

REFLECTIONS ON: A VISION STATEMENT FOR ST. PHILIP ANGLICAN CHURCH

5. We believe God's Spirit is the guide and inspiration for our life as a Christian community. We therefore trust God's Spirit to raise up among us the gifts of God's people as they are needed to enable the ministry God desires within our community and in compassionate service to God's world.

The church is an interdependent community. If we are to witness to the transforming presence of God in our midst, we each need to fulfill our own particular role. But no one can know for anyone else what function God may be calling them to fulfill.

Speaking about the gifts God has given to the followers of Christ, Paul says, "All these are activated by one and the same Spirit, who allots to each one individually just as the Spirit chooses." (I Corinthians 12:11) It is the Spirit of God who guides us to take our place in the church.

At St. Philip's we reject all methods of pressure, guilt and manipulation to "get the job done." The only "job" the church has is to encourage each person to open to God's presence and action in their lives. We believe that as we open more deeply to the Spirit of God in our lives, God will direct us to take our place in life and ministry.

There is a corporate dimension to Christian life. We are called into community. We do belong to one another. How we manifest this belonging will depend upon our own gifts, our own life situations, and our own god-given individual character. God is in charge and God will provide the resources to get done anything God desires to get done among us.

How is God calling me to express the corporate dimension of faith?

What does it look like for me to be part of a Spirit-directed community?