Marriage	World Evangelization
At-Risk Children	Fellowship
Abuse/Violence	Mobilizing People for Ministry
Financial Management	Worship
Divorce Recovery	Policy and/or Politics
Disabilities and/or Support	Race
Deafness	Business and the Economy
Blindness	Relief Efforts
Law and/or Justice System	Ethics
Sanctity of Life	Health and/or Fitness
Homelessness	Science and/or Technology
Drug and Alcohol Recovery	Environment
Compulsive Behavior Recovery	International and Global Affairs
Illness and/or Injury	Regional, State or Federal Issues
Sexuality and/or Gender Issues	Community/ Neighborhood Issues
Education	Other _____

You were SHAPED for Serving God

ABILITIES **(“A” in S.H.A.P.E.)**

“There are different abilities to perform service.” 1 Cor. 12:6

Your abilities are the natural talents with which you were born. All of our abilities come from God. The Bible says, *“God has given each of us the ability to do certain things well.”* Since your natural abilities are from God, they are just as important as your spiritual gifts. The only difference is that you were given them at birth.

One of the most common excuses people give for not serving is “I just don’t have any abilities to offer.” This is ludicrous. You have dozens, probably hundreds, of untapped, unrecognized, and unused abilities that are lying dormant inside you. Many studies have revealed that the average person possesses from 500 to 700 different skills and abilities—far more than you realize.

Every ability can be used for God’s glory. *Paul said, “Whatever you do, do it all for the glory of God.” The Bible is filled with examples of different abilities that God uses for his glory. The Bible says, “There are different abilities to perform service, but the same God gives ability to all for their particular service.” God has a place in His church where your specialties can shine and you can make a difference. It’s up to you to find that place.*

What I’m able to do, God wants me to do. *You are the only person on earth who can use your abilities. No one else can play your role, because they don’t have the unique shape that God has given you. The Bible says that God equips you “with all you need for doing His will.” To discover God’s will for your life, you should seriously examine what you are good at doing and what you’re not good at doing.*

(The Purpose Driven Life, By Rick Warren)

You were SHAPED for Serving God

APPLYING MY ABILITIES

Please remember to record your responses on your S.H.A.P.E. profile.

Instructions: Circle the abilities that best describe you below. If none of the words on the list fits you, feel free to add your own on the “other” line.

Circle the following Abilities that apply to your life!

1. **Entertaining ability:** To perform, act, speak, sing
2. **Recruiting ability:** to enlist and motivate people to get involved
3. **Interview ability:** to discover what others are really like
4. **Researching ability:** to read, gather information, collect data
5. **Artistic ability:** to create or design
6. **Graphics ability:** to lay out, design, create visual displays or banners
7. **Evaluating ability:** to analyze data and draw conclusions
8. **Planning ability:** to strategize, design and organize programs and events
9. **Managing ability:** to supervise people to accomplish a task or event and coordinate the details
10. **Counseling/Encouraging ability:** to listen, encourage and guide with sensitivity
11. **Athletic ability:** to coach or participate in a sport
12. **Teaching ability:** to explain, train, demonstrate, tutor
13. **Writing ability:** to write articles, letters, books
14. **Linguistic ability:** to speak and write in one or more of the following languages
 - American Sign
 - Spanish
 - French
 - German
 - Dutch
 - Danish
 - Romanian
 - Portuguese
 - Japanese
 - Tagalog
 - Hindi
 - Other Asian
 - Farsi
 - Hebrew
 - Italian
 - Swedish
 - Greek
 - Russian
 - Other Slavic Languages
 - Other European
 - Chinese
 - Korean
 - Arabic
 - Kurdish
 - Other Middle Eastern
 - African Languages
 - Other _____

You were SHAPED for Serving God

APPLYING MY ABILITIES

Please remember to record your responses on your S.H.A.P.E. profile.

