

# Spiritual Gifts

Uses and Committees

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The document is about the spiritual gifts within the context of the United Methodist Church, and how these gifts can be actively employed in various ministries and committees.

"Lord, I am no longer my own, but Yours. Put me to what You will, rank me with whom You will. Let be employed by You or laid aside for You, exalted for You or brought low by You. Let me have all things, let me have nothing, I freely and heartily yield all things to Your pleasure and disposal. And now, O glorious and blessed God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, You are mine and I am Yours. So be it. Amen." ~ John Wesley

## Healing

The spiritual gift of healing, as outlined in the Scriptures, is a profound manifestation of God's grace and compassion. In the context of the United Methodist Church (UMC), this gift can be exercised in numerous meaningful ways, reflecting our shared belief in the power of prayer, the importance of community, and the love and grace of God for all His creation. Here are several avenues through which the spiritual gift of healing might be actively employed within your congregation and community:

1. **Prayer Ministries:** One of the most direct ways to use the gift of healing is through dedicated prayer ministries. This could involve setting up prayer chains, hosting prayer meetings specifically focused on healing, or offering to pray individually with those who are suffering or ill. Emphasize the power of prayer in bringing about healing, both physical and emotional, trusting in God's will and timing.
2. **Visitation Teams:** Visitation teams serve as the hands and feet of Jesus, bringing comfort and spiritual healing to those in hospitals, nursing homes, or confined to their homes. These teams can pray with individuals, offer communion, and provide spiritual support, embodying the compassionate love of Christ for those in need.
3. **Support Groups:** The church can host or sponsor support groups for various needs—such as grief, addiction recovery, or chronic illness—providing a space for healing through shared experiences and mutual support. These groups can incorporate prayer, scriptural encouragement, and reflections on God's grace and love as central components of their gatherings.
4. **Educational Workshops:** Hosting workshops or seminars on topics related to health and wellness, from a faith perspective, can also be a form of healing ministry. These might cover holistic approaches to health, the importance of mental and emotional well-being, and how spirituality intersects with physical health.
5. **Healing Services:** Some United Methodist congregations hold special healing services, which can include the laying on of hands and anointing with oil in a scripturally grounded, theologically sound manner. These services, while open to the miraculous, should always be approached with humility, seeking God's will above all and recognizing that healing can take many forms.
6. **Community Health Initiatives:** Engaging in or partnering with community health initiatives can be an expression of the gift of healing. This might involve supporting local health clinics, participating in health fairs, or offering health screenings at the church. Such actions demonstrate a commitment to the well-being of the community and reflect the holistic view of healing embraced by the faith.
7. **Counseling and Pastoral Care:** For those trained in counseling or pastoral care, offering these services within the church community can be a powerful way to facilitate healing. This might involve one-on-one counseling sessions, pre-marital or marital counseling, or providing spiritual guidance to those navigating life's challenges.

In all these endeavors, it's crucial to approach the gift of healing with a heart of humility, recognizing that ultimately, healing is in God's hands. We are called to be faithful stewards of this gift, serving others with love, compassion, and sensitivity, always pointing them towards the

ultimate healer, Jesus Christ. In doing so, we embody the love and grace of God, offering hope and comfort to those in need.

For someone with the gift of healing within the United Methodist Church, there are several committees and ministry areas where this spiritual gift can be particularly beneficial. The gift of healing, as understood in a broad sense, can encompass physical, emotional, spiritual, and relational healing. Here are some ideal committees or ministry areas where this gift can be put to great use:

1. **Prayer Ministry Team:** Serving on a prayer ministry team is one of the most direct ways to use the gift of healing. This team focuses on praying for the needs of the congregation and community, including health issues, emotional struggles, and any other requests that come in. Being part of this team allows you to intercede on behalf of others and offer prayers of healing.
2. **Pastoral Care Committee:** This committee is involved in caring for the congregation's members in their times of need, which can include hospital visits, home visits to the elderly or shut-ins, and support for those going through difficult times. A person with the gift of healing can be a comforting presence and offer both prayer and practical support.
3. **Health and Welfare Ministries:** Many churches have ministries focused on health and welfare, which might include health screenings, blood drives, or seminars on health-related topics. Someone with a healing gift could contribute significantly to planning and executing these types of programs, providing both education and support for healthier living.
4. **Support Group Leadership:** For churches that host or are considering starting support groups (such as grief support, recovery groups, or support for those with chronic illnesses), someone with the gift of healing could be instrumental in leading or facilitating these groups. Their presence can offer spiritual and emotional support to participants.
5. **Outreach and Missions Committee:** This committee focuses on serving the community and the world, often including health and wellness initiatives. Someone with a healing gift can contribute by identifying and planning outreach activities that align with healing and wellness, such as medical missions, community health fairs, or partnerships with local health services.
6. **Congregational Care Ministries:** This ministry area focuses on the overall well-being of the church community, including everything from welcoming new members to providing meals for families during times of illness or crisis. A person with the gift of healing can play a crucial role in organizing and mobilizing volunteers to meet these needs.
7. **Spiritual Formation or Discipleship Ministries:** While not directly related to physical healing, these ministries focus on the spiritual and emotional growth of the congregation. Someone with a healing gift can use their abilities to guide others in their spiritual journey, facilitating healing from past wounds and encouraging growth in their relationship with God.
8. **Counseling Ministry:** If the individual is professionally qualified, serving in a counseling ministry or offering to counsel services (with the proper credentials) can be an excellent way to use the gift of healing. They can provide spiritual, emotional, and relational guidance and support to those in need.

9. **Wellness Ministry:** Some churches have wellness ministries that focus on holistic health—physical, emotional, and spiritual. A person with a gift of healing could be instrumental in developing programs that encourage healthy living, stress management, and spiritual wellness.

Engaging in these committees or ministry areas allows individuals with the gift of healing to contribute significantly to the life and health of the United Methodist Church community, fostering an environment where healing is actively pursued and celebrated.

## Discernment

The spiritual gift of discernment is a profound and essential gift within the Christian community, especially within the context of the United Methodist Church. This gift, rooted in the Holy Spirit's empowerment, allows individuals to perceive and distinguish between truth and deception, right and wrong, and the spiritual realities behind physical appearances. In the United Methodist tradition, which values both personal and communal aspects of faith, the gift of discernment can be particularly useful in various aspects of church life.

1. **Leadership and Decision-Making:** Those with the gift of discernment play a crucial role in leadership and decision-making processes within the church. They can provide invaluable insight into the spiritual implications of decisions, helping to guide the church in a direction that aligns with God's will. This may involve discerning the spiritual readiness of individuals for leadership roles, the spiritual underpinnings of proposed church initiatives, or the presence of God's Spirit in new directions the church is considering.
2. **Counseling and Pastoral Care:** In pastoral care, the gift of discernment can help pastors and lay leaders offer more effective, spiritually attuned counsel to members of the congregation. This could involve recognizing underlying spiritual struggles or attacks, discerning the root causes of personal or relational issues, and offering guidance that is deeply rooted in spiritual wisdom.
3. **Teaching and Preaching:** Those who teach or preach within the church can use the gift of discernment to understand and communicate the deeper truths of Scripture. This involves not just intellectual study but a spiritually discerning approach to Scripture that seeks to understand God's messages for today's world and how they apply to the congregation's life.
4. **Worship and Liturgy Planning:** In planning worship services and liturgical elements, individuals with the gift of discernment can sense the movement of the Holy Spirit, helping to shape worship experiences that are responsive to the congregation's spiritual needs and God's leading. This might mean selecting music, readings, and prayers that speak to the current spiritual climate of the church or discerning times when the church needs to focus on repentance, celebration, lament, or other spiritual postures.
5. **Intercessory Prayer and Spiritual Warfare:** In intercessory prayer and matters of spiritual warfare, the gift of discernment is invaluable. It allows individuals to perceive the spiritual dynamics at play within the church and the wider community, interceding effectively and recognizing areas where the church needs to engage in spiritual battle.
6. **Community Engagement and Social Justice:** The gift of discernment can guide the church in its engagement with the wider community, especially in matters of social justice. Discerning the systems and structures that are contrary to God's kingdom allows the church to effectively target its efforts to bring about change and to support initiatives that are in line with God's desires for justice and peace.

In nurturing and employing the gift of discernment within the United Methodist Church, it's crucial to remain prayerful, seeking the guidance of the Holy Spirit continuously. Regular prayer, engagement with Scripture, and a community that values and tests discernment collectively can help ensure that this gift is used in ways that are faithful to God's will and edifying to the church.

body. As with all spiritual gifts, the goal is to build up the church, glorify God, and further His kingdom on earth, reflecting His love and grace in every action.

If you have the spiritual gift of discernment, your ability to perceive and distinguish between truth and error, and to understand deeply the motives and conditions of the human heart, can be incredibly valuable in various committees within the United Methodist Church. This gift can help in guiding the church through complex decisions, ensuring that the congregation remains aligned with its mission and values. Here are some committees where the gift of discernment can be especially beneficial:

1. **Pastoral Relations/Pastor-Parish Relations Committee:** This committee works closely with the pastor and staff to provide support, feedback, and guidance. Someone with the gift of discernment can be instrumental in navigating the complexities of church leadership dynamics, identifying areas for growth, and fostering healthy relationships within the church leadership.
2. **Trustees Committee:** Responsible for the oversight of church property and finances, the Trustees Committee can benefit from the discernment gift to make wise decisions regarding the stewardship of church resources, identifying potential risks, and opportunities for the church's physical and financial assets.
3. **Finance Committee:** Managing the church's finances requires not just a good head for numbers but also the ability to discern priorities and ensure that the budget reflects the church's mission and values. Someone with discernment can help in guiding financial decisions that are spiritually and ethically sound.
4. **Nominations and Leadership Development Committee:** This committee identifies, develops, and supports church leadership. The gift of discernment is crucial here for recognizing individuals' spiritual gifts and potential for service, ensuring that the right people are matched with the right service opportunities.
5. **Mission and Outreach Committee:** Those with discernment can identify the most effective ways the church can meet community needs, discern opportunities for outreach, and ensure that missions align with the church's core beliefs and capabilities.
6. **Worship Committee:** Planning and evaluating worship services to ensure they lead the congregation into a genuine experience of God requires discernment. This gift can help in selecting themes, music, and liturgical elements that resonate with the congregation and honor God.
7. **Christian Education Committee:** Discernment is valuable in developing educational programs that are doctrinally sound and meet the spiritual needs of the congregation. This can range from choosing study materials to developing programs for different age groups.
8. **Ethics or Social Justice Committee:** If your church has a committee focused on ethical issues or social justice, your gift of discernment can help in navigating complex issues, ensuring that the church's involvement reflects Christ's teachings and love.
9. **Strategic Planning Committee:** For churches that engage in long-term planning, discernment is key to setting goals and directions that are in line with God's will for the community. This involves discerning the needs of the congregation and the wider community and identifying God's direction for the church.
10. **Prayer Ministry Team:** While not a committee in the traditional sense, a prayer ministry is vital to the spiritual life of the church. Those with the gift of discernment can be



particularly effective in intercessory prayer, discerning the needs of the congregation, and praying with insight and depth for individuals and the church as a whole.

In each of these roles, your gift of discernment can help to ensure that decisions are made wisely and in accordance with God's will, contributing significantly to the life and ministry of your United Methodist Church.

## Serving

The spiritual gift of serving, often referred to as the gift of ministry or helps, is a powerful and essential way to express God's love and grace within the context of your United Methodist Church and broader community. This gift is about doing God's work through acts of love, kindness, and service to meet the needs of others. Here are several ways you can use the spiritual gift of serving in your United Methodist congregation and beyond:

1. **Volunteer for Church Operations and Maintenance:** Every church needs individuals willing to help with the day-to-day operations and upkeep. This could involve cleaning, maintenance, decorating for seasons and special events, or assisting with the setup and takedown for services and events. Your contribution helps create a welcoming and functional space for worship and fellowship.
2. **Participate in Outreach and Missional Work:** United Methodist Churches often have active outreach programs, including food pantries, homeless shelters, and mission trips, both locally and internationally. These programs provide critical support to those in need and are a direct way to live out the call to serve "the least of these" (Matthew 25:40).
3. **Support Church Programs and Ministries:** Every church has a variety of programs and ministries that could use support, such as Sunday school, youth ministries, adult Bible studies, and music ministries. Serving in these areas can include teaching, mentoring, providing logistical support, or even sharing your musical talents.
4. **Offer Hospitality:** The ministry of hospitality involves welcoming members and visitors alike, making them feel at home. This can include greeting people as they arrive for services, helping new visitors navigate the church, or participating in or organizing fellowship events like potlucks or coffee hours.
5. **Care Ministry:** A vital aspect of serving is caring for those within the congregation who are going through difficult times, such as illness, loss, or personal crises. This can involve visiting members in the hospital, sending cards, providing meals, or offering transportation to church services and appointments.
6. **Prayer Ministry:** Participating in or leading a prayer ministry is a profound way to serve others. This could involve organizing prayer chains, leading prayer meetings, or simply committing to pray regularly for the needs of the church community and the world.
7. **Mentorship and Discipleship:** Offering your time to mentor new believers or those seeking to deepen their faith can be incredibly rewarding. This might involve one-on-one meetings, leading small groups, or simply being available to those with questions about faith and life.
8. **Community Service and Social Justice Initiatives:** The United Methodist Church places a strong emphasis on social justice and serving the wider community. Engaging in activities that promote justice, peace, and the well-being of others is a powerful way to use your spiritual gift of serving.
9. **Administrative Support:** Churches often need help with administrative tasks, from answering phones during the week to helping manage church databases, websites, or financial bookkeeping. These behind-the-scenes roles are crucial for the smooth operation of the church.
10. **Special Skills and Hobbies:** Lastly, consider how your unique skills and hobbies could be used in service to the church and community. Whether you're an experienced quilter, a

skilled website designer, or have a background in bookkeeping or driving, there are countless ways these talents can be used to serve others in a meaningful way.

