

# Spiritual Discernment

## for a Group Process

### PRINT INSTRUCTIONS:

This brochure fits on 8.5" x 11" paper, horizontally.

- Set your printer/copier to print **DOUBLE SIDED**.
- Print **all 4 sheets** of the PDF. You will get 2 sheets of paper, printed on both sides.
- Stack the 2 sheets, following the content, and fold in half together.



#### How to do spiritual discernment as a community

Unless you can be specific about what you are seeking to discern it will be hard for you. See the introduction for some examples of common discernment questions.

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#### STEP TWO: Identify who will participate in the discernment.

- Is this an open invitation to the congregation/synod/national church?
- Are you going to organize small groups or let it happen organically?

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#### STEP THREE: Set a place and time to meet.

Time: \_\_\_\_\_

Place: \_\_\_\_\_

- This may take one meeting or it may take a series of meetings.
- If possible, sit in a circle.
- Allow space for God to be in the middle. Symbolize this with a cross, candle or icon.

#### STEP FOUR: Gather.

- Welcome participants and if it is a small enough group have people introduce themselves.

• State the question for discernment. Open with prayer. Use this opening prayer or something similar:

*God of wisdom and discernment, we come before you to discern <INSERT ISSUE>. Be with us now. Open our hearts and our minds to hear your will. Help us to listen for your presence and your voice. Help us to listen carefully and respectfully to each other. We pray these things in your holy name. Amen.*

- Read a piece of scripture. Choose a piece of scripture that associates best with your questions for discernment. Suggestions include: Romans 12:1-2, Isaiah 43:16-21, John 15:1-17, Acts 15:1-20, Philippians 2:1-11, Acts 16:6-15.
- Sit in silence for three minutes.

#### STEP FIVE: Invite the group to go around the circle and say what they are hearing God say or what is going on in the passage.

- People may pass their turn. Pause between each speaker.
- After you have gone around the circle, ask if anyone who passed wishes now to speak.

- Sit in silence for two minutes reflecting on what you have heard.

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