

Outreach and Christian Formation: Gifts Discernment

One of the integral parts of ETS is developing a Rule of Life, a practice of prayer. Out of her practice Maggie Latimer, a 2002 ETS graduate, felt called to consider the gifts she possesses and, by extension, the gifts others possess. Out of this practice Maggie discovered a gift for leading teams by being attentive to what people bring to the table and inviting them to use their best gifts, those they want to explore or develop.

Subsequently Maggie was invited to become a facilitator for the *Created and Called Gifts Discernment Workshop* and knew that this was God's call to expand her work with gifts, believing that "God had been preparing me for this, it felt like the right thing to do."



"People are afraid to talk about their gifts, fearful that they will seem egotistical. The process we use invites others to observe and comment on the gifts people possess. I love bringing this to churches and groups across the diocese and developing relationships with people from all over the place. This is what I loved the most about ETS, the community we built based in a desire to serve God."

Over the past four years Maggie, and a team of six co-facilitators, have led *Created and Called Gifts Discernment Workshops* in the Kanawha Deanery, the Regional Ministries Commission, Disciples Net and offered it throughout the diocese.