

MINISTRY AS VOCATION

in Church Universal and Triumphant®



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The ministry is a profound calling and an opportunity to offer one's gifts and talents on the altar of God. To enter the ministry is to commit one's life to the path of sacrifice, surrender, selflessness and service in the expression of love for God and His* creation. The minister builds a sacred trust with the members of the congregation and all whom he serves. This trust demands honor, integrity, fairness and unconditional love and acceptance of others.

New Opportunities in a New Era

As we live in a new millennium, changing needs call for a new kind of minister – an Aquarian Age minister. What is an Aquarian Age minister? The Aquarian minister's primary role is to love each soul and to be a wayshower on the spiritual path, modeling how a soul reunites with the Christ Self. As servant to the Christ in each person he serves, the minister nurtures each one on their spiritual path. A servant leader, he sees the spiritual potential of people and supports them as they seek to actualize that potential.

The minister relates to everyone from an open, loving heart, without emotional reaction. He suspends judgment, seeks to understand, and offers illumination and compassion. He is positive and harmonious, focusing on building up rather than on finding fault.

The Aquarian Age minister . . .

- Loves and honors the Christ in each person.
- Is a servant first, and a leader second.
- Considers serving others an honor and a high and holy calling.
- Teaches by example.
- Holds the unique gifts of each person in the congregation and encourages those gifts to grow and be fruitful.
- Facilitates the establishment and growth of varied lay ministries through which individuals can fulfill their passion to serve others, such as service to families, youth and children and those needing adoption, hospice, the elderly and infirm.
- Teaches others to develop and conduct worship services and decree services and encourages wide participation in conducting the services.
- Assists others in creating an environment in which the congregation and individuals grow spiritually.
- Preaches sermons that are practical and uplifting, sharing his love of God and man in the delivery of every message.

*Since gender-neutral language can be cumbersome, we have used *he* and *him* to refer to God or to refer in general to the individual. The terms are not intended to exclude females or the feminine aspect of the Godhead. God is both feminine and masculine.

I call you ...
 who would be
 ordained ministers
 of Church Universal
 and Triumphant
 that you might
 always remember
 that the minister is
 the servant of the
 Christ in souls
 mounting unto the
 Shekhinah glory of
 the Mother of Israel.

Gautama Buddha

- Is a lifelong learner who inspires others to become lifelong learners.
 - Participates in and facilitates a spiritual education program for all ages.
 - Shares the masters' teachings on the sacraments and conducts sacramental services—Baptism, Eucharist and First Communion, Marriage, Holy Unction.
 - Conducts and teaches others to conduct cremation and memorial services.
 - Is a welcome participant in the social life of the Church.
 - Participates in developing the shared practical and spiritual mission, vision, goals, strategies and action plans of his congregation—helping to bring the congregation's dreams into reality.
 - Is consistently fair. In resolving conflict, he listens to all concerned before drawing any conclusions.
- Provides spiritual counseling, for example, pre-marital counseling and counseling on problems with children or relationships.
 - Is willing to be available twenty-four hours a day to respond to crises whenever they occur.
 - May represent the Church and/or the local congregation in a local ministerial association.
 - May serve on national and international committees for the Church.

In short, the ministry is about teaching others successful living in the spiritual sense. A minister is one who can, through the Holy Spirit, impel people to their inner reality and exhort them to action.

The Ministering Servant

Ministering to life begins with developing the heart of a ministering servant. The path of the ministering servant is something we all share as spiritual devotees. It is the path whereby we apply our unique spiritual gifts and talents to a "personal ministry." Our personal ministry is often referred to as our "dharma" or "vocation."

As we pursue the ministry we must also have a "sacred labor." Our sacred labor is how we earn a living. Our beloved Messenger, Elizabeth Clare Prophet, said that we all need to have mastery in the physical just as Jesus learned his craft as a carpenter. That was his sacred labor. We all must have a sacred labor and demonstrate practical spirituality to the world.

Mrs. Prophet told us that as ministering servants we should seek to serve other people, to love and support them, to be a loyal friend to them and to offer help to them whenever there is a need. She said, "It is everyone's divine plan to be a ministering servant."

Not everyone ministers in the same way. Some minister to the youth, or work in a hospice setting. Others lead services, tend the altar of their local church, or bring meals to those who are ill or elderly. All paths are sacred and all have a divine purpose.

Some of us know unerringly how we are meant to offer our gifts or minister to others in this life; others may need to experiment by serving in several different arenas before finding their niche or personal ministry.

Ministry as Vocation

All who are called to be ministers must be constantly learning so that they might have in their hearts the influx of light to give forth in the self-emptying process.

Lanello

As a minister, your vocation is the way you have chosen to express your love, how you serve and minister to others. It is your spiritual contribution to life on this planet. And your sacred labor is your profession as a working member of society.

Most of the ministers in our Church are bi-vocational: they have a job and they also serve at our altars in our teaching centers and study groups. In general their ministerial service is given in a volunteer capacity.

