

Exercise: The Vision Statement

A Personal Vision Statement

We begin this seminar with the development of a personal vision statement. We use this statement in this seminar to emphasize that your time at the MCMCAP begins with dreams and visions you hold for the life that is still ahead of you. We ask you to write a vision statement that is reflective of who you are and what your sense of calling, purpose, vocation, or meaning of life. Vision statements are helpful for many reasons, but primarily they are used as a tool to encourage you to consciously reflect on who you are and what you are doing at the MCMCAP. As you progress through your service experience here, you will find that you will take many side roads, you will wander off the path, hurry ahead of yourself, and even become unsure and hidden in the brambles. We have found that a personal vision statement is helpful when the way becomes cloudy; to return to a written statement of your essence and purpose in life can often help you forget your chosen path.

Definitions¹:

- *“Values:* ‘Concepts, principles, or standards that drive one’s decisions and actions.’ Examples of values are honesty, persistence, dependability, self-sufficiency, and faith.”
- *A vision statement:* ‘A statement of three or four sentences describing a desired future – not a predicted future.’ Here is an example of a vision statement (stated as if the vision has already been achieved, so that it is positive and powerful): ‘I am a person who is peaceful and an example to others of that peace, which comes from faith in God. I am considered to be an inspirational teacher of great integrity. I lead a simple life style that includes plenty of time for me, my family, and my friends as well as service to others.’

During this process it is critical to ensure consistency between values and the vision statement. If these components are not consistent, it is not possible to devise a workable plan.”

We also see this vision statement as highly fluid. As you continue your service, we hope that some of your initial ideas and longings remain the same and we also hope that you will become more service minded. To this end, the personal vision statement is a malleable document that begins today, will be submitted formally at the end of the seminar, and will continue to represent you and your becoming while at MCMCAP. The following exercise is a guide to help you answer some of those significant questions in an organized format.

¹ *The 1995 Annual – Volume 1 Training*, Pfeiffer & Company, Sand Diego, CA, p. 63.
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