

Calling A Circle to Support Our Common Ministry:

The beginning of a 5 year experience of Total Common Ministry
Christ Episcopal Church, Anacortes Washington

May 2009

We Need Each Other

Bonita Janz

When I first heard of Total Common Ministry there was a question in my mind, wondering just what these words meant? Now, after I have had the experience of back surgery and hospitalization, my question is answered.

I would like to share this with you.

During the surgery and recuperation period I felt loving arms surround me, praying for and with me, supporting me spiritually and physically. Although I was in a Bellingham hospital, when I had a situation arise and wanted someone to come and pray with me, our Pastoral Leader drove up from Anacortes to comfort and pray with me. A group of women delivered delicious food to our door with blessed and caring hands for many days. Eucharist was brought to me both at the hospital and at home. I looked forward to all these visits,

*Peace
be to
you-
and
also
with
you*



knowing God's love was being hand delivered!! A member of our congregation also volunteered to play the piano during my absence, which greatly reduced the stress level I could have had. Let me not forget about the wonderful reception I received when I was able to

come back and join all of you; it brings tears to my eyes, even as I write this.

Pastors Terry and Vicki were being apprised daily by members of the church of my needs and condition and called me when I got home. Once again I had a circle of ministry completely surrounding me. I am so very grateful to be so blessed and loved by this wonderful circle of caring friends here in Christ Episcopal Church.

THANK YOU ALL
and PRAISE TO GOD, ALLELUIA!

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Quotes on Discernment, Life, and Faith

The place God calls you to be is the place where your deep gladness and the world's deep hunger meet.

- Frederick Buechner

A Letter from Bishop Rickel and Our Pastors

The heart of Christianity could be expressed this way: ***God is committed to loving and healing all the creation and calls us to participate in that loving and healing so that we might be healed too.*** Baptism is the sign by which the church recognizes our call to participate in God's work.

Over the last 4 years Christ Church has had conversations about valuing more highly the baptismal ministry of every person. Each of us, in our baptism, has been called into ministry in the church, grounded in the grace, mercy, and love of God. We are called into our own ministry in daily life, family, vocation, and participating with others in the church.

We have spent a year or so developing both our individual and congregational capacities for discernment. Thirty people participated in individual discernment work in Lent of 2009. Twenty-seven were with Bishop Rivera as we imagined what our congregational ministries might be—some of that discussion has resulted in our partnership with Skagit Adult Day Care.

For the last 3 years we have been having occasional discussions about how the church is formed to participate in God's work of loving and healing. We have discussed the possibility of including Total Common Ministry, sometimes known as Circle Ministry, in the way the church leads and supports everyone's ministry at Christ Church. We had The Rev. Canon Joan Anthony with us on several occasions to discuss TCM as a possibility. Last October Bishop Rickel was with us one Sunday afternoon to share the perspective of the Diocese and answer questions from the congregation.

On Monday, March 9th, the Vestry of Christ Church approved the start of a five-year experience of Total Common Ministry.

This experience will begin in May, as the congregation suggests people to the role of supporting the

ministry of all. The pastors will then invite those persons into a conversation about whether they feel called to explore being a part of the Ministry Support Circle or not. This Ministry Support Circle will work with the Pastors, the Commission for Ministry, and the Bishop's office on a course of study to be held here at Christ Church. Many of these classes will be available to all!

If those involved complete their coursework, meet the requirements of the Commission for Ministry, and get the approval of the Pastors and the people of Christ Church in conversation with the Vestry, they will likely be commissioned in about 2 or so years.

We are excited about the congregation's willingness to explore with the Diocese Total Common Ministry within the context of a Cluster: We will continue to serve you as we do now. We already have many people doing the ministry of supporting others in ministry. What this give us is the opportunity to better prepare leaders to support Christ Church's further development and continued vitality as we participate in God's healing of the world.

In Peace,

The Rt. Rev. Greg Rickel
The Rev. Terry Kylo
The Rev. Vicki Wesen



Please Follow These Steps



Step One:

Daily Remember Your Baptismal Identity

You are God's Holy and Beloved Child, marked with the cross of Christ, and sealed by the gift of the Holy Spirit. This is who we are as baptized people.



