

# CHARACTERISTICS AND INTERESTS

## PARTICULARLY VALUABLE TO THOSE SERVING IN SPECIALIZED PASTORAL MINISTRY

The following characteristics and interests are typically possessed by those serving in Specialized Pastoral Ministry (SPM). A person is likely to be effective and comfortable serving in SPM if he or she already possesses these or is open to developing them:

1. Willing to serve in a non-parish ministry;
2. When considering various ministerial duties, would find pastoral/diaconal care visits or counseling most rewarding;
3. Able to work in a pluralistic context while maintaining a strong Lutheran identity;
4. Capable of working without contextual or confessional LCMS support;
5. Comfortable around people of all races, cultures, religions, sexual orientations, etc.;
6. Attends to self-assessment and self-awareness;
7. Finds that others talk about deep, personal matters;
8. Values and nurtures emotional intelligence;
9. Can readily engage in crisis or emergency ministry; and
10. Does not need to be the primary person in charge — can work for a secular boss.

