

**Spiritual and Vocational Formation in the ELCA Candidacy Process:  
Taken from the Language of the Candidacy Manual Itself  
The Rev. Jonathan Linman, Ph.D. August 2005**

Spiritual and vocational formation for ministry is well-nurtured through a variety of faith practices. Toward offering a plan for your own spiritual and vocational formation, briefly comment on the following:

**Worship** – describe your worship life, the kinds of services you plan to attend and participate in:

**Prayer** – describe your prayer life; what kinds of prayer activities do you plan to engage in?

**Bible Study** – how do you plan to engage the scriptures devotionally beyond your academic studies?

**Disciplined faith practices** – what other kinds of spiritual practices do you plan to engage in (e.g. spiritual direction, group discipleship experiences, retreats, personal devotions, daily prayer)?

**Service to others** – describe how you intend to serve others in your Christian life:

**Personal Stewardship** – describe the nature of your personal stewardship of all that God has given you, how best you will employ your many gifts:

**Self-care** – describe how you plan to practice healthy self-care, commenting on how you will attend to the categories identified on the ‘Wholeness Wheel’ (intellectual, social and interpersonal, emotional, physical, and vocational well-being):

**Vocational discernment** – describe the ways in which you will engage in ongoing vocational discernment:

**The communal dimension of spirituality** – describe your intended participation in Christian community:

**Connection to Christian traditions** – describe how your faith practices will be consistent with the hearty traditions of the Christian life in evidence throughout history:

**Modeling Christian living** – describe how your faith practices will serve as a model of Christian living for others; will your spiritual practices be evident to others?

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Spiritual well-being is rooted in baptism, where we know with joy that we are a new creation in Christ. Comment on how you intend to live out the themes of the baptismal covenant "to live among God's faithful people, to hear his Word and share in his supper, to proclaim the good news of God in Christ through word and deed, to serve all people, following the example of our Lord Jesus, and to strive for justice and peace in all the earth" (LBW, p. 201), being as specific as you are able:

Spiritual well-being involves the intellectual life – comment on how you intend to nurture the life of the mind while in seminary and beyond:

Spiritual well-being involves social and interpersonal dimensions – comment on how you intend to nurture important relationships with family members and friends and also how you intend to connect meaningfully to the wider society:

Spiritual well-being involves the emotional life – comment on how you intend to nurture your emotional health while in seminary and beyond:

Spiritual well-being involves physical health – comment on how you intend to stay physically fit while in seminary and beyond:

Spiritual well-being also involves our vocational life – comment on how you intend to live faithfully into your calling as it expresses itself in particular contexts in seminary and beyond:

