The God Conversation

• What do you believe/know/hope about God?
• How do you experience God in your life today and/or in the past?
• How does belief in God shape how you understand yourself and others?
• How does your knowledge about God motivate you to act in the world?

The Gift Conversation

• Do you have a sense of your spiritual gifts and natural talents? What are they?
• Who has affirmed these gifts and talents in you?
• How have you used these gifts and talents to benefit others?
• How do you want to do with your gifts and talents?

The Passion Conversation

• Do something that you do well and enjoy doing?
• What are some things (social justice issues) that really “fire you up” or bother you?
• What are some things that you could do for long periods of time and never get bored?
• Has anyone ever commended you for your enthusiasm about something? What was it?

The Spiritual Growth Conversation

• In the Wesleyan tradition, we speak of “acts of piety” (Bible study, prayer, fasting, worship, sharing your faith, accountability, etc.) as ways to grow in our relationship with God. What acts of piety do you practice?
• What would it look like for you to connect with God daily? How do you make that happen? How would you use that time?
• How do you spend that time?
• Who in your life could you commit to staying accountable with in spiritual practices?

The Opportunities Conversation

• Has anyone ever given you an opportunity to use your gifts in leadership and service? Why did they offer it to you?
• What kind of opportunities are available for you in using your gifts, talents, and passions in the world in the month/months ahead?
• What could 2 or 3 people in your community do about the injustice issue that “fires you up” in the month/months ahead?
• What are you willing to do to open up more opportunities?

The Bonus Conversation

After you’ve had 5 Cups of Coffee and enjoyed some conversation, what do you need steps look like for both of you? Meet, or in a way that you can continue to support and encourage your mentor. Meet, or in a way that you can continue to support and encourage your mentor. Meet, or in a way that you can continue to support and encourage your mentor. Meet, or in a way that you can continue to support and encourage your mentor.

Discussion starters for asking questions about calling and discipleship

By Rev. Ashley Alley

Everyone wants to spend their lives doing something that has meaning, uses their gifts, and that is something they enjoy. God’s call for all people is, first, to be in relationship with God, and second, to work in the world. Friedrich Buechner speaks of the second type of call this way:

“The place where God calls you is the place where your deep gladness and the world’s deep hunger meet.”

Asking questions can help us unlock our deep gladness and how we experience the world’s deep hunger. Do you know someone struggling to know what God’s call is in his or her life? Invite them to join you for a cup of coffee and share with them in each of these 5 important conversations. You’ll both walk away with more than just 5 Cups of coffee. You may both open up with clarity about calling and discipleship.

Would you like more information?
Please visit www.ngumc.org/myumcall

Have questions?
Contact the Center for Clergy Excellence
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