

# Journey Profile

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**By Kevin Anderson**

I am Kevin Anderson, the Convener for the Minnesota Chapter of Illuman. I have been fortunate to be in this role since the beginning. What makes this so noteworthy is that I have seen growth in myself, just as the program and all the leadership roles have grown.

I have always been interested in male spirituality. Growing up in a typical, dysfunctional Midwest family (second oldest of seven kids: 6 boys, one girl), I always felt that there must be more to being a man than football glories, sexual conquests, or working so hard not to appear "feminine." I ventured into the "letting-go business" and eventually found myself in the priesthood.

In my thirty years of ministry, I still marvel that the masks we men wear have not changed much—that is, we all still struggle with being authentic, finding meaning in life, and seeking resolutions to our pain. My commitments to a small group and to our Minnesota Core Team, as well as the connection to Illuman and M.A.L.Es, have been vital in redefining how I embrace all three concerns. I may not always understand the hows and whys of each, but I gain comfort in realizing that I am not alone in the quest and that all of us (from all parts of the world) are equally screwed up.

I am repeatedly awed at the high quality of men that seek to participate in our programs. Initially Richard Rohr was the draw for most of us, but as our Minnesota program began to grow (as did other regions' programs), it has become apparent that this work is bigger than any one person. This awareness was delightfully demonstrated during one of our first MRoPs when an enthused young man came up to me after hearing so many speakers quote Rohr. He asked, "Who the hell is this Richard Rohr anyway?" Clearly we had arrived. He wasn't there because of Rohr; he was there because regular men were initiating regular men.

My advice to those just starting their spiritual journey is to take the risk of being unafraid. Heck, once you dive into the pool of male spirituality, you discover that we are all splashing around together...sometimes it feels like drowning, sometimes it feels like playing. Most of the time, it is hard to tell the difference.