In using your spiritual gift of serving, remember that every act of service, no matter how small it may seem, is significant in God's eyes and contributes to the building up of the Body of Christ (1 Corinthians 12:12-27). It's through these acts of service that we not only meet the physical and emotional needs of others but also demonstrate the love and grace of God in tangible ways.

The spiritual gift of serving is a blessing not only to the individual who possesses it but also to the community that benefits from their dedication and heart for service. In the United Methodist Church, there are several committees and areas of service where the gift of serving can be profoundly impactful:

1. **Outreach and Missions Committee:** This committee focuses on extending the church's mission beyond its walls, engaging in local and international mission projects. Those with the gift of serving can contribute significantly by organizing, participating in, and motivating others to join mission efforts, serving those in need and spreading God's love through action.
2. **Worship Committee:** Serving on the worship committee allows individuals to contribute to the planning and execution of worship services. This could involve setting up for services, assisting with communion, decorating the sanctuary, or supporting audio-visual needs. Your service ensures that worship experiences are welcoming and meaningful for the congregation.
3. **Hospitality or Welcoming Committee:** This group is dedicated to making church members and visitors feel welcome and included. With the gift of serving, you can help create a warm and inviting atmosphere, coordinate greeters, manage welcome centers, or organize fellowship events that build community within the church.
4. **Christian Education Committee:** This committee oversees the church's educational programs, from Sunday school to Bible studies and vacation Bible school. Serving here might involve organizing materials, assisting teachers, or even leading classes where you can serve learners of all ages by facilitating their spiritual growth.
5. **Property or Trustees Committee:** If you have skills or interests in maintenance, gardening, or DIY projects, the trustees committee can be an excellent place to serve. This committee is responsible for the upkeep and improvement of the church's physical facilities, where your hands-on service can help maintain a welcoming and functional space for ministry activities.
6. **Finance Committee:** While serving on the finance committee might seem more administrative, those with the gift of serving can contribute significantly by helping to manage the church's resources wisely, ensuring that funds are available for ministry and mission work. This can also involve organizing fundraising events or stewardship campaigns.
7. **Social Justice or Advocacy Groups:** For those passionate about serving by advocating for change, participating in committees or groups focused on social justice can be deeply rewarding. This involves organizing awareness events, participating in community outreach, and advocating for the marginalized and oppressed.

8. **Youth Ministry:** Serving in youth ministry provides the opportunity to impact the lives of young people directly. This could involve mentoring, organizing events, or simply being a consistent presence in the lives of youth as they navigate their faith journeys.
9. **Care Ministry:** Many churches have a care or pastoral care committee dedicated to serving those within the congregation who are in need, whether due to illness, grief, or other life challenges. This service can include visitation, meal preparation, transportation, or organizing support for families during difficult times.
10. **United Women of Faith (UWF) or United Methodist Men (UMM):** These organizations offer additional avenues for service, focusing on missions, education, and community building. Serving within these groups allows you to contribute to a wide range of projects and initiatives that benefit both the local and global community.

For those with the spiritual gift of serving, finding the right committee or area of service in the church can be a fulfilling way to live out their faith, support their church community, and witness the love of Christ through their actions.

## Tongues

The spiritual gift of tongues, often characterized by speaking in languages unknown to the speaker, is a gift mentioned in the New Testament, particularly in the books of Acts and 1 Corinthians. In the United Methodist Church (UMC), the use and interpretation of spiritual gifts, including tongues, may vary widely across congregations due to its diverse and broad theology. However, here are some respectful and thoughtful ways that the spiritual gift of tongues might be incorporated within the United Methodist context:

1. **During Personal Prayer Time:** Encourage individuals with this gift to use it in their personal prayer life as a way to enhance their spiritual connection with God. This is often seen as a personal edification tool, helping to build one's faith and spiritual understanding.
2. **In Small Group Settings:** Within small, intimate prayer groups or Bible study settings, the gift of tongues can be used, especially if there is someone present with the gift of interpretation. This ensures that all members can benefit and be edified by the message being shared.
3. **During Worship Services:** If practiced during corporate worship, it should be done in a manner that promotes unity and edification for the entire congregation. This might mean having specific times during the service where those with the gift of tongues and interpretation can share, ensuring that it builds up the body of Christ and is done in an orderly fashion, as advised in 1 Corinthians 14.
4. **Prayer Ministries:** Individuals with this gift might be involved in prayer ministries, offering prayers in tongues for the church, its members, and the broader needs of the world. Again, the use of interpretation is key to ensure that the prayers are accessible to all.
5. **Mission and Outreach:** While not as directly applicable, those with the gift of tongues might find it especially meaningful to participate in mission work or outreach programs, particularly in settings where language barriers exist. Though the spiritual gift of tongues does not equate to the natural ability to learn languages, the openness to the Spirit's work might encourage and enhance cross-cultural communication and understanding.
6. **Spiritual Development Workshops or Retreats:** Offer workshops or retreats focusing on the Holy Spirit's gifts, including tongues, to educate and allow for a deeper understanding of how these gifts can be used for the common good.
7. **Pastoral Care and Counseling:** In some cases, individuals might use the gift of tongues as part of their prayer practices in pastoral care settings, with the aim of seeking divine guidance and support for those being counseled, always ensuring that it is done in a way that comforts and supports the individual receiving care.

It's crucial for any practice of spiritual gifts within the church to be guided by love, aiming for the edification of the church and the glorification of God. The UMC, with its emphasis on grace, scriptural holiness, and love, offers a broad framework within which the spiritual gifts can be understood and practiced in a way that is respectful, inclusive, and builds up the body of Christ.

The spiritual gift of tongues, often understood within the broader Christian context as the ability to speak in languages one has not learned or to utter speech that is considered to be divinely

inspired, holds a unique and sometimes debated place within various denominations, including the United Methodist Church. The United Methodist Church, with its emphasis on practical theology, social justice, and personal piety, might not prominently feature the gift of tongues in its worship services as some Pentecostal or Charismatic movements do. However, there are still meaningful ways for someone with this spiritual gift to contribute within the church's framework, particularly through its various committees and groups that focus on prayer, worship, missions, and pastoral care. Here are some committees where someone with the gift of tongues might find their spiritual gift beneficial:

1. **Prayer Ministry Team:** This team focuses on the power of prayer within the church, organizing prayer meetings, prayer chains, and special prayer events. Someone with the gift of tongues could contribute by participating in intercessory prayer sessions, where their gift might be used in personal prayer times or in more private settings within the church.
2. **Worship Committee:** The Worship Committee plans and organizes the liturgical life of the congregation. While the use of tongues might not be a central part of United Methodist worship services, someone with this gift could offer insights into deepening the spiritual experience of worship through diverse expressions of prayer and praise.
3. **Missions Committee:** Those with a passion for missions and a gift of tongues might find a unique role in international missions or local outreach programs that engage with diverse communities, including non-English speakers. This gift could potentially facilitate communication in cross-cultural ministry contexts, either supernaturally or through a motivated interest in learning new languages for ministry purposes.
4. **Spiritual Life Committee:** This group focuses on the spiritual development of the congregation, organizing retreats, workshops, and seminars. Someone with the gift of tongues could contribute by leading sessions on spiritual gifts, the role of prayer in spiritual growth, and the exploration of diverse spiritual practices within the Christian tradition.
5. **Pastoral Care Team:** Members of this team offer support and care to individuals facing illness, crisis, or other life challenges. While the use of tongues would likely be very limited and always sensitive to the pastoral context, individuals with this gift might find that their prayer life deeply enriches their ability to intercede for and empathize with those in need.
6. **Christian Education Committee:** This committee is responsible for the educational programs of the church, including Sunday school, Bible studies, and other learning opportunities. Someone with the gift of tongues could offer to lead studies on the Holy Spirit, spiritual gifts, and the New Testament accounts of the early church, providing insights into a broad range of spiritual experiences.

In each of these roles, it's important for individuals with the gift of tongues to operate with sensitivity and in accordance with the theological and doctrinal guidelines of the United Methodist Church. Open dialogue with church leadership and a humble approach to ministry can help ensure that this gift is used in a way that edifies the church and aligns with the congregation's mission and values.

## Teaching

The spiritual gift of teaching is a vital and enriching part of the United Methodist Church, helping to spread the knowledge and love of God through various means. Here are several ways to utilize the spiritual gift of teaching within your church community:

1. **Sunday School Teacher:** Take on the role of teaching Sunday School classes for different age groups, from children to adults. Tailor your lessons to meet the spiritual needs and understanding of each age group, using relevant Bible stories and teachings.
2. **Bible Study Leader:** Lead Bible study groups, focusing on deepening the understanding of Scripture. You can organize studies around specific books of the Bible, themes, or topics relevant to your congregation's needs and interests.
3. **New Member Classes:** Teach classes for new members of the church, providing them with a solid foundation in the beliefs, practices, and history of the United Methodist Church, as well as the broader Christian faith.
4. **Youth Mentorship:** Mentor youth in the church, guiding them in their spiritual growth, answering their questions, and helping them navigate the challenges of faith in today's world. This can be through one-on-one mentoring or leading youth group discussions.
5. **Workshop Facilitator:** Organize and facilitate workshops on various aspects of Christian living, such as prayer, spiritual disciplines, Christian ethics, and service. These workshops can help church members apply their faith in practical, everyday contexts.
6. **Sermon Preparation Assistance:** Assist the pastor in researching and preparing sermons, offering insights, commentary, and resources that enrich the message delivered to the congregation.
7. **Christian Education Coordinator:** If you have a passion for teaching and a knack for organization, consider coordinating the church's Christian education programs. This role involves planning curriculum, recruiting and training other teachers, and ensuring that educational programs meet the spiritual needs of the congregation.
8. **Mission and Outreach Education:** Teach and inform the congregation about mission and outreach opportunities. This includes educating about the importance of missions, what the church is involved in locally and globally, and how members can participate.
9. **Online Ministry Development:** With the increasing role of digital platforms in ministry, consider developing or contributing to online teaching ministries, such as writing devotional content, creating educational videos, or leading virtual Bible studies.
10. **Special Needs Education:** Develop or assist in programs tailored to meet the spiritual and educational needs of individuals with special needs, ensuring that everyone has access to learning about God's love and grace.
11. **Retreat Leader:** Lead retreats that focus on spiritual growth, biblical studies, and fostering a deeper relationship with God. These can range from day-long events to weekend getaways and can be aimed at specific groups within the church, such as men, women, couples, or families.
12. **Interfaith Dialogue Facilitator:** Teach about the importance of understanding and respecting other faith traditions while affirming the core beliefs of Christianity. This role could involve organizing interfaith dialogues or educational events that promote mutual understanding and respect.

Using your gift of teaching in these ways not only enriches your own faith journey but also significantly contributes to the spiritual growth and vitality of your church community. Each of these roles plays a crucial part in spreading the love and grace of God, making the church a beacon of light and hope in the community.

For someone blessed with the spiritual gift of teaching, serving in the United Methodist Church offers numerous opportunities to share knowledge, inspire understanding, and foster spiritual growth within the congregation. The United Methodist Church is structured to support a variety of ministries and activities, making it possible for those with teaching gifts to find their niche. Here are some committees and areas where the gift of teaching can be particularly valuable:

1. **Christian Education Committee:** This committee oversees the educational programs of the church, such as Sunday School, Bible studies, and vacation Bible school. Serving here allows you to shape curriculum, select study materials, and perhaps even lead classes, making it an ideal place for those with a gift for teaching.
2. **Discipleship or Spiritual Formation Committee:** Focused on the spiritual growth and discipleship journey of the congregation, this committee plans retreats, workshops, and small group studies. Teachers can contribute significantly by designing programs that encourage deep, reflective learning and personal growth.
3. **Youth Ministry Committee:** If you have a knack for connecting with younger generations and can communicate biblical truths in ways that are engaging and relatable, the youth ministry offers a fruitful ground for your teaching gifts. This includes Sunday School for youth, youth group activities, confirmation classes, and mentoring young believers.
4. **Missions and Outreach Committee:** While not immediately obvious for those with teaching gifts, missions and outreach provide opportunities to educate the church about global and local missions. Teaching can be through organizing informational sessions, leading mission trip orientations, or facilitating discussions on social justice issues from a Christian perspective.
5. **Worship Committee:** Teachers can contribute to the planning and execution of worship services by helping to educate the congregation on the elements of worship, the church liturgical calendar, and the significance of sacraments and traditions within the United Methodist faith.
6. **Stewardship Committee:** This committee is responsible for educating the congregation about the importance of giving and the biblical principles of stewardship. Someone with the gift of teaching can help develop materials and programs that encourage a deeper understanding and commitment to stewardship.
7. **Adult Ministry Committee:** Aimed at nurturing the faith of adults at various stages of life, this committee might organize studies, seminars, and events for singles, parents, and seniors. Your teaching gift can help create relevant and enriching content for these diverse groups.
8. **Library or Media Resources Committee:** If your church has a library or resource center, your teaching skills can be used to select educational materials, organize learning resources, and even conduct workshops on how to use these resources for personal study and growth.



