

# Iowa Annual Conference Licensing School Discipleship Assignments 2019

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**All assignments are to be completed and written work emailed to: [lisa.larson@iaumc.org](mailto:lisa.larson@iaumc.org) no later than May 1, 2019. Also bring hard copies to class with you.**

**Required Text:** *Christian Education in the Small Membership Church*, by Karen Tye

**Recommended Reading:** *Transforming Evangelism: The Wesleyan Way of Sharing Faith*, by Henry H. Knight III and F. Douglas Powe, JR.

## **All written work must conform to the following style:**

- 12 font, Times New Roman, Double-spaced, 1” margins.
- Top of the first page: Student's full name, Names of Instructors, Course Title, Assignment Title, Date of paper.
- **Every page** after shall have a header with student's name and page number on the top of each page.
- Use either Word or PDF formats for all documents. **All saved documents must have the students name in the save file name.** Email the required documents (or any questions you may have about the requirements) to:

**Lisa Steel**  
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**Licensing School Assignments:** ALL Assignments Must Be Submitted By **May 1, 2019.**

1. Read *Christian Education in the Small Membership Church*.
2. Take the spiritual gifts assessment at
  - a. [http://www.umc.org/site/c.lwL4KnN1LtH/b.8051415/k.7502/Spiritual\\_Gifts\\_Quiz.htm](http://www.umc.org/site/c.lwL4KnN1LtH/b.8051415/k.7502/Spiritual_Gifts_Quiz.htm)
  - b. Click on “Begin Assessment.” You will only be able to respond to one answer in every grouping; the computer fills in the other answers automatically.

- c. When you have completed the assessment, you will be given the results online. Spend some time understanding your primary and secondary gifts, and your gift clusters, by clicking on the blue underlined gifts or clusters. They can also be printed if you wish to keep a copy of each.
  - d. At the bottom of the page, fill in your name, your email, Then in Email Address 2, fill in Rev. Mike Ellson's email - [Jesus42day@msn.com](mailto:Jesus42day@msn.com) and then in Email Address 3, fill in Rev. Dr. Kerrin Kirkpatrick's email - [kerrin1757@msn.com](mailto:kerrin1757@msn.com). Click on "email results"
  - e. **Bring a paper copy with you to Licensing School.**
3. Go to <http://www.humanmetrics.com/cgi-win/JTypes2.asp> and take the personality assessment. Include the results as part of your submitted pre-work (See Part II). You may want to use online or other resources to help determine what your personality style implies about you – both strengths and weaknesses.
  4. Email a copy of the call story you wrote for your certification process (see also Part II.2). Your call story is the story of how you came to understand your call to ministry, not your entire faith journey. Please include any Biblical Character that you might relate to as you think of your call story. If you have any questions, please contact Rev. Mike Ellson or Rev. Dr. Kerrin Kirkpatrick for further clarification.
  5. **Complete the questions below on a separate paper. The format for the paper is to write and list each question and then write your answer below the question. Please note the page limits for each section!**

**Written Work: Part I (4 pages total or less)**

**A. From the required text: Christian Education in the Small Membership Church by Karen Tye - Chapter 1, page 18:**

1. What was your definition of Christian education before reading this chapter?
2. How do you think the people in your current congregation would define Christian education?
3. Compare your definition and the congregation's definition with the one offered in this chapter. How are they alike or different?
4. In what ways has your thinking about Christian education been challenged?
5. Which of the four aspects of education – instruction, socialization, attention to development and transformation – are emphasized most at your current church?
6. Which appear to be missing?

7. What might be done to raise awareness in the congregation about the importance of all four?
8. What do you think is the purpose of Christian education?
9. What did you learn in this chapter that helps you think differently about purpose?

**B. From the required text: Christian Education in the Small Membership Church by Karen Tye Chapter 2, page 39:**

1. What do you think is important to know about children, youth, and adults in your current church?
2. What is your current church doing to educate adults?
3. What more could be done?

**C. From the required text: Christian Education in the Small Membership Church by Karen Tye Chapter 3, page 53-54 (modified):**

1. What could your new church be doing with Sunday School?
2. What did the concepts of a one-room school and homeschooling help you see about doing Christian education in this setting?
3. a. Who might help you think further about these images for your church? b. What next steps can you take?
4. At the bottom of page 89 of the required text, there is a summary that lists the ten guiding principles for Christian education in the small membership church. List each one of the ten and write one idea that comes out of each principle that you, as the pastor, can implement.