15. **Editing ability:** to proofread or rewrite

16. **Promoting ability:** to advertise or promote events and activities

17. **Repairing ability:** to fix, restore, maintain

18. **Hobby related ability:** to work with your hands in the following areas

- | | |
|--------------------------------------|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Canning | <input type="checkbox"/> Knitting/Crocheting |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Woodworking | <input type="checkbox"/> Cooking |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Gardening | <input type="checkbox"/> Furniture Construction/Repair |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Sewing | <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____ |

19. **Feeding ability:** to create meals for large or small groups

20. **Recall ability:** to remember or recall names and faces

21. **Mechanical operating ability:** to operate equipment, tools or machinery

22. **Technical ability:** to operate/repair equipment in the following area(s)

- | | |
|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Recording Studio | <input type="checkbox"/> PowerPoint |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Audio/Technical Support | <input type="checkbox"/> Video Artist/Technician |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Information Systems (Web) | <input type="checkbox"/> Lighting Technician |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Set Up/Tear Down | <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Media/Tape | |

23. **Resourceful ability:** to search out and find inexpensive materials or resources needed

24. **Counting ability:** to work with numbers, data or money

25. **Classifying ability:** to systematize and file books, data, records and materials so they can be retrieved easily

26. **Public Relations ability:** to handle complaints and unhappy people with care and maturity

27. **Welcoming ability:** to convey warmth, develop rapport, make others feel comfortable

28. **Musical ability:** to sing or play a musical instrument

29. **Landscaping ability:** to do gardening and work with plants

30. **Decorating ability:** to beautify a setting for a special event

31. **Other** _____

You were SHAPED for Serving God 14

PERSONALITY ("P" in S.H.A.P.E.)

Your personality will affect *how* and *where* you use your spiritual gifts and abilities. For instance, two people may have the same gift of evangelism, but if one is introverted and the other is extroverted, that gift will be expressed in different ways.

Woodworkers know that it's easier to work with the grain rather than against it. In the same way, when you are forced to minister in a manner that is "out of character" for your temperament, it creates tension and discomfort, requires extra effort and energy, and produces less than the best results. This is why mimicking someone else's ministry never works. You don't have their personality. Besides, God made you to be you! You can learn from the examples of others, but you must filter what you learn through your own shape.

Like stained glass, our different personalities reflect God's light in many colors and patterns. This blesses the family of God with depth and variety. It also blesses us personally. It feels good to do what God made you to do. When you minister in a manner consistent with the personality God gave you, you experience fulfillment, satisfaction, and fruitfulness.

(The Purpose Driven Life, By Rick Warren)

It's obvious that God has not used a cookie cutter to stamp out people in a process of uniformity. He loves variety; just look around. And there is not a "right" or "wrong" temperament. We need opposites to balance the church. The personality traits listed below are grouped in four couplets each with two opposing tendencies.

PLUGGING IN MY PERSONALITY

Please remember to record your responses on your S.H.A.P.E. profile.

Instructions: Circle one or the other

“I tend to...”

Be Extroverted

I prefer interacting with many people and gain energy from being part of a variety of activities.

Be Introverted

OR I prefer interacting with only a few people and gain energy from quiet reflective time. I am a good listener.

Be Self-expressive

I am more open and verbal about my thoughts and opinions. I enjoy sharing these with other people.

Be Self-controlled

OR I tend to keep my thoughts and opinions to myself.

Prefer Routine

I am more comfortable being involved in activities where I clearly know what is expected of me. I like closure and completion before starting something new.

Prefer Variety

OR I am more fulfilled by tasks that change and maybe even have some surprises. Finishing one task before starting another is not crucial.

Be Cooperative

As I work with others, I easily see their point of view. I like being part of a team effort.

Be Competitive

OR I like a sense of challenge. It increases my effort and helps me overcome the obstacles.

You were SHAPED for Serving God

EXPERIENCES (“E” in S.H.A.P.E.)

“And we know that God causes all things to work together for good to those who love God, to those who are called according to His purpose.”

Romans 8:28

You have been shaped by your experiences in life, most of which were beyond your control. God allowed them for His purpose of molding you. In determining your shape for serving God, you should examine at least five kinds of experiences from your past.

- **Ministry** experiences: How have you served God in the past?
- **Work** experiences: What jobs have you been most effective in and enjoyed most?
- **Educational** experiences: What were your favorite subjects in school?
- **Spiritual** experiences: What have been your most meaningful times with God?
- **Painful** experiences: From what problems, hurts, thorns, and trials have you learned?

It is this last category, *painful* experiences, that God uses the most to prepare you for ministry. *God never wastes a hurt!* In fact, your *greatest* ministry will most likely come out of your greatest hurt. Who could better minister to the parents of a Down syndrome child than another couple who have a child afflicted in the same way? Who could better help an alcoholic recover than someone who fought that demon and found freedom? Who could better comfort a wife whose husband has left her for an affair than a woman who went through that agony herself?

God allows you to go through painful experiences to equip you for ministry to others. The Bible says, *“He comforts us in all our troubles so that we can comfort others. When others are troubled, we will be able to give them the same comfort God has given us.”* 2 Cor. 1:4

If you really desire to be used by God, you *must* understand a powerful truth: The very experiences that you have resented or regretted most in life—the ones you’ve wanted to hide and forget—are the experiences God wants to use to help others. *They are your ministry!*

You were SHAPED for Serving God

EXAMINING MY EXPERIENCES

Please remember to record your responses on your S.H.A.P.E. profile.

Instructions: As you look over the “experience” word list for each of these areas, ask God to help you identify which ones describe you and your experiences. Circle all the areas that apply to your life in each of the 5 areas. If necessary, use the “other” line at the end of each area to write in your unique personal experience.

Circle Your Spiritual Experiences

I. Spiritual Experiences

- Baptized
- Community Outreach
- Cross Cultural Ministry
- Led Someone to Christ
- Member of a Small Group
- Member of CFMC
- Regularly Give Back to God
- Regularly Pray
- Regularly Read the Bible
- Serving in a Ministry
- Other _____

- Extended Physical Illness/Injury
- Handicapped/Disabled
- Homeless
- Military Wartime Service
- Miscarriage
- Orphaned
- Prison
- Recovery Program
- Remarried
- Separated or Restored Marriage
- Sexual Compulsion
- Suicide of Family Member
- Widowed
- Other _____

Circle Your Painful Experiences

II. Painful Experiences (I can relate to someone who is/or has gone through...)

- Abortion
- Abuse
- Adoption
- Alcoholism
- Alzheimer's/Dementia
- Annulment of Marriage
- Bankruptcy
- Cancer
- Chronic Pain
- Crisis Pregnancy
- Death/Grief
- Depression
- Divorce
- Drug Abuse/Addiction
- Eating Disorder
- Extended Court Proceedings
- Extended Depression
- Extended Job Loss

Circle Your Educational Experiences

III. Educational Experiences

- High School Diploma
- Associate of Arts Degree
- Bachelor Degree
- Masters Degree
- PHD/Doctoral Degree
- Specialized Advanced Training
- Other _____

Circle Your Work Experiences

IV. Work Experiences

- Agriculture/Animal Husbandry
- Automotive
 - Management
 - Manufacturing
 - Mechanic/Maintenance
 - Sales/Marketing
 - Other _____

You were SHAPED for Serving God

EXAMINING MY EXPERIENCES

Please remember to record your responses on your S.H.A.P.E. profile

• Business

- Administrative Support
- Advertising/Marketing
- Chemicals
- Consulting
- Construction/Building
- Financial Services
- Food/Restaurant Services
- Manufacturing
- Personal Care Products/Services
- Personnel/Human Relations
- Project/Area Management
- Product Receiving/Delivery
- Property Management
- Public Relations
- Purchasing
- Real Estate
- Recruiting/Head Hunting
- Sales/Retail
- Service/Customer Relations
- Sewing
- Small Business Owner
- Other _____

• Creative Arts

- Architecture
- Advertising
- Computer Arts
- Fashion
- Fine Arts
- Graphic Design
- Illustration
- Industrial Design
- Interior Architecture & Design
- Motion Pictures & Television
- Photographer

• Computer

- Consulting
- Data Entry/Management
- Graphics
- Hardware
- Info Systems/Tech Support
- Printing
- Software
- Web Based
- Other _____