9. **Safe Sanctuaries Committee:** Tasked with ensuring the safety of children, youth, and vulnerable adults within the church, this committee needs educators to develop training programs for volunteers, staff, and the congregation about safe practices and policies.
10. **New Member Orientation Committee:** This committee helps new members understand the beliefs, practices, and expectations of the United Methodist Church. Someone with a gift for teaching can play a crucial role in developing and delivering orientation sessions that are informative and welcoming.

By serving on these committees, someone with the spiritual gift of teaching can greatly enrich their church community, guiding others in their faith journey and helping them grow in knowledge and love of God.

# Apostleship

The spiritual gift of apostleship is a unique and powerful way to serve God and the community within the context of your United Methodist Church. This gift, rooted in the early apostles' ministry, involves pioneering new ministries and spreading the Christian faith. Here are several ways to utilize the spiritual gift of apostleship in your church:

1. **Church Planting:** Consider starting new church communities in areas where there is a lack of United Methodist presence. This could involve leading a group to establish a new congregation in underserved locations, focusing on outreach and community engagement.
2. **Mission Work:** Engage in local and international missions to spread the Gospel and serve communities in need. This could range from short-term mission trips to long-term service projects, focusing on both spreading the Word and meeting physical needs.
3. **Community Outreach:** Lead efforts to reach out to unchurched individuals in your community. This can involve organizing events, services, and programs designed to introduce people to the love and grace of God in a welcoming and non-threatening manner.
4. **Discipleship Training:** Develop and implement discipleship programs to mentor and equip new believers and church members for ministry. Focus on teaching them how to live out their faith in daily life and how to share the Gospel with others.
5. **Innovative Ministry Initiatives:** Pioneer new ministry initiatives that address the specific needs of your community or congregation. This could include starting new services or ministries aimed at different age groups, interests, or social issues.
6. **Interfaith and Ecumenical Engagement:** Lead efforts to work with other denominations and faiths to address community issues and promote understanding and cooperation. This can demonstrate the inclusive love of God and build bridges in your community.
7. **Spiritual Leadership and Mentoring:** Offer spiritual leadership and mentoring to individuals discerning their call to ministry or those seeking to deepen their faith. This involves providing guidance, support, and encouragement to help them grow in their spiritual journey.
8. **Evangelism Training:** Equip your congregation with the tools and confidence to share their faith with others. Organize workshops or seminars on evangelism techniques, focusing on respectful and effective ways to communicate the Gospel.
9. **Social Justice Initiatives:** Lead your church in addressing social injustices in your community and beyond. Advocate for the marginalized and oppressed, and mobilize your congregation to take action in ways that reflect God's love and justice.
10. **Supporting Global Christianity:** Engage with and support the global Christian community by forming partnerships with churches and Christian organizations in other countries. This could involve financial support, prayer partnerships, and mutual learning experiences.

Utilizing the gift of apostleship requires a willingness to step out in faith, embrace new challenges, and lead others in the mission of spreading the Gospel and serving God's kingdom. It's about pioneering, leading, and nurturing with a heart full of God's love and grace.

The spiritual gift of apostleship, characterized by a calling to establish and build up the church, leadership, and a heart for missions, fits well with several key committees within the United Methodist Church structure. Someone with this gift would be well-suited to serve in areas where they can pioneer new initiatives, strengthen church foundations, and extend the church's reach into the community and beyond. Here are some of the best committees for someone with the spiritual gift of apostleship:

1. **Missions Committee:** This committee is central to the church's outreach efforts, both locally and globally. A person with the gift of apostleship can use their passion for spreading the Gospel to inspire and mobilize the church in mission work, developing partnerships, and engaging in missionary support.
2. **Church Planting Team or New Ministries Committee:** If the church is involved in planting new congregations or starting new ministries, someone with an apostolic calling would thrive in leading or participating in these efforts. They can help discern new opportunities for growth, lay down foundational strategies, and guide the church in reaching unchurched communities.
3. **Evangelism Committee:** This group focuses on creating and implementing strategies to reach out to the community with the Gospel. An apostolic gift can be instrumental in developing innovative approaches to evangelism, training members in outreach, and creating opportunities for people to encounter Christ.
4. **Strategic Planning Committee:** Often tasked with envisioning the future direction of the church, this committee benefits from the forward-thinking and foundation-laying aspects of the apostolic gift. Those with this gift can help guide the church in setting long-term goals, identifying areas for development, and ensuring the church remains aligned with its mission.
5. **Discipleship or Christian Education Committee:** Focused on the spiritual growth and development of the congregation, individuals with apostolic gifts can contribute significantly to designing discipleship paths, mentoring programs, and educational opportunities that equip believers for ministry and mission.
6. **Stewardship Committee:** Managing the resources God has given the church is crucial for its mission and growth. An apostle-minded individual can help the church think strategically about the use of its resources, encouraging generous giving and responsible management to fund mission and ministry initiatives.
7. **Outreach or Social Justice Committee:** This committee focuses on addressing the needs of the wider community and advocating for justice. Someone with an apostolic calling can lead efforts to engage the church in meaningful service and advocacy, embodying the church's mission to transform the world.
8. **Leadership Development Committee:** Identifying and developing future leaders is essential for the church's health and growth. Those with apostolic gifts are well-equipped to mentor emerging leaders, recognizing and nurturing leadership potential within the congregation.
9. **Worship Committee:** While not immediately obvious, someone with an apostolic gift can contribute significantly to the planning and execution of worship services that are missional and inviting to newcomers, ensuring that worship is both a celebration of God's presence and a call to mission.

- 10. Connectional Ministries:** In the United Methodist structure, connectional ministries work to link the local church with the broader United Methodist Church. Someone with an apostolic gift can serve effectively in roles that bridge these connections, ensuring that the church is actively participating in the wider church's mission and ministries.

Serving in these committees allows individuals with the spiritual gift of apostleship to leverage their unique calling and abilities for the growth and edification of the church, aligning their efforts with the United Methodist Church's mission to make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world.

# Giving

Exploring the spiritual gift of giving within the context of a United Methodist Church can be both rewarding and impactful. The gift of giving is not just about financial contributions but also about offering time, talents, and resources to serve God's kingdom.

1. **Support Church Missions and Projects:** Contribute financially to specific missions or projects your church supports. This could range from local outreach programs to international missionary work. Your giving can help fund these initiatives, allowing the church to extend its reach and impact.
2. **Sponsor Scholarships for Youth and Adults:** Create or contribute to scholarship funds to support church members pursuing religious education, attending retreats, or participating in leadership training programs. This investment helps nurture the next generation of church leaders and active members.
3. **Donate to Church Maintenance and Improvement:** Allocate funds for the maintenance and improvement of church facilities. This ensures a welcoming and functional space for worship and community activities, enhancing the church's ability to host events and serve as a community hub.
4. **Support Church Members in Need:** Offer financial assistance or resources to members of your church community facing hardship. This could be through an established benevolence fund or personal gestures of support, reflecting God's love and care for each individual.
5. **Volunteer Your Time and Talents:** Beyond monetary contributions, giving can also mean offering your skills and time. Volunteer in various church ministries where your talents can best serve, such as teaching Sunday School, participating in the music ministry, or aiding in administrative tasks.
6. **Host Fundraising Events:** Organize or participate in fundraising events for church-related causes. Events could include bake sales, charity auctions, or benefit concerts. These not only raise funds but also foster community spirit and engagement.
7. **Encourage and Teach Stewardship:** Use your gift of giving to inspire others. Teach or lead discussions on the importance of stewardship, sharing how giving can be a spiritual practice that enriches both the giver and the receiver.
8. **Support the Wider Community:** Extend your giving beyond the church walls by supporting local charities, community projects, or social justice initiatives. This demonstrates the church's commitment to serving and loving their neighbors, in line with Methodist principles.
9. **Create a Legacy Gift:** Consider including your church in your estate planning. Legacy gifts can provide long-term support for your church's ministry and mission, ensuring that your spirit of generosity lives on.
10. **Pray for Guidance:** Regularly pray for wisdom on how to use your gift of giving. Ask God to guide you in making wise decisions that reflect His love and compassion, ensuring your contributions make a meaningful difference in your church and beyond.

By actively engaging in these practices, you not only embody the spirit of giving but also contribute significantly to the growth and outreach of your United Methodist Church. Your

actions can inspire others to explore their spiritual gifts, creating a ripple effect of generosity and service within your community.

For someone with the spiritual gift of giving within the United Methodist Church, their generosity can greatly benefit various aspects of church life and outreach. The United Methodist Church values the diverse gifts of its members and encourages their use in service to God and the community. Here are some committees and areas within the church where the gift of giving can be particularly impactful:

1. **Finance Committee:** This committee oversees the stewardship of the church's financial resources, making it a great fit for someone with the gift of giving. Members can contribute not only their financial resources but also their wisdom in managing and allocating funds in ways that support the church's mission and outreach programs.
2. **Missions or Outreach Committee:** Engaging with missions or outreach initiatives allows those with the gift of giving to directly support local and global mission projects. This could involve organizing fundraising events, managing mission funds, and encouraging others to contribute their resources and talents to mission efforts.
3. **Stewardship Committee:** The stewardship committee focuses on encouraging and managing the gifts offered by the congregation, including time, talents, and treasures. A person with the gift of giving can inspire generosity in others by sharing their understanding and practice of stewardship as a spiritual discipline.
4. **Trustees Committee:** Trustees are responsible for overseeing and maintaining the church's property and assets. Someone with the gift of giving can contribute significantly to projects that enhance the church's facilities, ensuring they are welcoming and well-equipped for ministry activities.
5. **Benevolence or Compassion Ministry:** This ministry focuses on providing support to those in need within the church and the broader community. A person with the gift of giving can play a key role in these efforts, whether through financial support, organizing aid drives, or connecting the church with community resources.
6. **Worship Committee:** While not immediately obvious, the worship committee can benefit from someone with the gift of giving, especially in providing resources for enhancing the worship experience, supporting special services, and ensuring that worship leaders have what they need to serve effectively.
7. **Building or Capital Campaign Committee:** For churches undergoing expansion, renovation, or building projects, someone with the gift of giving can significantly impact fundraising efforts and financial planning, ensuring that these projects are successful and align with the church's vision.
8. **Scholarship Committee:** If your church offers scholarships for students attending college or seminary, someone with the gift of giving can contribute to managing and fundraising for these scholarships, making education more accessible for members of the congregation.
9. **Education and Formation Committee:** This committee oversees the educational programs of the church, from Sunday school to adult Bible studies. Those with the gift of giving can support these programs through the provision of materials, resources, and scholarships for those wishing to pursue further theological education.

10. **United Methodist Women or United Methodist Men:** These organizations within the church focus on mission, outreach, and spiritual growth. Someone with the gift of giving can support their numerous projects and initiatives, both financially and through active participation.

By serving in these committees, someone with the spiritual gift of giving can profoundly impact the life of their church and its ability to serve and minister to others. Their generosity can inspire and enable a wide range of ministries and missions, furthering the kingdom of God through their faithful stewardship.

# Faith

The spiritual gift of faith is a profound and deeply personal gift that enables individuals to trust in God's promises, provisions, and presence with an unwavering confidence. In the context of the United Methodist Church, where the emphasis is on living out one's faith in both personal devotion and community engagement, there are numerous ways this gift can be utilized to strengthen and inspire the congregation. Here's how you might use the spiritual gift of faith within your church community:

1. **Prayer Ministries:** Lead or participate in prayer groups, intercessory prayer teams, or prayer chains, using your faith to intercede for others. Your strong trust in God's power can uplift and encourage those who are struggling, reminding them of God's faithfulness and love.
2. **Support and Counseling:** Offer support and spiritual counseling to those going through tough times. Your faith can be a beacon of hope for those in doubt or despair, helping them to see God's presence in their lives even in the midst of trials.
3. **Teaching and Mentoring:** Use your gift to teach Sunday school classes, Bible studies, or discipleship courses. Your conviction and trust in God's Word can inspire others to deepen their faith and understanding of the scriptures.
4. **Outreach and Evangelism:** Participate in or lead outreach programs, sharing your faith with the community outside the church. Your genuine confidence in God's grace can be infectious, drawing others towards exploring a relationship with Christ.
5. **Stewardship and Giving:** Encourage and model faithful stewardship of resources and generous giving, trusting in God's provision. Your example can help cultivate a culture of generosity within the congregation, based on faith in God's endless supply.
6. **Worship Participation:** Engage actively in worship services, perhaps as part of the worship team, choir, or as a liturgist. Your visible faith and enthusiasm in worship can encourage others to enter more deeply into the worship experience.
7. **Spiritual Guidance:** Serve as a spiritual mentor or guide for new Christians or those seeking to deepen their faith. Your strong foundation in faith can help others navigate their spiritual journeys with confidence.
8. **Mission and Service Projects:** Lead or participate in mission trips and service projects, locally or internationally. Your trust in God's guiding hand can inspire courage and determination in the face of challenges, demonstrating faith in action.
9. **Church Leadership:** Serve on church committees or in leadership roles, where your faith can guide decision-making and vision planning. Your confidence in God's leading can bring a sense of peace and direction to the church's future endeavors.
10. **Hospital and Home Visits:** Make visits to those who are ill or homebound, bringing them communion, prayer, and companionship. Your faith can offer comfort and reassurance of God's love and presence in their times of need.

