

## Discerning Our Common Call FAQs

### What is Discerning Our Common Call?

We believe that God calls all of us in the Diocese of New Jersey to be in mission together, participating in God's work in the world. Discerning our Common Call is an initiative intended to help us find our focus in mission, to know and share our purpose in God's work in the Garden State, so that we can work more effectively together, supporting one another in mutual responsibility and developing our relationships with one another and with Christ.

### Well, what IS our common call?

We are still in a process of discernment. At this time, though, we understand that our call is to follow Jesus, joining in God's work in our local communities in ways that help proclaim the Good News of the Kingdom, teach and nurture new believers, respond to human need through loving service, transform unjust structures, challenge violence and pursue peace and reconciliation, and sustain and renew the life of the earth.

We are discerning how our structures as a diocese can help support this mission, and where we are being led by God, as congregations and as a diocese, to act in new ways for the work of God's kingdom.

### Why is there a Discerning Our Common Call Committee?

The Diocesan Discernment Steering Committee was formed to address the need for a broad and diverse base of guidance for this important initiative. It is therefore comprised of persons from across the diocese who are intended to be widely representative of the diocese as a whole. The Steering Committee:

- a. Coordinates the process of discerning our common call, including congregational conversations, Bishop's Forums, and charrettes.
- b. Develops and coordinates communications materials related to each stage of the initiative.
- c. Gathers, analyzes and reports out on the findings from each stage of the process in order to respond appropriately and inform the next step.

The names of the committee members can be found under [contact](#) on the landing page.

### What is MY role in this process?

Your role is to listen, speak, and pray, early and often. Join the conversations about how God is calling us by attending one of the Bishop's Forums, starting a conversation about the Anglican Marks of Mission in your congregation, or seeking partnerships with other congregations in the diocese to serve, grow, learn, and pray together.

Pray for God's work in the diocese, both through our congregations, and together as a body. Share what you are hearing, learning, and doing in prayer and mission through our Facebook page, or by contacting one of the members of the Steering Committee.

### Where can I find resource information?

A great deal of information can be found on the Discerning Our Common Call [landing page](#) and [Facebook page](#). In addition, to help you understand the philosophy and process of the Discerning Our Common Call initiative, Bishop Stokes has recommended reading the following:

- *Structured for Mission: Renewing the Culture of the Church* by Alan J. Roxburgh
- *Joining God, Remaking Church, Changing the World - The New Shape of the Church in Our Time* also by Alan Roxburgh,
- *People of the Way - Renewing Episcopal Identity* by Dwight Zscheile
- *The Practice of Adaptive Leadership* by Ronald Heifetz, Alexander Grashow and Marty Linsky.

### Where can I find information regarding the October 7, 2017 Special Convention?

Downloadable resources and reports regarding the October 7th Special Convention, can be found on the Discerning Our Common Call landing page under the section titled [resources](#).

### What if I missed some of the events in 2017, where can I find information and resources?

Downloadable resources and 2017 reports, can be found on the Discerning Our Common Call landing page under the section titled [resources](#). Additionally, printed materials can be provided by your church administrator.

### What are Bishop's Forums?

Bishop's Forums are conversations convened separately for clergy and laity and are open to anyone who may be interested in helping our continued discernment around our common call. A schedule of dates, times and locations (where known) is available [here](#) and is also posted on the [diocesan calendar](#). Location updates and meeting reminders

will be sent out and posted throughout the Spring. If you are unable to attend the date of the forum in your region, please feel to attend a forum in a different location!

### Where can I find the 2017 Reports on Bishops Forums?

2017 reporting can be found on the Discerning our Common Call landing page [here](#)

### Do we have any resources available in Spanish?

Yes, resources can be found in Spanish on the Discerning Our Common Call landing page under the [En Español](#) section. Please check back frequently as translated documents are updated on a weekly basis.

### I missed the original communications that were sent about Discerning Our Common Call, where can I access them?

All past communications and additional content can be found on the Discerning Our Common Call landing page at <http://dioceseofnj.org/common-call/resources/>. You can also email Communications Director, Jonathan Elliot at [JElliot@dioceseofnj.org](mailto:JElliot@dioceseofnj.org) for a copy of all past communications. Please also subscribe to communications from the Diocese by sending an email to Jonathan Elliot.

### How can I get involved?

You can get involved in the Discerning Our Common Cause initiative by:

- a. Attending any of the 2018 forums/meetings that are being held this Spring and Summer
  - i. The 2018 [Bishop's Forums](#) which are open to anyone interested, the schedule can be found [here](#).
- b. Partnering with your priest (or taking on leadership yourself if you don't happen to have a consistent clergy presence) to help explain to your congregation what Discerning Our Common Call is about and to encourage them to take part in the conversations.
- c. Staying up to date on the latest series of informal meetings with clergy and with laity across the diocese which are open to anyone interested in helping discern our common call. Future meetings and dates will be announced soon!

You will find a schedule of the meetings, as well as resources and the latest news about Discerning our Common Call, at <http://dioceseofnj.org/common-call>. Feel free to participate in any meeting that fits your schedule.

**Where can I find a schedule of events?**

The schedule of events and locations can be found on the Discerning Our Common Call landing page at <http://dioceseofnj.org/common-call/resources/> Check back frequently for updates.

**I have additional questions, who can I contact?**

Please visit the [contact](#) page on the Discerning Our Common Call landing page or email [docc@dioceseofnj.org](mailto:docc@dioceseofnj.org) and your email will be routed appropriately.

**Is there a Facebook page where I can find the latest information?**

Yes, join in on the discernment discussion on our designated [facebook page](#)