

16 Declarations of faith of the Assemblies of God

XI the Ministry

Involvement in ministry in response to a divine call is scripturally ordained in the Bible. It is a provision of our Lord Jesus Christ for the fourfold purpose of leading the church in

1. Evangelization of the world **Mark 16:15** And He said to them, "Go into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature. **16** He who believes and is baptized will be saved, but he who does not believe will be condemned
2. Worship of God **John 4:23** But the hour is coming, and now is, when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth; for the Father is seeking such to worship Him. **24** God *is* Spirit, and those who worship Him must worship in spirit and truth."
3. Building a body of believers conforming to the life of Christ **Ephesian 4:11** And He Himself gave some to be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, and some pastors and teachers, 12 for the equipping of the saints for the work of ministry, for the [e]difying of the body of Christ, 13 till we all come to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to a perfect man, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ; 14 that we should no longer be children, tossed to and fro and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the trickery of men, in the cunning craftiness of deceitful plotting, 15 but, speaking the truth in love, may grow up in all things into Him who is the head—Christ— 16 from whom the whole body, joined and knit together by what every joint supplies, according to the effective working by which every part does its share, causes growth of the body for the edifying of itself in love.
4. Compassion to the world **Galatians 6:10** Therefore, as we have opportunity, let us do good to all, especially to those who are of the household of faith.
 - Every believer contributes to the church (body of Christ)
 - Through gifts, talents, service, ministries, and finances
 - God wants to use every believer to fulfill this fourfold purpose of the church
 - We are all called to a degree into ministry for the advancement of the church

Jesus Himself calls believers into ministry

Every believer has been called to serve in the ministry of the church and priesthood

1 Peter 2:9 But you *are* a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, His own special people, that you may proclaim the praises of Him who called you out of darkness into His marvelous light;

- We have all been called to this royal priesthood
- As priests, we minister to God and we minister to people
- With one purpose: To proclaim Jesus

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Jesus calls all believers to be a part of the church ministry

We can all answer this call in the local church

He also calls some for special ministry in the body of Christ

The Apostle Governs: they plant and oversee churches rather than people

He is like the Heart revealing compassion & strategy for advancing the Kingdom

The Prophet Guides: declares the word of God for

He is like the Mouth communicating guidance

The Teacher Grounds: teaching the principles, and standards of the word of God

He has the Mind of Christ to bring wisdom and understanding

The Evangelist Gathers: Reaches out and evangelizes

These are the Hands that are always reaching out to souls

The Pastor Guards: Feeds, leads, corrects, guards

These are the Feet leading the sheep to pasture and the paths of righteousness

The significance of this doctrine

An important New Testament teaching is **“the priesthood of all believers”** A spirits-filled believer is a local Pentecostal assembly and should be prompted by the spirit to minister to or edify the rest of the body (church) in some way. However, since new believers **MUST BE** disciplined or trained to minister and serve, God made provision for spiritual leaders within the body to teach, train, and guide the congregation to serve both within and outside of the local church. These specially ordained ministers today include pastors, evangelists, and teachers of the Word. They should be recognized as Christ’s gift to the church Ephesians 4:11 and given appropriate respect and appreciation.

This truth is important because the success any assembly has in fulfilling its mission depends to a great degree on Holy Spirit-anointed leadership. This calling is first subjective like a fire shut up in your bones and becomes objective as you begin to minister and respond to the calling that God is making to your life. Through the word, prayer, worship, service in the church, and guidance of the holy spirit as He leads you.