Each of these activities provides a unique opportunity to express and share the gift of faith, making a tangible difference in the lives of individuals and the broader church community. Your unwavering trust in God can inspire others to explore and deepen their own faith, creating a ripple effect that strengthens the entire body of believers.



For someone with the spiritual gift of faith, serving on a committee within the United Methodist Church can be a fulfilling way to contribute to the church's mission and community. Your unwavering trust in God's promises, power, and presence can inspire and strengthen the faith of others. Here are some committees where the spiritual gift of faith could be particularly impactful:

1. **Prayer and Spiritual Life Committee:** This committee focuses on fostering a vibrant spiritual life within the congregation through prayer meetings, retreats, and other spiritual practices. Your strong faith can inspire others to deepen their prayer lives and trust in God's guidance.
2. **Missions and Outreach Committee:** Serving on this committee allows you to put your faith into action by organizing local and global mission projects. Your confidence in God's ability to transform lives can motivate others to participate in service and evangelism efforts, demonstrating the love of Christ in tangible ways.
3. **Stewardship Committee:** This group is responsible for encouraging faithful financial giving and resource management within the church. Your trust in God's provision can encourage others to give generously, trusting that God will provide for their needs.
4. **Worship Committee:** Being part of the team that plans and evaluates worship services gives you the opportunity to infuse services with elements that reflect deep faith in God. Your input can help ensure that worship is a time when the congregation is encouraged to trust deeply in God's character and promises.
5. **Pastoral Care Committee:** This committee supports the pastoral staff in caring for the congregation's spiritual and emotional needs. Your gift of faith could be particularly useful in comforting and uplifting those going through difficult times, reminding them of God's faithfulness and love.
6. **Christian Education Committee:** If you're passionate about teaching and learning, this committee oversees the educational programs of the church, including Sunday school, Bible studies, and other discipleship opportunities. Your faith can inspire curriculum choices that deepen trust in God and understanding of His word.
7. **Evangelism Committee:** This group focuses on reaching out to the unchurched community and making disciples. Your strong faith is crucial here, as it can embolden the church's efforts to share the gospel confidently, trusting in God's power to change hearts.
8. **Vision and Strategic Planning Committee:** Serving on a committee that focuses on the long-term mission and vision of the church requires a deep trust in God's direction. Your faith can encourage others to dream big and trust God for the growth and direction of the church.
9. **Crisis Response Team:** This team mobilizes in response to local or broader crises, providing support and resources. Your unwavering faith can be a beacon of hope in times of trouble, inspiring the church to trust in God's sovereignty and to act as His hands and feet in the world.
10. **Youth Ministry Committee:** Engaging with youth and guiding their spiritual formation can be particularly rewarding. Your example of faith can inspire young people to trust in God's plans for their lives, fostering a generation grounded in faith.

In each of these roles, your spiritual gift of faith can significantly impact your church and community, encouraging a deeper trust in God's providence, promises, and presence.

# Interpretation of Tongues

The spiritual gift of interpretation of tongues, as described in the New Testament, particularly in 1 Corinthians 12:10, 28-30, and 14:5, 13, 27-28, is a unique and powerful way through which God's Spirit empowers individuals to provide understanding of languages not known to them, especially in the context of Christian worship and ministry. In the United Methodist Church, as in many Christian denominations, the manifestation and use of spiritual gifts, including the interpretation of tongues, should be guided by love, edification, and order, aligning with the church's mission and doctrine. Here are some ways this gift can be utilized:

1. **During Worship Services:** If someone speaks in tongues during a service, an individual with the gift of interpretation can provide the meaning of the message to the congregation, ensuring that all present can be edified. This practice should be done decently and in order, as Paul instructs in 1 Corinthians 14, with the church leadership's guidance.
2. **In Small Group Settings:** Small groups or Bible study gatherings are often more intimate settings where spiritual gifts can be exercised in a safe and supportive environment. Someone with the gift of interpretation can serve the group by interpreting any message spoken in tongues, contributing to the group's spiritual growth and understanding.
3. **Prayer Meetings:** During times of congregational prayer, the gift of interpretation can be particularly meaningful. It can help clarify and direct the prayer focus if someone prays in tongues, especially when the interpretation reveals a specific prayer need or encouragement for the church.
4. **Mission and Outreach:** In contexts where the church is engaged in cross-cultural missions or outreach, the gift of interpretation can sometimes manifest in the understanding of actual foreign languages, enabling more effective communication of the Gospel. Though more commonly, interpretation serves within the spiritual context of interpreting spiritual tongues, it's a reminder of the Spirit's work in bridging divides.
5. **Personal Edification and Ministry:** Individuals with this gift can use it in their personal prayer life to interpret their own prayers when they pray in tongues, as Paul suggests in 1 Corinthians 14:13-14. This can lead to personal encouragement and insight, which they can then share with others for their edification, always aligning with Scripture and the leading of the Holy Spirit.
6. **Teaching and Equipping:** Those experienced in the gift of interpretation can help teach and mentor others in understanding and discerning spiritual gifts. Through workshops or educational settings, they can offer biblical insights and practical guidance on how to responsibly and respectfully exercise spiritual gifts within the church body.
7. **Worship Planning and Creative Arts:** In churches that incorporate prophetic arts into their worship, the interpretation of tongues can play a part in creating a powerful and unified message through various forms of expression, including music, drama, and visual arts, always ensuring that the focus remains on glorifying God and edifying the congregation.

It's important for churches, including the United Methodist congregations, to approach the exercise of spiritual gifts with a balance of openness to the Holy Spirit's movement and adherence to scriptural guidelines. This ensures that all things are done for the strengthening of the church and the glory of God.

The spiritual gift of interpretation of tongues, as described in the New Testament, particularly in the context of the United Methodist Church, may not directly correlate with typical church committee structures due to the denomination's theological and liturgical practices. However, someone with a deep understanding of spiritual gifts and a capacity to bridge linguistic, cultural, or spiritual understanding can still find meaningful avenues to serve within the church's framework. Here are some committees and areas where such gifts could be beneficial:

1. **Missions Committee:** This group focuses on local and global missions, and someone with a knack for understanding and interpreting languages and cultures could be invaluable. They could assist in communicating the needs of mission partners, translating materials, or facilitating cross-cultural relationships.
2. **Worship Committee:** While the direct interpretation of tongues may not be a routine part of United Methodist worship services, a person with a deep understanding of spiritual expressions can contribute to planning and implementing meaningful worship experiences that engage the congregation deeply and inclusively.
3. **Christian Education Committee:** This committee oversees the educational programs of the church, including Sunday School, Bible studies, and other learning opportunities. Someone with the gift of interpretation could help develop materials or programs that make complex theological concepts accessible to all ages and backgrounds.
4. **Outreach and Evangelism Committee:** Engaging with the diverse community outside the church walls, especially in areas with a high presence of non-English speakers, can benefit from someone who can cross linguistic and cultural barriers to share the gospel and connect individuals with the church community.
5. **Hospitality or Welcome Committee:** This team ensures that all who attend services or church events feel welcomed and included. A person with a gift for understanding and bridging language or cultural gaps can help make the church a more welcoming place for people of all backgrounds.
6. **Multicultural Ministry:** In churches located in diverse communities, a committee or ministry group focused on multicultural engagement can benefit from someone skilled in understanding and communicating across different cultures and languages, helping to foster a more inclusive and embracing church environment.
7. **Prayer Ministry:** While not a committee per se, a dedicated prayer group or ministry within the church can be a place where spiritual gifts are nurtured and practiced. Someone with the gift of interpretation might help in understanding and conveying the deeper spiritual needs of the congregation during times of prayer.
8. **Language Services Ministry:** If not already in place, initiating a ministry or service that focuses on providing translation or interpretation services during church events or services can be a significant contribution. This could include translating written materials, offering interpretation during services, or teaching language classes to help bridge gaps within the church community.

Each of these areas offers a unique opportunity to serve within the United Methodist Church, leveraging the spiritual gift of interpretation in ways that enrich and deepen the communal life of the church. It's also important for individuals to engage in ongoing dialogue with church leadership about how their gifts can best serve the congregation and its mission.

# Prophecy

The spiritual gift of prophecy, as described in the New Testament, particularly in 1 Corinthians 12:10, involves proclaiming God's truth and revealing His will to people. In the context of the United Methodist Church (UMC), this gift can be understood and utilized in ways that align with the denomination's doctrine, emphasizing grace, scriptural holiness, and the love of God. Here are several ways to use the spiritual gift of prophecy in your United Methodist congregation:

1. **Preaching and Teaching:** Use the gift of prophecy to deliver sermons and Bible studies that challenge, encourage, and convict the hearts of listeners according to Scripture. This involves not only foretelling in the predictive sense but forth-telling, as in proclaiming God's truth.
2. **Guidance in Decision-Making:** Offer prophetic insight during church meetings or personal counseling sessions to help discern God's direction for various ministry opportunities or individual life decisions. This requires a deep sensitivity to the Holy Spirit and a solid understanding of the Bible.
3. **Prayer and Intercession:** Use prophetic insight to guide prayer efforts within the church. This could involve praying for specific needs, people, or situations as the Holy Spirit reveals them, encouraging a dynamic prayer life within the community.
4. **Encouragement and Edification:** Through the prophetic gift, individuals can receive words of encouragement, comfort, and edification that align with God's Word. This can be particularly powerful in small groups or one-on-one pastoral care.
5. **Advocacy for Justice:** Prophetic voices are often called to speak out against injustice and to advocate for the marginalized and oppressed. This can be done through preaching, community involvement, and social justice initiatives, reflecting God's concern for justice as revealed through the prophets.
6. **Discernment of Spirits:** Use the prophetic gift to discern spiritual realities and to warn or guide the church in spiritual warfare. This may involve identifying false teachings, guiding the church away from harmful influences, or encouraging spiritual vigilance.
7. **Worship and Liturgy:** Incorporate prophetic insights into worship services and liturgical elements, ensuring that they point to Christ and align with Scripture. This could involve the selection of music, prayers, and liturgical acts that resonate with the current move of the Holy Spirit in the church.
8. **Evangelism and Mission:** Leverage prophetic insights to guide the church's evangelistic and missionary efforts, discerning where and how the church is called to spread the Gospel. This could also involve receiving specific messages for individuals or groups who are being reached out to.
9. **Personal Holiness and Spiritual Growth:** Encourage individuals within the church to seek and utilize the gift of prophecy for their personal spiritual growth and the pursuit of holiness, as part of their sanctification process.
10. **Community Engagement:** Use prophetic insight to identify and respond to the needs within the community, guiding the church in effective ministry and service that demonstrates the love and grace of God to others.

It's important to remember that the use of any spiritual gift, including prophecy, should be pursued with humility, accountability, and a heart aligned with God's love and grace. In the UMC, the Wesleyan quadrilateral—Scripture, tradition, reason, and experience—provides a helpful framework for discerning and validating the exercise of spiritual gifts, including prophecy, ensuring they are used in a manner that glorifies God and edifies the body of Christ.

Having the spiritual gift of prophecy within the United Methodist Church context means possessing a keen insight into God's will, offering guidance and revelation that aligns with Scripture, and being sensitive to the Holy Spirit's leading in the community. This gift can be crucial for discerning the direction of the church and providing wisdom in challenging times. For someone with this gift, serving on certain committees can amplify their contributions and align their spiritual gifts with the church's needs. Here are some ideal committees for someone with the gift of prophecy:

1. **Worship Committee:** Serving on the worship committee can allow a person with the gift of prophecy to contribute significantly to the planning and execution of worship services. Their spiritual insight can guide the selection of themes, scriptures, and songs that speak to the congregation's current spiritual needs and challenges, encouraging a deeper encounter with God.
2. **Vision and Strategic Planning Committee:** This committee focuses on discerning God's vision for the church and planning the strategic steps needed to achieve it. A prophetic gift can be invaluable here, helping to discern the direction the church should take and identify God's desires for the community's future.
3. **Mission and Outreach Committee:** Someone with a prophetic gift can offer essential guidance on where and how the church should engage in mission and outreach efforts. Their sensitivity to God's leading can help identify the needs that are most pressing and the areas where the church's efforts can be most effective.
4. **Christian Education Committee:** The gift of prophecy can enrich the church's educational efforts by ensuring that teaching and discipleship materials are spiritually relevant and biblically grounded. A prophetic perspective can help identify the spiritual needs of the congregation and ensure that the curriculum addresses current spiritual challenges and opportunities for growth.
5. **Prayer Committee:** The role of the prayer committee is crucial in interceding for the church and its ministries. Someone with the gift of prophecy can help guide this group's prayer focus, discerning specific areas where prayer is urgently needed and encouraging the church to seek God's will in all things.
6. **Stewardship Committee:** The stewardship of resources—whether time, talent, or treasure—is a vital area where prophetic insight can be valuable. This person can help discern God's guidance on how the church should allocate its resources for the greatest impact, both within the congregation and in the wider community.
7. **Social Justice Committee:** Engaging in social justice issues requires a deep understanding of God's heart for justice and mercy. A prophetic voice can help steer the church's efforts towards issues that are close to God's heart, encouraging action that aligns with biblical principles of justice and love.
8. **Pastoral Relations Committee:** This committee serves as a liaison between the congregation and its pastoral leadership. Someone with the gift of prophecy can offer

valuable insights into the spiritual well-being of both the pastor and the congregation, facilitating communication and understanding that supports the church's overall health.

