

THE PROCESS OF DISCERNMENT

Step 1: All participants are invited to read the stimulus materials and to consider the questions in light of what they have read.

Step 2: The facilitator asks participants to share what questions the material has raised for them or any new knowledge or awareness they have gained. Use the Spiritual Conversation Model to give each participant 1 minute to speak without interruption, followed by 30 seconds of reflective silence.

Step 3: The facilitator invites participants to suggest how any new understandings of the topic can be applied to the way in which the ministry/team/board operates or sees its place in God's mission in the evolving church.

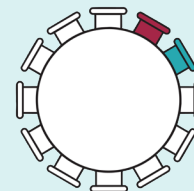
Step 4: The facilitator gathers these suggestions in prayer.

Finish with a prayer:

*God of the Journey
Be with us as we journey
forward as a ministry and
as a people of God.
Give us the wisdom of your
Spirit so that we might see
and hear your call to be
people of faith, justice
and compassion.
In the gifts you
have given us
and in the encounters
and experiences
of our daily lives,
may we seek always
to build inclusive,
welcoming and forward
looking communities.
Amen.*

The key principles of the process of discernment:

- Prayer and inner reflection
- Awareness of inner movements (peace or discomfort)
- Seeking guidance and wisdom
- Patience and confirmation



USE THIS PAGE TO MAKE NOTE OF ANY WORDS, PHRASES OR THOUGHTS SIGNIFICANT FOR YOU

How does this material connect with or challenge our mission and values?

What needs or opportunities does this material highlight for us?

How can we put these new insights into action?

How might these insights give us a stronger sense of purpose in our work?

[illegible]