**Written Work: Part II (1 page or less)**

**D. Imagine that you are the newly appointed pastor of St. James United Methodist Church in rural Iowa. The church is located in a small town of approximately 1,500 people. Your congregation has a membership of 100 persons and the average attendance at your worship service is 35 on Sunday mornings. Many of those who attend church on Sunday mornings are retired and/or elderly. Those who attend on Sundays are faithful to the church and its ministries. The building is in average repair and is approximately 80 years old. Church finances are very tight on a month to month basis. Your church currently is not able to fully meet their portion of the Conference Apportionments or District asking and give \$1,000 per year to the Conference and \$300 to the District per year. You have 2 elementary children in your church and 3 youth. You have heard that the parents of the children and youth would like a better developed**

**program for their children and youth yet no one is able to provide these ministries at your church yet.**

1. Review and understand your strengths and weakness that you have for each area of your personality assessment. Record your personality assessment results at the top of the page. Use the format from the assessment. For example:

Extrovert (78%) Intuitive (50%) Feeling (62%) Judging (67%)

2. Review and understand your strengths of the **top four gifts** from your gift assessment, your call story, and strengths from your personality assessment. From each of these three areas think about how these could come together as strengths in your ministry, in partnership with the Holy Spirit. To assist you in this assignment review the Description of Spiritual Gifts included on pages 4-7.
3. As the appointed pastor at St James United Methodist Church (see above), write less than one page and included your **top four spiritual gifts**, things from **your call story** and how your **personality assessment** would help to disciple people and develop leaders at the St. James UMC. Please do not limit yourself to what you can **personally** do! Think about how God created and equipped you to disciple people and develop leaders.

## **DESCRIPTION OF SPIRITUAL GIFTS**

[www.UMC.or/what-we-believe/gifts-assessment](http://www.UMC.or/what-we-believe/gifts-assessment)

### **Administration**

The gift of administration allows a person to organize people and resources for greater efficiency, effectiveness and success. Administrators have the natural ability to apply resources where they will do the greatest good. Administrators are good with details and are deeply aware of how all the parts of a group or organization work together to achieve their goals.

### **Apostleship**

The gift of apostleship compels people to reach out to new and unfamiliar groups and individuals to invite them into relationship with God and community. Apostles share the story of faith in other lands, cultures, and traditions, as well as welcoming the stranger in their own land. Apostles extend the hand of friendship to those of other generations, nations, and languages. Many apostles desire to be missionaries.

### **Compassion**

The gift of compassion moves people to action on behalf of those in need. Compassion is not a simple caring about others, but such a radical caring that we have no choice but to make sacrifices for others. Those with the gift of compassion rarely ask "Should I help," but instead focus on how to help. Compassion makes us fundamentally aware of the Christ in others and springs from our desire to care for all of God's creatures and creation.

### **Discernment**

Discernment is a gift of deep intuition and insight. Discerning people can separate truth from fiction and know at a visceral level when people are being honest. Deeply sensitive and "tuned in," those with the gift of discernment are open to feelings, new ideas, and intuition as valid and credible information. Discernment is not irrational, but trans-rational-beyond empirical-knowledge.

### **Evangelism**

The gift of evangelism is the gift of faith-sharing and proclaiming the gospel of Jesus Christ to those we meet. Evangelism is primarily a one-to-one or small group experience, grounded in building relationships with others and inviting them to make a decision for Christ. Gifted evangelists do not force their faith on others, but offer relationship with God as a gift, and are ready to tell the story of God and Christ in their own lives.

### **Exhortation**

The gift of exhortation is manifest in people who offer encouragement, wise counsel, unflagging support, and empowerment. Those who exhort stay focused on helping people maximize their own potential and live from their own gifts and skills. Exhorters help people feel good about themselves, build confidence, and not grow discouraged. Often, those with the gift of exhortation make others feel good just by being present.

### Faith

The gift of faith is more than belief in Jesus Christ, but an abiding foundation of confidence that God works all things together for good, and that the people of God can rise above any obstacle. Faith is the bedrock upon which we build lives, congregations, and communities. People with the gift of faith hold fast to the deep conviction that no matter what we see with our eyes, we can trust the promises and plan of God.

### Giving

The gift of giving is the deep commitment to provide whatever resources are needed to support God's will and plan. In addition to radical generosity, those who possess the gift of giving have the uncanny ability to discover and channel new sources of money, time, and energy to needs. Money management skills, grant writing abilities, and the easy knack of asking for donations and cultivating donors are among common skills of gifted givers.

### Healing

The gift of healing is not about transferring spiritual power to eliminate suffering and disease, but the ability to channel God's grace and healing love to those who suffer physical, emotional, or spiritual pain. Healers are moved to be present with those who suffer. Healers pray for those who suffer, visit those who are ill, and are usually moved to extend a hand of comfort and touch to those who are afflicted. Healers give their time and energy to offering aid and comfort to others.

### Helping

Helping is a gift of support and behind-the-scenes effort that make groups, families, and congregations more effective. Not everyone is gifted to lead, but many are gifted to follow and handle the tasks that are so essential, but less glamorous. Helpers love to serve others, support others, and assist others in the important work of ministry and mission. Tireless in their willingness to serve, helpers are less interested in receiving thanks and recognition than in doing good, valuable work.