For those with the spiritual gift of prophecy, engaging in these committees offers a unique opportunity to serve the church in ways that leverage their spiritual insights for the benefit of the whole community. Their involvement can help ensure that the church remains aligned with God's will and purpose, navigating challenges with divine wisdom and foresight.

# Wisdom

In the context of a United Methodist Church, the spiritual gift of wisdom can be a powerful tool for edification, guidance, and fostering a community that reflects God's love and grace. Here are several ways you can use the spiritual gift of wisdom within your church:

1. **Counseling and Pastoral Care:** Offer wise counsel to members of your congregation facing personal, spiritual, or ethical dilemmas. This can be through formal counseling sessions, pastoral visits, or informal conversations, always seeking to listen deeply and guide gently towards Godly solutions.
2. **Teaching and Discipleship:** Use wisdom to deepen the faith and understanding of others. This could be through Bible study groups, Sunday school classes, or discipleship programs. Tailor your teaching to meet the spiritual needs and questions of your congregation, providing insights that help them grow in their faith.
3. **Leadership and Decision Making:** Serve on or advise church committees and boards, contributing your wisdom to decisions about the church's direction, stewardship of resources, and community engagement. Your wisdom can help navigate complex issues and discern God's will for your church.
4. **Conflict Resolution:** Employ your gift of wisdom to mediate conflicts within the church, offering impartial, compassionate guidance to help resolve disputes in a manner that strengthens relationships and fosters forgiveness and reconciliation.
5. **Mentorship Programs:** Initiate or participate in mentorship programs within your church, pairing more experienced Christians with newer believers. Your wisdom can help guide these individuals through their spiritual journey, encouraging them and sharing insights from your own walk with God.
6. **Preaching and Homiletics:** When given the opportunity to preach, use your wisdom to illuminate Scripture in ways that are relevant and applicable to your congregation's daily lives. Focus on sermons that not only interpret the Bible but also apply its lessons in practical, actionable ways.
7. **Outreach and Social Justice Initiatives:** Guide your church in engaging with the community through outreach and social justice efforts. Use wisdom to identify the needs within your community and discern how your church can best serve, reflecting God's love and grace to all.
8. **Spiritual Guidance in Modern Issues:** Offer insights and wisdom on how to navigate the challenges of modern society in a way that aligns with Christian values. This could involve discussions on technology, social media, and contemporary moral issues, helping your congregation to engage with the world in a thoughtful, Christ-centered way.
9. **Encouraging the Use of Spiritual Gifts in Others:** Recognize and encourage the development of spiritual gifts in others. Use your wisdom to help individuals identify their gifts and understand how they can use them to serve the church and glorify God.
10. **Prayer and Intercession:** Utilize your wisdom in your prayer life, both personally and corporately. Lead prayer groups or prayer initiatives, interceding for your church, community, and the world, seeking God's guidance and will in all things.



Each of these actions can help build a stronger, more vibrant church community that actively lives out its faith in Jesus Christ, showing His love and grace to everyone. Remember, the effective use of spiritual gifts always points back to God, serving as a testament to His presence and power in our lives.

If you have the spiritual gift of wisdom, your insight and discernment can be a tremendous asset to your United Methodist Church. Wisdom involves understanding God's perspective and applying divine insights into practical matters, making wise decisions, and guiding others to do the same. Here are some committees within the United Methodist Church where the gift of wisdom would be especially valuable:

1. **Administrative Board or Church Council:** This is the main decision-making body within a local United Methodist Church, responsible for overseeing the church's ministry and operations. Someone with the gift of wisdom can provide invaluable guidance in making strategic decisions that align with the church's mission and vision.
2. **Finance Committee:** Managing the financial resources of the church wisely is crucial for its health and growth. Your ability to offer discerning advice on budgeting, stewardship campaigns, and financial planning can help ensure the church's resources are used effectively and in accordance with God's purposes.
3. **Trustees Committee:** This committee is responsible for the oversight and care of church property, assets, and investments. Wisdom is key in making decisions about the maintenance, improvement, and use of the church's physical resources in a way that supports its ministry goals.
4. **Staff-Parish Relations Committee (SPRC):** The SPRC acts as a liaison between the congregation and its staff and clergy. The gift of wisdom is particularly beneficial here, as this committee addresses personnel matters, supports the pastoral leadership, and helps navigate any conflicts or challenges that arise.
5. **Mission and Outreach Committee:** This group focuses on the church's efforts to reach out to the community and the world through service and evangelism. Someone with the gift of wisdom can help discern where and how the church should focus its outreach efforts to have the greatest impact.
6. **Christian Education Committee:** This committee oversees the educational programs of the church, including Sunday school, Bible studies, and other discipleship opportunities. Wisdom can guide the development of effective teaching and discipleship strategies that nurture faith and spiritual maturity.
7. **Worship Committee:** Planning and coordinating worship services that honor God and edify the congregation is the primary focus of this committee. The gift of wisdom is invaluable in selecting themes, music, and liturgical elements that resonate with the congregation and draw them closer to God.
8. **Stewardship Committee:** This group encourages generous giving of time, talent, and treasure within the congregation. With wisdom, you can help cultivate a culture of generosity that reflects a deep understanding of stewardship as a spiritual discipline.
9. **Long-Range Planning Committee:** For churches that have a specific committee focused on long-term vision and planning, someone with the gift of wisdom can help discern God's direction for the future and develop plans that are both visionary and achievable.

**10. Nominations and Leadership Development Committee:** This committee identifies, recruits, and trains future leaders within the church. Your wisdom can be crucial in recognizing individuals' spiritual gifts and potential for leadership, ensuring that the church's leadership is both effective and spiritually grounded.

In each of these roles, your ability to see through complex situations and offer godly insight can help guide your church in making decisions that are faithful to Scripture and beneficial for the community. Your wisdom can help ensure that the church not only grows in numbers but also deepens in spiritual maturity and impact.

# Leadership

The spiritual gift of leadership is invaluable within the context of a United Methodist Church, offering numerous avenues for guiding congregants toward deeper faith and service. Here are several ways to utilize this gift within your congregation:

1. **Leading Small Groups or Bible Studies:** Facilitate small groups or Bible studies, providing spiritual direction and fostering a deeper understanding of scripture. This setting allows for personal connections and spiritual growth among members.
2. **Mentoring:** Offer one-on-one mentoring to individuals seeking to grow in their faith or leadership skills. This can be especially beneficial for young adults, new Christians, or those feeling called to ministry.
3. **Church Vision Planning:** Participate in or lead committees focused on vision planning and strategic direction for the church. Your leadership can help align church activities with its mission and values, ensuring efforts are effectively guiding the congregation toward its goals.
4. **Outreach and Mission Work Coordination:** Use your leadership to organize outreach programs or mission trips, encouraging church members to serve the community and beyond. Leading by example in service can inspire others to live out their faith in tangible ways.
5. **Worship Service Participation:** Take an active role in planning and participating in worship services, whether through speaking, leading prayers, or coordinating volunteers. Your leadership can enhance the worship experience, making it more engaging and spiritually nourishing.
6. **Leadership Training:** Develop and lead training sessions for current and potential church leaders. Sharing your knowledge and skills can empower others to take on leadership roles within the church and their own lives.
7. **Conflict Resolution:** Serve as a mediator in times of conflict within the church community. Your leadership can help maintain unity, guiding members toward reconciliation and a deeper understanding of one another.
8. **Community Engagement:** Lead initiatives that connect the church with local community events or causes. By doing so, you not only increase the church's presence in the community but also demonstrate the love and grace of God through action.
9. **Youth Ministry:** Engage with the youth of your church by leading youth groups, Sunday school classes, or confirmation classes. Your influence can significantly impact young people's faith journeys, guiding them toward lifelong discipleship.
10. **Stewardship and Fundraising:** Take the lead in stewardship campaigns or fundraising efforts for church projects or missions. Your leadership can inspire generosity and a sense of shared purpose within the congregation.

Each of these roles leverages the spiritual gift of leadership to build up the church body, encourage personal and communal growth in faith, and extend the love and grace of God within and beyond the church walls.

For someone blessed with the spiritual gift of leadership within the United Methodist Church, there are several committees and roles where this gift can be effectively utilized to serve the congregation and further the mission of the church. Leadership in a church context is about guiding, inspiring, and organizing others to achieve a common goal, particularly in spiritual growth and service. Here are some of the best committee opportunities for someone with this gift:

1. **Church Council (or Administrative Board):** This is the main governing body of a United Methodist congregation, responsible for envisioning, planning, implementing, and evaluating the ministry of the church. A leader here can help set the direction of the church, mobilize resources, and ensure that the congregation's ministries are effective and aligned with the church's mission.
2. **Staff-Parish Relations Committee (SPRC):** The SPRC acts as a liaison between the congregation and its staff and clergy. With a gift of leadership, you can help ensure that the pastoral and staff team is supported, effective, and aligned with the church's vision. This role requires a blend of pastoral care, strategic thinking, and human resources skills.
3. **Trustees Committee:** This committee is responsible for the oversight and maintenance of church property, legal matters, and insurance issues. A leader in this area can help the church make wise decisions about its physical resources, ensuring they are used effectively for ministry and stewardship.
4. **Finance Committee:** Managing the church's finances, this committee plans budgets, oversees fundraising efforts, and ensures financial transparency and integrity. A gifted leader can guide the church in faithful stewardship, encouraging generosity and ensuring resources are allocated in alignment with the church's mission.
5. **Missions or Outreach Committee:** This committee focuses on local and global missions, outreach projects, and evangelism efforts. Someone with leadership skills can inspire and mobilize the congregation to engage in service, witness, and mission, expanding the church's impact in the community and beyond.
6. **Worship Committee:** Overseeing the planning and implementation of worship services, this committee works closely with the pastor and music ministry. A leader here can help create meaningful, engaging worship experiences that draw people closer to God and encourage active participation in the life of the church.
7. **Christian Education or Discipleship Committee:** Focused on educational programs, Bible studies, and discipleship pathways for all ages, a leader in this area can guide the development and implementation of effective learning and growth opportunities that nurture faith and equip believers for ministry.
8. **Stewardship Committee:** Different from finance, this committee encourages the practice of generous giving of time, talents, and treasures. A leader with the gift of motivation can inspire a culture of generosity and commitment to God's work through the church.
9. **Youth Ministry Committee:** If you have a passion for nurturing the faith of younger generations, leading the youth ministry committee can be very rewarding. This role involves planning programs, events, and missions opportunities for youth, encouraging their growth as disciples of Christ.
10. **Lay Leadership (or Nominations) Committee:** Chaired by the pastor, this committee identifies, develops, and supports future leaders within the congregation. Your leadership

gift can be instrumental in mentoring others to discover and use their spiritual gifts in service to the church and community.

Each of these committees offers a unique opportunity to exercise the spiritual gift of leadership in various aspects of church life. By serving where your gifts align with the needs of the church, you can make a significant impact in your congregation and community, fostering growth, engagement, and a deeper commitment to the mission of the United Methodist Church.

## Evangelism

Using the spiritual gift of evangelism in a United Methodist Church setting can be a profound way to connect with others, share the love and grace of God, and help grow the church community. Here are several ways to utilize this gift effectively:

1. **Personal Testimonies:** Sharing personal stories of faith and transformation can be powerful. Encourage church members to share how God has worked in their lives during small group meetings or as part of worship services. These testimonies can resonate deeply, providing real-life examples of God's love and grace.
2. **Community Outreach Events:** Organize events outside the church walls aimed at serving and engaging the community. Events like community meals, health fairs, or fun days can open doors for conversations about faith. Use these opportunities to invite community members to church activities and services.
3. **Social Media and Online Presence:** Utilize the church's social media platforms and website to share messages of hope, daily devotions, and information about upcoming church events. Online platforms can reach people who might not otherwise step foot in a church.
4. **Invitation and Follow-Up:** Encourage church members to invite friends, family, and neighbors to church services and special events. Make sure to have a welcoming committee or process in place to follow up with visitors, making them feel valued and seen.
5. **Service and Mission Projects:** Participate in or organize local and international mission trips and service projects. These activities not only meet physical needs but also open doors for evangelism through actions and words. They demonstrate the church's commitment to living out the gospel.
6. **Evangelism Training:** Offer training sessions for church members on how to share their faith effectively and respectfully. Equip them with knowledge about the Bible, how to answer common questions about faith, and how to share the gospel in a way that is loving and non-confrontational.
7. **Small Groups and Bible Studies:** Create a variety of small groups and Bible studies that cater to different interests and demographics within your community. These smaller settings are often more comfortable for newcomers and can facilitate deeper discussions about faith.
8. **Interfaith and Ecumenical Activities:** Participate in interfaith dialogues and ecumenical services. These settings can provide opportunities to share about the United Methodist understanding of the gospel while also learning from others.
9. **Youth and Children's Ministries:** Engage young people in your church through vibrant and relevant youth and children's ministries. Offer events, camps, and activities that cater to their interests and needs, providing a foundation for faith and opportunities for them to invite their friends.
10. **Prayer Ministries:** Develop a robust prayer ministry that supports evangelistic efforts. Prayer walks, intercessory prayer teams, and prayer chains can undergird the church's evangelistic outreach with spiritual power and guidance.