• Engineering

• Entertainment

- Actor/Actress
- Banquets/Events
- Hotel Services
- Media (Radio, Video, Film, etc.)
- Resorts/Theme Parks
- Other _____

The Field of Education

- Christian/Religion
- Counseling
- History
- Languages
- Manual Arts/Vocational Skills
- Mathematics
- Sciences
- Social Sciences
- Music
- Physical Education/Coaching
- Preschool/Elementary Education
- Jr. High/HS Education
- Special Education
- Specialist
- Technology/Communication
- Training
- Other _____

You were SHAPED for Serving God

EXAMINING MY EXPERIENCES

Please remember to record your responses on your S.H.A.P.E. profile

- Homemaker

- Medical

- o Administrative/Support Services
- o Chiropractic
- o Dental
- o Dermatology
- o General
- o Geriatrics
- o Internal
- o Mental Health
- o Nursing
- o Nutrition
- o Obstetrics/Gynecology
- o Ophthalmology/Optomety
- o Orthodontics
- o Pathology
- o Pediatrics
- o Pharmacology
- o Physical/Occupational Therapy
- o Podiatry
- o Sales/Services
- o Speech Pathology
- o Surgery
- o Other _____

- Military

- o Air Force
- o Army
- o Coast Guard
- o Marines
- o Navy
- o Other _____

- Public/Civil Services

- o Fire protection
- o Government Services
- o Immigration Services
- o Internal Revenue Service
- o Investigation
- o Law Enforcement/Security
- o Policy/Permit
- o Postal Services
- o Social/Community Services
- o Transportation
- o Other _____

- Retired

- Student

- Tax/Legal/Court Services

- o Attorney
- o Certified Public Accountant
- o Court Services
- o Paralegal
- o Prisoner Services (Bail, Parole)
- o Other _____

- Transportation

- o Airline Attendant
- o Airline Pilot
- o Air Traffic Control
- o Bus/Truck/Automobile Driver
- o Railroad
- o Travel Agency/Services
- o Other _____

You were SHAPED for Serving God

EXAMINING MY EXPERIENCES

Please remember to record your responses on your S.H.A.P.E. profile

- Utilities

- o Cable Television
- o Gas/Electric
- o Phone
- o Service/Sales/Mgmt/Install
- o Water
- o Other _____

- Vocational Ministry

- o Administrator
- o Director
- o Pastor

Circle 1 to 3 of Your Ministry Experiences

V. Ministry Experiences

- I have worked with...(Age/Life stage)

- o College/Career
- o Couples
- o Elementary Students
- o Family
- o High School Students
- o Infants/Babies
- o Junior High Students
- o Men
- o Preschool Students
- o Senior Adults
- o Single Adults
- o Young Marrieds
- o Women
- o Other _____

- Ministry Roles/Functions

- o Administrative Support
- o Baking/Cooking
- o Baptism
- o Bible Teacher
- o Camp Counselor
- o Career Missions/World Impact
- o Children's Ministry

- o Choir
- o Church Life (Weddings, Funerals, Anniversaries, etc)
- o Cleaning/Maintenance/Repair
- o Communications/Tech/Graphics
- o Communion
- o Deaf Ministry
- o Disciple/Mentor
- o Discussion/Table Leader
- o Drama
- o Food Preparation/Café
- o Facilities Oversight
- o Financial Counselor
- o Greeter/Usher
- o Hosting
- o Hospital Care
- o In Home Care/Senior Ministry
- o Lay Counselor
- o Library
- o Media/Tape
- o Musician
- o Prayer Team
- o Prison Ministry
- o Program/Event Coordinator
- o Retreat Planning
- o Security
- o Set Up/Tear Down
- o Small Group Leader
- o Speaker/Trainer
- o Technical/AV Support
- o Traffic
- o Van/Bus/Truck Driver
- o Writing
- o Worship Leader
- o Other _____

You were SHAPED for Serving God

DETERMINING MY AVAILABILITY...

It does not take great *ability*; it takes great *availability* for God to make an impact with your life!