### Interpretation of Tongues

Those who are gifted to interpret tongues help build bridges across cultural, generational, and language divides. People who possess this gift have an innate ability to learn new languages and cultural practices, and can help others understand them as well. Foreign speaking people are attracted to those with this gift, and feel intuitively that they will be better understood and received by interpreters. Interpretation breaks down barriers.

### Knowledge

The gift of knowledge allows people to automatically convert facts, data, and information into useful and important knowledge. People with this gift can learn in a variety of ways, retain what they learn, and understand how learning can be applied in meaningful and productive ways. Those gifted with knowledge have a voracious and insatiable desire to learn more, and they seek multiple paths for deepening their understanding of God's world, God's will, and God's people.

### Leadership

The gift of leadership is a visionary, and forward looking gift that enables people to stay focused on where God might be leading us as individuals, congregations, and communities at any given time. Leaders look more to where we are going rather than where we currently are, or where we have been. Leaders motivate others to work together in ways that help them achieve more together than any could on their own. Leaders provide examples of how we should order our lives to honor and glorify God.

### Miracles

The gift of miracles is not about performing miracles, but about living in the miraculous reality of God's creation. Those gifted with miracles never doubt the power and presence of God in creation, and are able to help others see and believe in God's power. The gift of miracles does not focus on the extraordinary, but sees the miraculous in the mundane and normal. Living in the spirit of the miraculous, people see God in nature, in relationships, in kind acts, and in the power of love.

### Prophecy

The gift of prophecy is the ability to speak God's word to others, or more appropriately to be open for God to speak God's word through us. Prophets do not predict the future, but offer insight and perspective on current conditions and how things might turn out if changes aren't made. Prophets are incisive, clear, and often controversial, communicators. Prophets see things that others often don't, and they have the courage to "tell it like it ought to be."

### Servanthood

Servanthood is the gift of doing for others, sometimes to the exclusion of meeting personal needs. Servants look for ways to do for others both within and beyond the congregation and community. Servants do not choose to serve, but serve from a sense of identity and call. Gifted servants never feel put-upon or taken advantage of, but see each opportunity to do for others as a way to be true to self.

### Shepherding

The gift of shepherding is the gift of mentoring and providing spiritual guidance to others to help them develop in the discipleship and faith formation. Shepherds take an active and individualized interest in the life of faith of others. Shepherds share from their own faith journey to make the way easier for others. Shepherds are good at asking provocative questions, recommending appropriate resources and experiences, and helping people find their own way to the next level of their development.

### Teaching

The gift of teaching allows people to transform data and information into life changing knowledge. Teachers do not have to stand in front of a class to teach. Often gifted teachers communicate best in informal, one-on-one settings. Teachers have the uncanny knack of helping people learn effortlessly. People internalize and retain the knowledge and learning they receive from gifted teachers. Good teachers transform more than they inform.

## Tongues

The gift of tongues is a communication gift that allows people to speak foreign languages and convey concepts they never formally studied. People with this gift "pick up" the ability to communicate across barriers of language, culture, age, or physical limitation (some people with the gift of tongues work with the deaf or blind). The identification of the gift of tongues as a "secret" prayer language is often misunderstood. An individual manifesting the gift in this way must always be paired with someone who has the gift of interpretation of tongues. These gifts are given for the up building of the body of Christ.

## Wisdom

The gift of wisdom allows people to understand deeper meaning and apply knowledge, beliefs, and experience to everyday situations. Wise, gifted individuals make connections and help other make them as well-to understand the implications of our beliefs and actions. Those gifted with wisdom often understand root causes of disagreements, conflict, and barriers to growth and development. People with wisdom help others understand and clarify options to make good decisions.

## **Evaluation:**

1. Instructors will be looking for critical engagement with the texts. We want to be able to see that you have read, and thought critically about, the texts.
2. Your papers will be assessed and feedback given on your ability to synthesize what you read and use it to develop your own abilities to grow disciples and leaders.
3. You will also be evaluated on your level of engagement and interaction in class.

## **Discipleship In-Class Objectives:**

1. Students will understand their personalities and giftedness, and how to use their gifts and abilities to grow disciples.
2. Students will gain understanding of the process and purpose of developing a comprehensive plan for the educational ministries of the church and be able to articulate the purpose of teaching ministries as making and maturing disciples for Jesus Christ. They will understand this as a lifelong spiritual journey of Christian formation and transformation.
3. Students will be able to identify learning opportunities in the local church beyond Sunday church school, including administrative committees, confirmation classes, weekday education for all ages, pastoral emergencies, fellowship experiences, retreats, small groups, mission trips, and youth groups.
4. Students will gain an understanding of cultural styles, ways in which persons learn, and different methods for different learning experiences.
5. Students will understand the pastor's role in teaching, equipping, and supervising persons in teaching ministries. They will know resources, methods, and current models for studies, especially Bible, in the local church, and be able to develop a plan to call, equip, and support leaders for teaching ministries.