By utilizing these strategies, the spiritual gift of evangelism can flourish within the United Methodist Church, drawing more people into a life-transforming relationship with Jesus Christ. Remember, the goal is not just to increase numbers but to make disciples who will love God, follow Jesus, and serve the world with kindness and grace.

For someone with the spiritual gift of evangelism within the United Methodist Church, engaging in committees that align with this gift can be both fulfilling and impactful. Evangelism, the act of sharing the good news of Jesus Christ with others, is a foundational aspect of the church's mission. Here are some of the best committees and areas where this gift can be effectively utilized:

1. **Outreach and Evangelism Committee:** This is the most direct fit for someone with the gift of evangelism. This committee focuses on creating and implementing strategies to reach out to the unchurched or those disconnected from faith, inviting them into a relationship with God and community within the church.
2. **Missions Committee:** Working with the Missions Committee can provide opportunities to share the gospel both locally and globally. This involves planning mission trips, supporting missionaries, and engaging in local service projects that meet physical needs while also offering chances to share the Christian faith.
3. **Worship Committee:** Being part of the Worship Committee can allow an individual to contribute to creating a welcoming and engaging worship experience that speaks to both believers and seekers. They can work on incorporating elements into the service that clearly present the gospel message.
4. **Welcome or Hospitality Committee:** This committee focuses on making the church a welcoming place for newcomers. Someone with the gift of evangelism can use their enthusiasm and warmth to make guests feel at home, fostering an environment where people are more open to hearing the gospel.
5. **Christian Education Committee:** Serving on this committee allows for the development of educational programs that can include evangelism training for church members. By equipping others to share their faith, the reach of the church's evangelistic efforts can be multiplied.
6. **Youth and Young Adult Ministries:** Engaging with young people often provides unique opportunities to share the gospel. This committee plans and implements programming for youth and young adults, creating spaces where meaningful conversations about faith can happen.
7. **Communications Committee:** In today's digital age, the Communications Committee plays a crucial role in evangelism through social media, the church website, and other digital platforms. Someone with the gift of evangelism can contribute to creating content that shares the hope of the gospel with a wider audience.
8. **Community Service and Social Justice Committees:** Through involvement in these committees, individuals can participate in acts of service and advocacy that reflect the love of Christ. These actions often open doors to evangelistic conversations by demonstrating the gospel's impact on real-world issues.
9. **Prayer Ministry:** While not a committee in the traditional sense, being involved in the prayer ministry is crucial for supporting the church's evangelistic efforts through

intercession. This can include praying for outreach events, mission trips, and the effectiveness of the church's evangelistic endeavors.

10. **Stewardship Committee:** By working with the Stewardship Committee, someone with the gift of evangelism can help foster a culture of generosity within the church that supports evangelistic and mission efforts financially and through the dedication of resources.

In each of these roles, the unique contribution of someone gifted in evangelism can help the United Methodist Church fulfill its mission to make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world. It's about finding the right fit where this gift can be used most effectively to spread the good news.



## Compassion/Mercy

The spiritual gift of compassion or mercy is one of the beautiful ways God's grace and love are manifested through His people. In the context of a United Methodist Church, there are numerous avenues through which this gift can be utilized to serve others, build the community, and glorify God.

1. **Visiting the Sick and Elderly:** Members with the gift of compassion can be involved in visiting hospital patients, homebound members, or those in nursing homes. These visits can bring comfort, hope, and a sense of connection to those who are suffering or lonely.
2. **Support Groups:** Starting or volunteering in support groups within the church for those going through difficult times, such as grief, divorce, or illness, can be a powerful way to use compassion. These groups offer a space for sharing, healing, and mutual support.
3. **Community Outreach Programs:** Participating in or leading outreach programs aimed at helping the less fortunate in the community. This could include food pantries, homeless shelters, or services for those recovering from addiction.
4. **Prayer Ministries:** Being part of a prayer ministry where you intercede for others is a profound way to show compassion. This might involve praying with and for people during church services, through prayer chains, or in private settings.
5. **Mentoring and Counseling:** Offering to mentor youth, new Christians, or anyone needing guidance reflects Jesus' compassion. Similarly, those trained in counseling can provide emotional and spiritual support.
6. **Disaster Response Teams:** Joining or forming teams that respond to natural disasters or crises locally or globally shows mercy to those in immediate need. This could involve clean-up, repairs, or providing essential supplies and support.
7. **Benevolence Funds:** Managing or contributing to a church's benevolence fund, which helps members in financial distress, is a direct way to exercise mercy. This can cover bills, medical expenses, or other urgent needs.
8. **Special Needs Ministries:** Creating or supporting ministries that cater to individuals with special needs and their families shows a deep level of compassion and inclusion, making church a welcoming place for all.
9. **Prison Ministry:** Engaging in prison ministry by visiting inmates, leading Bible studies, or supporting their families, demonstrates God's love and mercy towards those society often forgets.
10. **Adoption and Foster Care Support:** Encouraging and supporting families who are fostering or adopting children shows compassion not just to the children but also to the families who are opening their homes.
11. **International Missions and Aid:** Participating in or supporting international missions and aid organizations that help those in poverty, war zones, or after natural disasters. This global perspective on compassion reflects the boundless nature of God's love.
12. **Listening and Counseling Ministry:** Establishing a safe space for people to share their struggles and burdens, offering a listening ear, and, when appropriate, godly advice, showcases the mercy God shows us.

These actions not only demonstrate the love and grace of God but also strengthen the fabric of the church community, making it a beacon of hope and love in the world. Each act of

compassion, no matter how small it may seem, is a reflection of Jesus' love for humanity and a step towards fulfilling the church's mission on earth.

For someone with the spiritual gift of compassion or mercy, serving in a United Methodist Church offers numerous opportunities to embody Christ's love and care for others. The church's structure and emphasis on mission and service provide a variety of committees and ministries where this gift can be fully utilized and appreciated. Here are some of the best fitting committees and ministry areas for someone with this gift:

1. **Outreach and Missions Committee:** This committee plans and implements the church's local, national, and international mission projects. With a heart for compassion, you can help identify needs within the community and beyond, and organize efforts to meet those needs, whether through food drives, disaster relief, or support for missionaries.
2. **Congregational Care Ministry:** This ministry focuses on caring for the spiritual, emotional, and physical needs of the congregation. It includes visitation to the sick and homebound, support for grieving families, and ministries that address specific needs such as counseling or support groups. Your gift of mercy will shine as you provide comfort and assistance to those in distress.
3. **Prayer Ministry:** Being part of a prayer ministry allows you to intercede on behalf of others, bringing their needs before God in prayer. This can include organizing prayer chains, hosting prayer meetings, and ensuring that the prayer needs of the congregation are met.
4. **Justice and Advocacy Groups:** United Methodist Churches often engage in social justice issues, advocating for change in areas such as poverty, inequality, and environmental stewardship. Your compassionate heart can drive efforts to raise awareness, educate the congregation, and take action on these critical issues.
5. **Health and Welfare Ministry:** Some churches have ministries dedicated to promoting health and well-being within the congregation and community. This could involve organizing health screenings, providing information on health-related issues, or supporting individuals and families facing health challenges.
6. **Stephen Ministry:** While not exclusive to United Methodist Churches, many participate in Stephen Ministry, a program that trains laypeople to provide one-on-one Christian care to individuals facing life challenges or crises. Your gift of mercy makes you an ideal candidate for this type of caring ministry.
7. **Children's and Youth Ministries:** Working with children and youth can be a fulfilling way to use your gift of compassion. You can serve as a mentor, teacher, or support to young people navigating the challenges of growing up, providing them with a safe and nurturing environment to learn about God's love.
8. **Welcome and Hospitality Committee:** This committee ensures that everyone who enters the church feels welcomed and valued. Your compassionate nature can help create an atmosphere of warmth and inclusiveness, making visitors and new members feel at home.
9. **Support and Recovery Groups:** If your church hosts or is considering hosting support groups (such as those for addiction recovery, divorce recovery, etc.), your compassionate listening and supportive presence can be invaluable to participants seeking healing and growth.

10. **Benevolence Fund Committee:** This committee manages funds designated for assisting those in financial need, both within the congregation and in the broader community. Your gift of mercy will be critical in discerning how to distribute assistance in a way that reflects God's compassion and care.

Serving on any of these committees allows you to put your spiritual gift of compassion or mercy into action, fulfilling a vital role in the life of the church and its broader mission to serve as the hands and feet of Christ in the world.

## Administration

The spiritual gift of administration is a valuable asset in any church community, including the United Methodist Church. This gift can enhance the effectiveness of church operations, foster unity and growth, and ensure that resources are used wisely and efficiently. Here are several ways to utilize the spiritual gift of administration within your United Methodist Church:

1. **Church Leadership Roles:** Serve on church committees or in leadership positions where organizational skills can directly impact the church's direction and health. This could include stewardship committees, church council, or trustees, where strategic planning and decision-making are crucial.
2. **Event Planning and Coordination:** Organize church events such as retreats, workshops, seminars, and fellowship gatherings. Effective administration ensures these events run smoothly, are well-attended, and achieve their intended spiritual and community-building objectives.
3. **Financial Management:** Assist in budgeting, financial planning, and financial oversight. Churches benefit greatly from individuals who can steward resources wisely, ensuring funds are allocated efficiently to support ministry work and community outreach.
4. **Volunteer Coordination:** Develop and manage volunteer schedules and roles, ensuring that volunteers are effectively utilized within their areas of talent and interest. This can greatly enhance the sense of community and participation within the church.
5. **Mission and Outreach Planning:** Take a leading role in planning and organizing mission trips and outreach projects. This includes logistical arrangements, team assignments, and ensuring alignment with the church's vision and goals.
6. **Communication and Information Management:** Oversee or assist with the church's communication efforts, including newsletters, email updates, and social media. Ensuring clear and effective communication within the congregation supports unity and keeps members engaged and informed.
7. **Resource Management:** Manage or oversee the allocation and maintenance of church resources, such as facilities, equipment, and supplies. Effective administration in this area ensures that the church's physical assets support its ministry activities.
8. **Educational Program Planning:** Work with church leaders to plan, organize, and implement educational programs such as Sunday School, Bible studies, and other discipleship opportunities. This includes curriculum selection, scheduling, and teacher support.
9. **Worship Service Planning:** Collaborate with clergy and music ministry leaders to plan worship services, special liturgies, and seasonal observances. Administration skills can help in scheduling, coordinating participants, and ensuring services are meaningful and well-executed.
10. **Strategic Planning:** Participate in the development and implementation of long-term strategic plans for church growth, ministry development, and community impact. This requires a clear understanding of the church's mission, vision, and values.

By utilizing the spiritual gift of administration in these ways, individuals can significantly contribute to the effectiveness and vitality of their United Methodist Church community. This

gift, when exercised in love and service, helps to build up the body of Christ, enabling the church to fulfill its mission more effectively.

The spiritual gift of administration is invaluable within the structure of the United Methodist Church, which operates through a variety of committees and teams to manage its ministries and operations effectively. This gift allows individuals to organize, manage, and lead with efficiency, making the church's vision a tangible reality. Here are some of the best United Methodist Church committees where someone with the gift of administration can thrive:

1. **Church Council (Administrative Board):** This is the primary administrative body of a United Methodist congregation, responsible for envisioning, planning, implementing, and annually evaluating the ministry of the congregation. Someone with administrative gifts can help ensure that the church's goals are clearly defined and achieved through effective planning and resource allocation.
2. **Finance Committee:** This committee is responsible for stewarding the financial resources of the church. An individual gifted in administration can contribute significantly to budget planning, financial reporting, and the oversight of financial policies and procedures, ensuring the church's financial health and accountability.
3. **Trustees Committee:** The Trustees oversee and maintain the church's property and assets. With an administrative gift, one can help manage the church's physical resources effectively, including maintenance plans, property improvements, and legal matters related to the property.
4. **Staff-Parish Relations Committee (SPRC):** The SPRC acts as a liaison between the congregation and its staff and clergy. An administratively gifted person can help manage personnel matters, including job descriptions, hiring processes, and the evaluation of staff performance, ensuring that the church's ministry needs are met efficiently.
5. **Missions Committee:** This committee oversees the church's outreach and mission efforts locally and globally. Someone with strong administrative skills can help plan, coordinate, and evaluate mission projects, ensuring they align with the church's vision and are executed effectively.
6. **Stewardship Committee:** Tasked with encouraging spiritual growth through stewardship and generosity, this committee benefits from administrative oversight to plan and implement effective stewardship campaigns, track progress, and communicate with the congregation about giving opportunities.
7. **Worship Committee:** While focusing on the planning and execution of worship services, an administratively gifted individual can contribute by coordinating schedules, resources, and logistics to ensure meaningful and seamless worship experiences.
8. **Christian Education Committee:** This committee focuses on the educational programs of the church, including Sunday School, Bible studies, and other learning opportunities. Someone with a knack for administration can help organize curricula, class schedules, and teacher assignments, ensuring the educational ministry is well-structured and effective.
9. **Nominations and Leadership Development Committee:** Responsible for identifying, developing, and deploying leaders within the church, this committee benefits from administrative talents in organizing leadership training events, maintaining a leadership database, and matching individuals' gifts with leadership opportunities.

