

In 2013, I began my seminary courses that would lead up to my becoming a Commissioned Pastor. In my Old Testament course, one of our assignments was to write a Psalm using one of the styles found in the Book of Psalms. I chose to use parallelism, in which the words and themes of one line mirror those of the line immediately before or after.

Having been involved in Stephen Ministry since 2005, my thoughts easily gravitated in that direction as I considered what to write about. It will sound familiar to some of you.

A Psalm for a Stephen Minister

Make me a sentinel for your people in pain.
Your world is filled with anguish.
Where will you send me, speak clearly for me to hear;
Help me to listen for that still, quiet voice.
Grant me the knowledge and faith that my goal is the process, not the result,
For I am only the caregiver and you, Lord, have the cure.
Take away any thought of myself,
For dying to myself clears the way for others.
Keep my lips sealed from loose gossip.
Those entrusted to my care must have confidence in me.
Give me patience with the frail lives I meet,
And grant me a creative mind that will bring hope.
Allow me to know and accept my own feelings,
That I may see others without judging them.
Help me to know my own limitations,
Pride is my worst enemy.
Allow me a moment to feel the joy
That comes from being an instrument of your peace.

Our Session is considering re-activating this ministry in our church. Is there a place in it for you? There will be a question and answer session on Sunday, Jan 9 at 9:45 in the Triple Room. Come join us – no obligation, just information.

Peace,
Mike Slayter