

Discerning My Personal Mission

Our overall purpose in life is to *enjoy and extend God's abundant life of freedom, love, and peace*. How we express this varies from person to person in the roles we serve. We discover our mission when we align our aspirations with God's purpose to establish shalom in the world. This involves prayerfully listening to our hearts for what gives us life, seeing how our gifts intersect with some need, and hearing feedback from others to clarify our call.

Step 1: What do I love to do?

To know your aspirations, ask yourself:

As a child, what absorbed me in play?

When do I feel energized and most alive?

What do I secretly dream of doing?

If I had only one year to live, what would I do?

What common things emerge with these?

Aspiration Action Words on the next page.

Identify action words that reflect your aspirations. In the columns below, underline words that fit you. Then, from these underlined words, circle 1-3 three verbs or actions that best express what gives your life meaning and joy.

» Accomplish	» Communicate	» Drive	» Grant	» Mediate	» Realize
» Acquire	» Compete	» Educate	» Guide	» Model	» Receive
» Act	» Complete	» Embrace	» Heal	» Mold	» Reclaim
» Adopt	» Compliment	» Encourage	» Hold	» Motivate	» Reconcile
» Advocate	» Compose	» Endow	» Host	» Move	» Reduce
» Advance	» Conceive	» Engage	» Identify	» Negotiate	» Refine
» Affirm	» Connect	» Engineer	» Illuminate	» Nurture	» Reflect
» Alleviate	» Construct	» Enhance	» Implement	» Open	» Reform
» Analyze	» Counsel	» Enjoy	» Improve	» Organize	» Relate
» Appreciate	» Create	» Enlighten	» Improvise	» Participate	» Relax
» Bake	» Debate	» Enliven	» Inspire	» Perform	» Release
» Believe	» Decide	» Entertain	» Integrate	» Persuade	» Remember
» Bestow	» Defend	» Enthuse	» Involve	» Play	» Renew
» Brighten	» Delight	» Evaluate	» Keep	» Possess	» Resonate
» Build	» Deliver	» Excite	» Know	» Practice	» Respect
» Call	» Develop	» Explore	» Launch	» Praise	» Restore
» Cause	» Demonstrate	» Express	» Laugh	» Prepare	» Return
» Choose	» Design	» Extend	» Lead	» Present	» Revise
» Claim	» Devise	» Facilitate	» Learn	» Produce	» Sacrifice
» Coach	» Direct	» Finance	» Live	» Progress	» Safeguard
» Collaborate	» Discover	» Foster	» Love	» Promote	» Satisfy
» Collect	» Distribute	» Gather	» Make	» Provide	» Save
» Combine	» Draft	» Generate	» Manifest	» Pursue	» Sell
» Command	» Dream	» Give	» Master	» Read	» Serve

Write in box A the word(s) you circled above.

A: I love to:

Step 2: What do I deeply value?

Values are those things we regard as having ultimate worth, importance, or significance in life. Some values include:

- » Beauty
- » Freedom
- » Humor
- » Knowledge
- » Resourceful
- » Wisdom
- » Compassion
- » Generosity
- » Inclusion
- » Leisure
- » Service
- » Other:
- » Diversity
- » Honor
- » Integrity
- » Love
- » Simplicity
- » Equality
- » Hope
- » Joy
- » Order
- » Sustainability
- » Faith
- » Hospitality
- » Justice
- » Peace
- » Truth

To know your core values, ask yourself:

What are my action words (in Box A) directed to?

What principles, causes, or qualities am I devoted to?

What's most important to me?

B: I deeply value:

Step 3: Who/What am I here to serve?

To see who and what you're here to serve, ask yourself:

Who needs what I have to offer?

Who or what do I care most about?

Who or what am I drawn to?

C: I am here to serve:

Step 4: Write your mission statement.

Write one sentence that puts pieces A, B, and C together. For now, this is your personal mission statement in life.

My mission is to . . .