10. **Communications Committee:** Overseeing the church's internal and external communications, including social media, newsletters, and the website, this committee can greatly benefit from someone with administrative gifts to ensure that messages are clear, consistent, and effectively distributed.

For individuals blessed with the gift of administration, these committees offer significant opportunities to serve and lead within the United Methodist Church, contributing to its mission and ministry in meaningful ways.

## Working Miracles

The spiritual gift of working miracles, as described in the New Testament, particularly in 1 Corinthians 12:10, is one of the charismata or spiritual endowments believed to be given by the Holy Spirit. It is a powerful manifestation of God's power through individuals for the edification of the church and to glorify God. In the context of a United Methodist Church, this gift can be understood and manifested in various ways that align with the denomination's theological beliefs and practices. Here are some ways the gift of working miracles can be utilized within your United Methodist congregation:

1. **Healing Services:** Organize special services dedicated to prayer and healing, inviting members and others in the community seeking physical, emotional, or spiritual healing. While the focus is on prayer, the expectation is that God can and does work miracles in response to faith and prayer.
2. **Community Outreach Programs:** Engage in outreach programs aimed at addressing the physical, emotional, and spiritual needs of the community. This might include feeding the hungry, supporting the homeless, or providing counseling services. Miraculous works can occur in the transformation of lives and circumstances through these acts of service.
3. **Prayer Ministries:** Establish a dedicated prayer ministry within the church that intercedes for the congregation, the community, and the world at large. This team can pray for miracles in the lives of individuals, including healing, provision, and divine intervention in challenging situations.
4. **Support Groups:** Create support groups for those going through difficult times, such as illness, loss, or addiction. Within these groups, the gift of working miracles can manifest as members experience breakthroughs, healing, and transformation through the support and prayers of the group.
5. **Faith-Based Counseling:** Offer faith-based counseling services that integrate prayer and reliance on the Holy Spirit to bring about healing and resolution to personal and relational issues. Miraculous changes can often occur through such counseling when both counselor and counselee are open to the Holy Spirit's work.
6. **Spiritual Warfare and Deliverance Ministry:** For churches that acknowledge and engage in spiritual warfare, a dedicated ministry to help individuals seeking deliverance from spiritual oppression can be a setting where miracles occur, setting captives free in dramatic ways.
7. **Witnessing and Testimonies:** Encourage members to share their testimonies of miracles and answered prayers within worship services or small groups. This not only glorifies God but also builds faith in the community to believe for their own miracles.
8. **Training and Equipping:** Offer classes or workshops on the gifts of the Spirit, including the gift of working miracles. Teaching on how to discern and responsibly exercise this gift can help prepare individuals to be used by God in powerful ways.
9. **Intercessory Mission Trips:** Organize mission trips with a focus on prayer and intercession for the areas visited. Such trips can be opportunities for miracles to occur as the team prays for the sick, oppressed, and unreached.
10. **Art and Creative Ministries:** Use the arts to convey stories of miracles and God's power. This could be through drama, dance, visual arts, or music. Such expressions can inspire faith and open people's hearts to the miraculous.

It's crucial to approach each of these avenues with humility, seeking not to glorify the individual or the church but to bring glory to God. It's also important to offer pastoral care and follow-up for those who seek miracles, ensuring they feel supported and loved regardless of the outcome. Integrating the spiritual gift of working miracles into the life of a United Methodist Church can greatly enrich the congregation's faith experience and witness to the community.

For someone with the spiritual gift of working miracles within the United Methodist Church, finding the right committee or ministry group where this gift can be most effectively used is essential. This gift, characterized by a profound trust in God's power to perform acts that are beyond human capability, can be nurtured and utilized in various aspects of church life. Here are some committees and ministry areas that might be especially suitable:

1. **Prayer and Healing Ministry:** Many United Methodist Churches have prayer teams or healing ministries focused on interceding for the sick, the troubled, and those in need of God's intervention. Your gift can be powerfully used here, praying for and with others, and witnessing God's miraculous works in the lives of individuals and the church community.
2. **Missions and Outreach Committee:** This group is often tasked with planning and executing mission trips and local outreach projects. Those with the gift of working miracles could significantly contribute to these efforts, especially in contexts that require divine intervention, whether it's in the form of physical healing, provision, or opening doors for the Gospel in challenging areas.
3. **Worship Committee:** While not immediately obvious, the worship committee can be a vital area for the use of miraculous gifts. Your involvement could help foster an atmosphere where the congregation is more open to experiencing the power of God during worship, including times of prayer, healing, and spiritual renewal.
4. **Disaster Response Team:** United Methodist Churches often respond to natural disasters and humanitarian crises through their own teams or in partnership with UMCOR (United Methodist Committee on Relief). Someone with the gift of working miracles could be crucial in these situations, not only providing practical help but also praying for and witnessing miraculous provisions and protections in the midst of catastrophe.
5. **Spiritual Formation or Discipleship Committee:** This committee focuses on the spiritual growth and development of the congregation. Your unique gift can contribute to designing programs and initiatives that encourage faith in God's power and presence, including workshops or seminars on the role of miracles in the Christian life and faith.
6. **Evangelism Committee:** Engaging in evangelism efforts with a belief in and experience of miracles can be a powerful testimony to the reality of Christ's kingdom. This committee strategizes on reaching out to the local community and beyond, where the gift of miracles can play a significant role in demonstrating God's love and power to non-believers.
7. **Pastoral Care Team:** Involved in ministering to the emotional, spiritual, and physical needs of the church body, those with the gift of working miracles can offer much-needed hope and tangible evidence of God's intervention in difficult circumstances, from hospital visits to home care.



In each of these committees or ministry areas, the key is to remain open to the Holy Spirit's leading and to seek God's guidance on where and how to use the gift of working miracles. It's also important to work closely with church leadership to ensure that your involvement aligns with the overall vision and needs of the church community. Communication and discernment are crucial, as is a humble and faithful heart that seeks not personal glory but the glorification of God and the edification of His people.

## Knowledge

The spiritual gift of knowledge, as referenced in 1 Corinthians 12:8, involves understanding the deep things of God and His Word, and then applying that understanding in a practical way to benefit the church body. In the context of a United Methodist Church, this gift can be utilized in various meaningful ways to edify the congregation and serve the community. Here's a list of ways you can use the spiritual gift of knowledge:

1. **Teaching Sunday School or Bible Studies:** Use your understanding of scripture and theology to teach others, helping them grow in their faith and understanding of God's Word. This could be through Sunday school classes, Bible study groups, or discipleship courses.
2. **Developing Educational Materials:** Write or contribute to the development of study guides, devotionals, or educational resources that help others deepen their biblical knowledge and spiritual understanding.
3. **Mentoring and Discipleship:** Offer one-on-one or small group mentoring sessions to guide others in their spiritual journey, using your gift to answer questions, explain difficult passages of scripture, and provide spiritual direction.
4. **Counseling:** Use your knowledge to provide biblically grounded counseling to individuals or families within the congregation who are facing challenges, offering them wisdom and guidance that aligns with Christian principles.
5. **Leading in Decision-Making:** Serve on church committees or in leadership roles where your knowledge can help guide decisions in a way that aligns with biblical teachings and the church's mission.
6. **Outreach and Evangelism:** Equip yourself and others with apologetics and a deep understanding of faith to effectively share the gospel and engage in meaningful conversations with those outside the church.
7. **Worship Planning and Liturgy:** Contribute to the planning of worship services, ensuring that the elements of worship are deeply rooted in scripture and tradition, enhancing the spiritual experience of the congregation.
8. **Writing for Church Publications:** If your church has a newsletter, blog, or other publications, use your gift to write articles that educate, inspire, and challenge the congregation in their faith journey.
9. **Supporting Youth Ministry:** Assist in youth ministry by teaching or developing curriculum that addresses the questions and challenges young people face, guiding them towards a deeper understanding of their faith.
10. **Advocacy and Social Justice:** Use your understanding of biblical principles to lead or participate in initiatives that address social injustices, advocating for change in a way that reflects God's love and righteousness.
11. **Prayer Ministry:** Lead or participate in a prayer ministry, using your knowledge of scripture to guide intercessory prayers that are deeply informed by the character and promises of God.
12. **Mission Work and Support:** Apply your knowledge to help plan, support, or directly participate in mission work, ensuring that efforts are theologically sound and effectively meet the spiritual and physical needs of those being served.

These ways not only allow individuals to utilize their spiritual gifts within the church but also encourage a culture of learning, growing, and serving together as a community of faith. This collaborative approach fosters a deeper connection within the congregation and with the broader community, allowing the church to be a beacon of knowledge, wisdom, and understanding that is rooted in the love and grace of God. By actively engaging in these activities, individuals can make a significant impact in their church and beyond, demonstrating the transformative power of God's Word in action.

For someone with the spiritual gift of knowledge, the United Methodist Church offers various committees and roles that can effectively utilize this gift to serve the congregation and community. This gift allows individuals to deeply understand and share God's Word and the teachings of the church with clarity and insight. Here are some of the best committees and roles where the gift of knowledge can be particularly valuable:

1. **Christian Education Committee:** This committee oversees the educational programs of the church, including Sunday School, Bible studies, and other learning opportunities. Someone with the gift of knowledge can contribute significantly by developing curriculum, teaching classes, or training other educators to provide insightful and theologically sound lessons.
2. **Discipleship or Spiritual Formation Committee:** This group focuses on the spiritual growth and discipleship of the church community. With the gift of knowledge, you could help design programs and resources that guide members in deepening their faith and understanding of Christian principles.
3. **Worship Committee:** While primarily focused on planning and executing worship services, this committee also benefits from members who can contribute theological knowledge and insights into hymn selection, liturgy, and the planning of sermon series that enrich the worship experience.
4. **Library or Resource Center Committee:** If your church has a library or resource center, your gift can be used to select, organize, and recommend resources that support the congregation's spiritual growth, Bible study, and theological education.
5. **Mission and Outreach Committee:** This committee organizes the church's mission work and outreach efforts. Knowledge of Scripture and Christian theology can be crucial in developing programs that are not only effective in serving the community but also in aligning with Christian teachings and the church's mission.
6. **Doctrinal or Theological Review Committee:** Some churches establish committees to review teaching materials, books, and resources for doctrinal accuracy. Your gift of knowledge would be invaluable in ensuring that all materials reflect the church's beliefs and values.
7. **Youth Ministry Committee:** Working with youth requires not only a deep understanding of faith and Scripture but also the ability to communicate these truths in ways that are engaging and relevant to younger audiences. Your knowledge can help develop programs that nurture the faith of young people in the church.
8. **Adult Ministry Committee:** Similar to youth ministry, adult ministry benefits from those who can offer deep insights into Scripture and theology, tailoring programs and studies that meet the diverse needs of adults in the congregation.

9. **Stewardship Committee:** While stewardship often focuses on financial aspects, it also encompasses the stewardship of life and resources according to God's Word. Your knowledge can help in teaching and encouraging biblical principles of stewardship within the church community.
10. **Ecumenical and Interfaith Relations Committee:** This role involves engagement with other faith communities and denominations. Your gift of knowledge can be crucial in fostering understanding, respect, and cooperation among diverse faith groups, grounded in a strong understanding of your own tradition.

Leveraging the spiritual gift of knowledge in these committees not only enhances the spiritual and educational offerings of the church but also supports the congregation's growth in faith and understanding of God's Word.

## Shepherding

The spiritual gift of shepherding, often associated with guiding, caring for, and nurturing the faith of others, finds a rich and fulfilling expression within the context of the United Methodist Church. Here are several ways to use this gift to serve and build up the church community:

1. **Small Group Leadership:** Take on the role of leading a small group, such as a Bible study, prayer group, or support group. This provides a direct way to shepherd individuals by facilitating discussions, providing spiritual guidance, and creating a nurturing environment for growth in faith.
2. **Mentoring and Discipleship:** Offer to mentor younger members or new believers in the church. This one-on-one relationship allows for personalized guidance, sharing experiences of faith, and helping others navigate their spiritual journey.
3. **Visitation Ministry:** Participate in or lead a visitation ministry that reaches out to the sick, elderly, homebound, or those in need of encouragement. Shepherding through visitation demonstrates the church's care and concern for all its members, reflecting God's love and grace.
4. **Counseling and Listening Ministries:** If you have the skills or can undergo training, providing counseling or being a part of a listening ministry can be a powerful way to shepherd others. Offering a compassionate ear and godly advice can help people navigate life's challenges with faith.
5. **Youth and Children's Ministry:** Engage with the church's youth and children through teaching Sunday School, leading youth groups, or participating in children's ministry events. Shepherding the younger generation is crucial for nurturing their faith and helping them understand God's love and grace.
6. **Worship Leadership:** For those who have a calling in this area, leading or assisting in worship can be a form of shepherding. Through music, prayer, and liturgy, you can help guide the congregation into a deeper experience of God's presence.
7. **Outreach and Missions:** Lead or participate in mission and outreach projects within your community or beyond. Shepherding isn't just for those within the church walls; it also involves reaching out with God's love to those who are not yet part of the faith community.
8. **Pastoral Care Teams:** Join or form a team dedicated to pastoral care, offering support and prayer for individuals and families during times of crisis, transition, or celebration. This ministry allows you to exercise shepherding by walking alongside others in their moments of need.
9. **Christian Education:** Use your gift to contribute to the educational ministries of the church, such as teaching adult Christian education classes, leading workshops, or facilitating seminars. Educating others about the Bible, theology, and Christian living is a vital aspect of shepherding.
10. **Administration and Leadership:** Shepherding can also be expressed through administrative roles, such as serving on church committees, boards, or in leadership positions where strategic decisions are made. Guiding the church in its mission and ministry requires a shepherd's heart to ensure that the church remains focused on serving God and others.