To serve our members and seekers well, our ministers will need ongoing “education of the heart” as well as a strong academic training, provided in the Church’s ministerial training program.

What Are the Spiritual Qualities of an Aquarian Minister?

An Aquarian minister has profound faith, an earnest desire to serve and a deep love of God and his fellowman. His heartfelt desire is to share what he has experienced whenever it will assist another on the spiritual path. Hope and joy permeate his demeanor as he serves all life.

The minister’s character, personal integrity and purity of heart give power to his preaching of universal Truth, which can set people free. The minister knows he is not perfect, yet has a strong desire to help others. Humility and a freedom from self-consciousness enable him to be modest, loving and courteous to all. He relates to every soul as a child of God who carries a precious gift for all mankind.

Empowered by the Holy Spirit, the Aquarian minister is courageous. He will hold fast to truth in the face of opposition and will stand alone if he must. Though his mission is a holy calling and he has a deep respect for that which is sacred, he can laugh at himself and help others to see life’s circumstances in a more positive light.

The minister has a compassionate heart and helps those he serves to cope with and overcome the burdens of life, identifying with their pain without feeling sorry for them. He sees his body as a temple of the Holy Spirit and strives to take good care of it.

Lay Brothers/Lay Sisters, Lay Ministers and Ordained Ministers

Church Universal and Triumphant recognizes three steps in embracing the ministry.

The first step is to become a lay brother or lay sister. Lay brothers and lay sisters serve actively in our groups and congregations worldwide.

The second step is to receive the mantle of lay minister.

Lay ministers are appointed for a period of three years and perform most ministerial tasks and functions. This period is designed to help new ministers decide if their desire for the ministry is truly a lifelong calling and the right fit for their dharma in life. Sometimes lay ministers serve in this capacity for a longer period before a decision regarding ordination is made.

The third step, ordination, follows when lay ministers show through loving care and active ministering to congregations and souls in need that indeed, the vocation of minister is their deep desire and lifelong path.

An ordination ceremony celebrates this important step in a minister's life.

Pursue the Word
and Work of the
Lord. Accelerate
what service is given
to you. Minister to
the life around you.
Love all life free,
including yourself.

Mother Mary

A Formal Training Program

For many years, ministerial training in our Church was given in Summit University, the Church's educational branch. More recently, ministerial training was conducted by the Church's Department of Ministry, in the form of a three-year program where students studied a particular topic for three months, then travelled to a central location for a weekend intensive on that topic.

Starting in 2013, ministerial training has come once more under the aegis of Summit University, conducted by SU's School of Theology and Spiritual Studies. SU has developed a program that is conducted largely online with a few in-person intensives, which makes ministerial training much more accessible to our worldwide membership.

Below we describe the two phases of this new training program.

Ministering Servant Certificate Program

Our ministerial studies begin with Phase 1, the Ministering Servant Certificate Program. This program is designed to give those who desire to follow the path of the ministering servant the necessary skills and tools to do so effectively. Graduates will be well equipped to pursue their sacred labor and to lovingly assist life as true ministering servants.

The Ministering Servant Certificate Program also prepares students for the mantle of lay brother/lay sister in Church Universal and Triumphant. This mantle is given to qualified

graduates at the Church's discretion. Lay brothers and lay sisters will play an active, well-defined role in ministering to our worldwide congregations and in growing our beloved Church.

Ministerial Training Certificate Program

Phase 2 of our ministerial studies program is the Ministerial Training Certificate Program. It offers training for those who, through their ongoing service to others, have discovered that they have a profound calling to enter the ministry as a profession, as a vocation; in other words, to dedicate their lives to the ministry.

Those who have received the mantle of lay brothers or lay sisters will be eligible to enter this program, which is designed to prepare them to serve as ministers of Church Universal and Triumphant, either full-time or part-time.

Many students anticipate serving as local pastors. However, a graduate of the program might specialize in a certain area of ministry, for example, prison ministry, healing ministry, teaching ministry, youth ministry, music ministry, or institutional chaplaincy. Or a graduate might become a missionary or serve on the Church's national or regional staff while still tending to his local congregation.

After a waiting period of two-and-a-half years from receiving the office of lay brother or sister and the successful completion of Phase 2, lay brothers and sisters are eligible to apply for the office of lay minister.

Sponsorship

In 1998, Mrs. Prophet other announced the exciting news that the Ascended Master Djwal Kul received the mantle from the Darjeeling Council to sponsor the Church's ministerial training program. Sponsorship of a program by an ascended master is a profound blessing; it offers the students a unique opportunity for personal transformation while participating in that program.

Your Calling

If serving life and embracing the ministry as your vocation speaks to your heart, consider applying for Summit University's ministerial studies program at www.SummitUniversity.org. We would love to hear from you!

The chelas are coming to your heart. You are the ones that they will see. They will not see me at first, or even the Messenger. They will see you! By your love and joy and mastery and the giving of yourself, they will know that they are Home.

Lanello