You have begun the SHAPE discovery process. You have examined your spiritual gifts, your heart's desires, your natural abilities, your personality bent and your life experiences. Now you need to consider how you are going to use the way God has shaped you to serve within the church.

Real servants make themselves available to serve. They want to be ready to jump into service when called on. Much like a soldier, a servant must always be standing by for duty: *"No soldier in active service entangles himself in the affairs of everyday life, so that he may please the one who enlisted him."* 2 Timothy 2:4 (NASB) If you only serve when it's convenient for you, you should rethink your priorities. Real servants do what's needed, even when it's inconvenient. Are you available to God anytime? As you think about committing time to serve, ask yourself the following questions:

- 1. Are you making service a priority?**
- 2. In your current season of life, how much time do you think you can give?**

Please remember to indicate your availability on your SHAPE profile.

Please select the amount of time you could serve per week:

- 1-2 hours
- 3-5 hours
- 6 + hours

Please select your best time during the week:

- Weekday
- Weeknight
- Weekend

***"Whoever serves Me must follow Me;
and where I am, My servant also will be.
My Father will honor the one who serves Me."***
John 12:26 NIV

You were SHAPED for Serving God

MY NEXT STEP

Congratulations! You have completed the *SHAPE* discovery process. Thank you for taking the time to begin to discover how **“You Were SHAPED for serving God”**. Hopefully God has *revealed*, *clarified*, or *affirmed* something to you about your SHAPE today. You are a gift and God has amazing things in store for you in ministry!

*“Each one should use whatever gift he has received to serve others,
faithfully administering God’s grace in its various forms”*
1 Peter 4:10

Next, we have highlighted some ways below to help you take the **Next Step** in finding a fulfilling place of service.

Contact the church office and set up a time to meet with a pastor to review your SHAPE

They will help connect you with resources and a ministry where God can use you to make a lasting impact. To make this appointment you can call the church office at 517-655-3668 or office@williamstonchurch.org

Review our Ministry Guide

When you meet with a Pastor they will review the various opportunities within our church family.

Pray

Most of all, ask God to lead you and guide you in this exciting adventure with Him!

5 Ways to S.T.A.R.T. Using Your S.H.A.P.E.

Study – We have found these books to be helpful in the development of one’s SHAPE.

- The Purpose Driven Life, by Rick Warren
- 9 Gifts of the Spirit, by Leslie B. Flynn
- Your Spiritual Gifts Can Help Your Church Grow, by C. Peter Wagner
- Half-Time, by Bob Buford
- Power of Uniqueness, by Arthur F. Miller Jr. with William Hendricks

Trial and error - Experiment with different areas of service. It is easier to discover your gift through ministry than to discover your ministry through your gift. We encourage you to try a few ministries and see what fits and what does not, and then stay committed to what fits your SHAPE.

Analyze – Take the time to pray, journal and reflect on the way God has SHAPED you and how every aspect of your SHAPE interrelates. God often uses your entire SHAPE to be expressed in an area of service.

Rquest input from others - Ask others what gifts they see in you.

Take training – Explore the different classes and resources that WFMC offers to enhance your ministry.

You were SHAPED for Serving God

SHAPE

Name _____

Profile

Spiritual Gifts

Unwrapping your spiritual gifts, affirms how God has empowered you to serve Him.

My Dominate3 Spiritual Gifts are... _____

Hearth

Listening to your heart's desires, hopes, interests, ambitions, dreams and affections affirms how God has equipped you to reach others for Him.

My Top 2 Roles I enjoy fulfilling are... _____

My Top 2 Types of People I like to Work with are... _____

My Top 2 Causes I get excited about are... _____

Abilities

Using your God given talents enables you to competently serve others

My Abilities are... _____

Personality

Using your unique combination of God created traits affects how and where you use your spiritual gifts and abilities

My Personality Tends to... _____

Experiences

Being willing to share your experiences with vocation, family, discipleship, ministry, and personal trials will be your avenue to touch people's lives

My Spiritual Experiences are... _____

My Painful Experiences are... _____

My Educational Experiences are... _____

My Work Experiences are... _____

My Ministry Experiences are... _____

Servant Covenant

Unless otherwise determined, ministry commitments are one-year commitments, starting in August. In order to best support you and serve together in unity, the following commitments are requested.