By identifying your specific calling within these areas, you can effectively use your spiritual gift of shepherding to contribute to the growth and health of your United Methodist Church community, always reflecting the love and grace of God in your service.

For someone with the spiritual gift of shepherding within the United Methodist Church, serving in roles that allow for personal connection, guidance, and nurturing of others is essential. Shepherds are gifted in caring for the spiritual well-being of individuals and groups, making certain committees and ministries particularly well-suited for their talents. Here are some of the best United Methodist Church committees and areas of ministry where someone with the gift of shepherding can thrive:

1. **Pastoral Care Committee:** This committee focuses on the care and support of church members during times of need, such as illness, grief, or personal crises. A shepherd can offer compassionate support, prayer, and practical assistance, embodying Christ's love and presence.
2. **Discipleship or Spiritual Formation Committee:** Involved in planning and overseeing programs for spiritual growth such as Bible studies, small groups, and retreats. Someone with the gift of shepherding can guide individuals in their spiritual journey, fostering a deeper relationship with God and with others in the community.
3. **Youth Ministry:** Shepherding young people through their formative years can have an enduring impact. This role involves mentoring, teaching, and providing a stable, caring presence for youth as they navigate their faith and life challenges.
4. **Adult Ministry:** Similar to youth ministry, but focused on adults. This could include leading adult Sunday school classes, small groups, or other spiritual growth opportunities. A shepherd can provide guidance, encouragement, and support as adults continue to explore and deepen their faith.
5. **Outreach or Missions Committee:** Shepherds can use their gifts to care for those outside the church walls, organizing and participating in mission work and outreach programs. This might involve local community service projects or support for international missions, always with a focus on nurturing relationships and showing God's love in action.
6. **Visitation Team:** Specifically dedicated to visiting those who are homebound, in hospitals, or in nursing homes. This ministry provides comfort and connection to those who may be isolated, offering a tangible expression of the church's care.
7. **New Member Integration:** Helping new members find their place within the church community is crucial for their growth and integration. A shepherd can ensure they feel welcomed, valued, and connected to the life of the church.
8. **Prayer Ministry:** Leading or participating in a prayer ministry allows shepherds to intercede on behalf of others, offer guidance in prayer, and support the spiritual needs of the congregation through the power of prayer.
9. **Children's Ministry:** Guiding children in their early faith development is a critical role. Shepherds can contribute by teaching Sunday school, leading children's church, or organizing faith-based activities that nurture children's understanding of God's love.
10. **Worship Committee:** While not directly pastoral in nature, shepherds can contribute to planning and facilitating worship experiences that nurture the congregation's spiritual life, ensuring that worship is accessible, meaningful, and welcoming to all.

Each of these roles leverages the natural inclinations of those with the gift of shepherding to care for, guide, and nurture others within the church community. By serving in these capacities, shepherds can significantly impact the spiritual health and growth of their congregation, fulfilling their call to lead others closer to Christ.

## Helps

In the United Methodist Church, the spiritual gift of helps is recognized as a vital part of the church's ministry, embodying the love and grace of God through service to others. This gift is about supporting, assisting, and uplifting the church community in practical and meaningful ways. Here are some ways you can use the spiritual gift of helps in your United Methodist Church:

1. **Volunteering for Church Events:** Offer your time and energy to help organize, set up, and manage church events such as potlucks, retreats, workshops, and community outreach activities. Your assistance can help these events run smoothly and foster a sense of community and fellowship.
2. **Participating in Visitation Ministries:** Join or form a visitation team that reaches out to church members who are homebound, in hospitals, or in care facilities. Your presence and companionship can be a profound expression of God's love and care for those who are isolated or suffering.
3. **Supporting Church Operations:** Assist with the day-to-day operations of the church, such as administrative tasks, maintenance, or landscaping. These tasks, though often behind the scenes, are crucial for the church's function and presentation to the community.
4. **Engaging in Community Service:** Represent your church in local service projects or missions. This could involve feeding the hungry, supporting shelters, or participating in environmental cleanups. Through these acts of service, you embody the church's mission in the wider community.
5. **Offering Technical or Creative Skills:** If you have skills in areas like website design, sound engineering, or graphic design, offer your talents to help enhance the church's ministries. Your expertise can support evangelism, education, and engagement, both in-person and online.
6. **Mentoring and Discipleship:** Use your gift to mentor new church members or youth, guiding them in their faith journey. Sharing your knowledge and experience can help others grow spiritually and feel more connected to the church community.
7. **Supporting Families and Individuals in Crisis:** Be a source of practical help and spiritual support for those going through tough times, such as illness, bereavement, or financial hardship. This might involve providing meals, transportation, or simply being a listening ear.
8. **Leading or Supporting Small Groups:** Facilitate or assist with small group ministries or Bible studies. These groups are vital for spiritual growth and community building within the church.
9. **Participating in Prayer Ministries:** Engage actively in the church's prayer ministry, offering intercession on behalf of others. This can include praying with and for people during services, in prayer groups, or through prayer chains.
10. **Encouraging Stewardship and Generosity:** Help organize stewardship campaigns or teach about the importance of generosity in the Christian life. This can help ensure that the church's ministries are well-supported and can continue to grow.



Remember, the spiritual gift of helps is not just about doing tasks but about serving with love, showing the grace of God in action. Each act of service, no matter how small it might seem, contributes to the body of Christ and reflects the love of Jesus to others.

The spiritual gift of helps is incredibly valuable within the context of church life, especially in the United Methodist Church, where community service and support are key components of its mission. This gift enables individuals to provide practical assistance and support in ways that encourage and uplift the church community. For someone with this gift, serving on certain committees can be particularly fulfilling and impactful. Here are some committees that would greatly benefit from the spiritual gift of helps:

1. **Outreach and Missions Committee:** This committee focuses on extending the church's mission beyond its walls, including local and global missions. Someone with the gift of helps can contribute significantly by organizing mission trips, local service projects, and community outreach events, offering practical support and encouragement to those in need.
2. **Hospitality Committee:** The Hospitality Committee ensures that everyone feels welcome and cared for within the church. Your gift can shine here by helping organize welcoming events, visitor follow-up, and fellowship activities, creating an inviting atmosphere for both newcomers and long-time members.
3. **Care and Visitation Committee:** This group is dedicated to caring for the congregation, especially those who are sick, elderly, or going through tough times. With the gift of helps, you can offer practical support through visits, meal preparation, transportation assistance, and emotional support, embodying the church's pastoral care.
4. **Facilities Committee:** Responsible for the maintenance and upkeep of the church's physical properties, those with the gift of helps can contribute their skills and labor to ensure the church environment is welcoming, safe, and functional for all activities.
5. **Worship Committee:** While the Worship Committee focuses on planning and executing worship services, individuals with the gift of helps can support by preparing communion, assisting with baptismal services, setting up for special services, and ensuring all logistical needs for worship are met.
6. **Christian Education Committee:** This committee oversees the educational programs of the church, including Sunday school, Bible studies, and other learning opportunities. With the gift of helps, you can support by organizing materials, assisting teachers, or even providing administrative support to ensure programs run smoothly.
7. **Youth and Children's Ministries Committee:** Serving on this committee allows those with the gift of helps to support the spiritual development of the church's young members. This could involve organizing events, outings, and service projects, as well as providing logistical support for youth and children's programs.
8. **Finance and Stewardship Committee:** Although this committee focuses on the financial aspects of church life, those with the gift of helps can assist in organizing stewardship campaigns, managing charitable programs, and even providing support in budget planning and fundraising events.
9. **Communications Committee:** This committee handles the church's internal and external communications. The gift of helps can be utilized in managing social media, updating the

church website, preparing newsletters, and ensuring the congregation is informed and connected.

10. **Emergency Response Team:** Some churches have committees dedicated to responding to emergencies within the congregation or community, such as natural disasters or personal crises. Individuals with the gift of helps are invaluable here, offering immediate practical assistance and support in times of need.

Serving on these committees allows those with the gift of helps to practically apply their spiritual gift, making a tangible difference in the life of the church and its broader mission. It's about finding where your skills and passions align with the needs of the church and its community.

## Exhortation

The spiritual gift of exhortation is a powerful tool within the church, serving to encourage, uplift, and guide the congregation towards spiritual growth and a deeper relationship with God. In the context of the United Methodist Church, where the emphasis on grace, community, and personal faith aligns well with the use of spiritual gifts, there are several ways to effectively employ the gift of exhortation:

1. **Encouraging Personal Growth:** Use your gift to motivate individuals to engage in personal Bible study, prayer, and other spiritual disciplines. This could be through personal conversations, leading small group studies, or providing resources and recommendations for spiritual development.
2. **Supporting Through Life's Challenges:** Offer words of encouragement and hope to those going through difficult times. Your exhortation can remind them of God's presence and love in their trials, helping them to see their struggles in the light of God's plan for them.
3. **Promoting Participation in Church Life:** Encourage active involvement in church activities, such as volunteer opportunities, mission trips, and educational classes. Highlight the benefits of serving and learning within the community of faith.
4. **Fostering a Culture of Encouragement:** Lead by example in creating an environment where church members feel valued and uplifted. Encourage the congregation to regularly affirm and appreciate one another, strengthening the bonds within the church family.
5. **Guiding New Believers:** Offer guidance and encouragement to those who are new in their faith journey. Help them to understand the basics of Christian doctrine and the United Methodist tradition, encouraging them to grow in their relationship with Christ.
6. **Preaching and Teaching:** If you are in a position to preach or teach, use your gift to exhort the congregation through sermons and lessons that challenge, encourage, and inspire. Focus on the application of Scripture in daily life and the transformational power of living in Christ.
7. **Leading by Example:** Live out your faith in a way that inspires others. Let your life be a testament to the grace and love of God, encouraging others to seek a deeper relationship with Him.
8. **Mentoring and Discipleship:** Engage in one-on-one or small group mentoring, focusing on spiritual growth and maturity. Use your gift to guide, motivate, and challenge others in their personal and communal faith journeys.
9. **Advocating for Justice and Mercy Ministries:** Encourage involvement in ministries that address social injustices and extend mercy to those in need. Highlight the importance of being the hands and feet of Jesus in the world.
10. **Celebrating Spiritual Milestones:** Make it a point to recognize and celebrate spiritual growth and milestones within the church community. This could include baptism anniversaries, confirmation, and other significant spiritual moments, using these occasions to encourage perseverance and faithfulness in the Christian journey.

By actively using the gift of exhortation in these ways, you can play a vital role in building up the body of Christ within your United Methodist Church, guiding others towards a deeper, more fulfilling relationship with God.

For someone with the spiritual gift of exhortation within the United Methodist Church, several committees and ministry areas could benefit greatly from your involvement. These committees are integral to the church's mission and outreach, providing numerous opportunities to encourage, uplift, and guide others in their faith journey. Here are some of the best fits for your unique spiritual gift:

1. **Pastoral Care Committee:** This group focuses on caring for the spiritual and emotional needs of the congregation, including visiting the sick, supporting grieving families, and providing encouragement to those going through tough times. Your gift of exhortation can be a source of comfort and hope to many.
2. **Discipleship or Christian Education Committee:** Involved in developing educational programs for all ages within the church, including Sunday School, Bible studies, and other spiritual formation opportunities. Your ability to encourage others in their faith journey would be invaluable in motivating participation and engagement in these programs.
3. **Outreach or Missions Committee:** This committee oversees the church's efforts to reach out to the local community and beyond, including mission trips, service projects, and evangelism efforts. Your gift of exhortation could inspire others to get involved and serve, highlighting the joy and fulfillment that comes from serving others in the name of Christ.
4. **Worship Committee:** Tasked with planning and overseeing the worship services, this committee aims to create a worship experience that facilitates a deep and meaningful encounter with God. Your exhortation gift could contribute to making the worship experience more engaging and spiritually enriching for the congregation.
5. **Youth Ministry Committee:** If you have a heart for young people, this committee works to guide the spiritual formation of the church's youth through activities, studies, and fellowship opportunities. Your encouragement could play a crucial role in shaping the faith of the next generation.
6. **Stewardship Committee:** This group focuses on encouraging the congregation to faithfully use their time, talents, and resources in service to God's kingdom. Your gift of exhortation can be used to inspire generosity and a deeper commitment to the church's mission.
7. **Evangelism Committee:** Dedicated to spreading the Good News and growing the church community, this committee plans outreach events and evangelistic efforts. Your enthusiasm and encouraging nature can be powerful tools in drawing others to Christ.
8. **Welcome and Hospitality Committee:** This team ensures that both newcomers and regular attenders feel welcomed and valued. Your gift can help create an inviting atmosphere that encourages people to engage more deeply with the church and its community.

Engaging in these committees allows you to use your spiritual gift of exhortation to build up the body of Christ, encourage others in their faith journey, and contribute to the growth and health of your United Methodist Church. Your passion and encouragement can make a significant difference in the lives of others and the overall ministry of your church.