Suggested Interview Questions for the Director of Liturgy and Music

#1 What is there about our situation at Good Counsel that would draw you here? What would be some reservations?

#2 There are at least four major aspects to the role of Director of Liturgy and Music:

a) liturgical  
b) musical  
c) pastoral  
d) administrative

From your experience in the past several years what have been your strengths and weaknesses in each of the above aspects?

#3 What has been your experience with religious women?

#4 What would be your approach in serving a community of older people? How would you provide for their “full, conscious, and active participation” in the liturgy?

#5 This year our choir was made up of 24 women singing primarily soprano and alto with some descant singing. Have you had experience in directing women’s choirs? Could you find that challenging? satisfying?

#6 We have been using the Breaking Bread hymnal because it is light-weight has large print, and after many years contains the music that we know and love. Are you familiar with this hymnal and if hired would you be willing to continue its use for at least a full year?

#7 What is your experience of directing the choir while at the same time playing the piano or organ?

#8 What is your background with directing ensemble music (guitar, bass, piano)? What instruments other than piano and organ have you played? How familiar are you with music by composers such as David Haas and Marty Haugen?
#9 Which church documents regarding liturgy and music would you say are basic to the ministry?

[Answers might include “The Constitution on the Sacred Liturgy” from Vatican Council II; “The General Instruction of the Roman Missal” US Bishops, 2010; the ORDO (Order of Prayer in the Liturgy of the Hours and Celebration of the Eucharist); “Built on Living Stones: Environment and Art in Catholic Worship.”]

#10 What has been your experience in working with a Liturgy Committee? Would you find it helpful to work with such a committee?

#11 We are accustomed to having a weekly or seasonal printed worship aid that includes daily morning and evening prayer and Eucharistic celebrations. What skills would you bring in developing such aids.

#12 What equipment would you expect to find in your office?

#13 How comfortable are you with technology?

#14 What is your experience with the FINALE or SIBELIUS music-writing software?

#15 How would you adapt the use of handbells to older ringers whose eye sight may be poor and who wouldn’t be able to turn pages—and who possibly cannot read music?

#16 How has your formal education and personal experience prepared you for this work?

#17 What is your style of conflict resolution?

#18 How is your personal faith expressed in your work? What could make the work of the Director of Liturgy and Music a ministry rather than a job?