Please know that these commitments are not requested for the purpose of being critical or inflexible, but rather to simply bring us to unity regarding needs and expectations.

As a servant at the Williamston Free Methodist Church

I agree to submit to the authority of the leadership of Williamston Free Methodist Church in matters of doctrine. For a review of our faith statements please visit our denominational website at FreeMethodistChurch.org

I will support and work in unity with the staff and volunteer leaders, within the area of ministry in which I will be volunteering.

I will consistently participate in corporate worship at Williamston Free Methodist Church and devote time to personal worship and my own spiritual development.

I agree to be consistently present at my time of service and to arrive at the appropriate time appointed by the leaders.

I commit to taking potentially divisive issues directly to the leader of this ministry area in which I am volunteering.

I agree to participate in any meetings and/or training necessary when possible.

I understand that my appointment is for a term of one year. My re-appointment is based on my fulfillment of these expectations, my completion of the required responsibilities and the decision of the leadership of the Williamston Free Methodist Church.

I understand that as a volunteer involved at the Williamston Free Methodist Church, I publicly represent Jesus and the church and will use proper judgment in matters of lifestyle, sexuality, character and integrity. In doing so, I agree to avoid matters which may reflect an appearance of evil.

Signed: _____ Date _____

YOUTH LEADERSHIP STANDARDS & CONTRACT

This contract is necessary because Scripture advises us that when we allow someone to serve in church leadership, that person “must first be tested; and then if there is nothing against them, let them serve...” 1 Timothy 3:10

We believe our leaders set examples (1 Timothy 4:12) to our teenagers as to what a growing relationship with Jesus Christ looks like in today’s world.

STANDARDS FOR BEING A YOUTH LEADER (taken from the *Free Methodist church: Book of Discipline*)

1. I have the assurance of my salvation. I have confessed my sins to Christ and received his forgiveness. He is both Savior (forgiver) & Lord (leader) in my life.
2. I am committed to cultivate habits of Christian devotion in my daily life (prayer, studying Scripture, worshipping on Sundays and submitting to mutual accountability).
3. I am committed to be free from activities & attitudes that defile the mind or harm the body or promote the same.
 - I commit to use discernment, with or without teens around, concerning entertainment choices (ex: avoiding profanity (in excess) , nudity, sex, demonic undertones etc.
 - While we encourage abstaining from alcoholic consumption we will not be legalistic about private consumption of beer/wine in moderation, not given to drunkenness. Please do not view this as a “legalistic” but understanding that we must be role models & wise as we never know if our consumption of “a beer” may cause someone to stumble into sin. We ask that this practice be done in private.
 - I commit to avoid the “bar & clubbing” scene as a form of entertainment
 - I commit to be free from drugs & cigarettes.
4. I am committed to uphold purity in my relationships.
 - I uphold heterosexual dating relationships and/or marriage relationships.
 - If in a dating relationship, I will avoid the appearance of evil & temptation by not sleeping overnight with my guy/girlfriend.

5. I will dress in a way that is pleasing to the Lord and promote holy living by displaying modesty.
6. I will use my talents & spiritual gifts to make disciples for Christ.
7. I will contemplate/run through my spiritual filter what I put on my social media sites.
 - Refraining from questionable photos and/or post/statuses that could take away from my witness as a follower of Christ. I understand I am to be in this world but not of it, and that my life in all areas should look different than that of the “world.”
8. I am committed to God first and the needs of my family second. I will prayerfully weigh out the commitment I can make to my job/schooling & this ministry to the church. My desire is to be faithful to God FIRST and do whatever He asks of me.

I, (print) _____, have read the Standards of being a Youth Leader at WFMC. I understand that in signing this contract, by the grace of God, I am agreeing to uphold the kind of Christian character that not only this ministry, but Jesus Christ would desire of those who need to set the example of holy living in a sinful world. I understand that I am ultimately accountable to Allen Berger and the rest of the team as he and they oversee both Senior and Junior High Ministries.

Signature: _____

Date: _____