Step Two:

Reflect on the Life of Christ Church

Look over the ministry List on Page 4 and think about the gifts of all the people who help support the ministry of others



Step Three:

Review the Spiritual Gifts

The congregation has all the gifts it needs for its own ministry. Review this partial list of the gifts God gives so that the church may do its ministry in Christ's name.



Step Four:

Review our Membership List

Pray and give thanks for every person on the list on Page 8. After this, mark the names of those on this list who you feel are called and gifted to support the ministry of the whole congregation through leadership



Step Five:

Nominate those who support others in ministry

Select up to 6 people and either circle their names on the Nomination Card (Included) or write their names on a piece of paper and put them in the offering on Sunday, May 10th, or have in the church office by May 11th.

Current Ministries Among Christ Church

Prayer List

Responds to prayer requests.

Care Team

Helps parishioners in need of assistance in daily living activities. Provides transportation and a comforting presence.

Child Care

Youth provide care for young children in the nursery during services.

Ministry of Well-Being

In conjunction with the Parish Nurse, plans spiritual and physical health education programs and activities.

Martha Ministry

Provides hospitality at church events; serves refreshments at the Sunday coffee hour.

Parish Life

Organizes events such as church picnics, seasonal pot-lucks, retreats or concerts.

Building & Grounds Stewardship

Beautifies and maintains the building, gardens, and lawn.

Adult Faith Formation

Plans and facilitates adult education programs.

Education for Ministry (EfM)

During the 4-year program, participants study the Bible, church history, theology and ethics, and engage in theological reflection.

Youth Ministry

Provides education and fellowship through weekly and seasonal programs for children and youth.

The Red Door Thrift Shop

The proceeds of this ministry support many Christ Church community outreach programs. More than 50 volunteers participate.

Publicity

Place church advertising, create publicity materials and publish the newsletter.

Page Four

Administration Volunteers

Provides office support for the parish secretary by copying, preparing mailings and other general office work.

Cluster Council

Congregational representatives serve on the Cluster Council which oversees Cluster activities and provides financial direction.

Finance

Collection of deposits, annual audits, or computer help.

Library

A resource for study and entertainment with parish books, periodicals and other media.

Altar Guild

This behind-the-scenes ministry readies the altar, flowers, linens, Eucharistic vessels and elements, working with clergy in preparation for all services.

Acolytes

Trained youth assist clergy with the flow of the liturgy at services.

Ushers & Greeters

Welcome the congregation and greet newcomers.

Worship Leaders

Lead Morning and Evening Prayer, Compline and Taizé services.

Readers

Lead the Prayers of the People and read the lessons at services.

Eucharistic Ministers and Visitors

Assist clergy in administering communion during worship services. Eucharistic Visitors take communion to those who are unable to attend services.

Music Ministry

As a musician or choir member, lead the Sunday service music and Taizé worship service.

Worship Team

With the guidance of the clergy, plan liturgy and music throughout the church year.

Spiritual Gifts the Church Needs

Spirit-given gifts are special abilities that God gives to every Christian in baptism to be used for the strengthening of the Body of Christ so that it might better fulfill God's purposes in the world.

God is not finding us a place for our gifts – God has created us and our gifts for a place of God's choosing.

Prophecy/Justice - The God given ability to tell difficult-to-hear truth in love

Ministry - Helping people make connections between God and their life

Teaching - The God given ability to lead people into deeper understanding of God

Exhortation - The God given ability to encourage people in their life and ministry

Giving - The God given ability to give financially to the work of God in the world

Leading - The God given ability to guide and direct the people of God in mission I Cor. 12:28, Acts 14:23



Compassion - The God given ability to empathize and assist those who are hurting or marginalized

Faith - The God given ability to take risks for God's work and to trust in God's will

Discernment - The God given ability to see and express the inner dynamics of people and situations

Craftsmanship - Acts 9:36-39 - The God given ability to make things useful for ministry

Support - Acts 6:1-4, Rom 16:1-2 - The God given ability to make ministry possible or less burdensome for others

Hospitality - The God given ability to make people feel welcome in the name of Christ - Romans 12:13

Creative Communication - The God given ability to communicate the gospel to people through the many media and art forms of the day - Mark 4:2,33 Acts 17:22ff

Intercession - The God given ability to pray to God on behalf of others.

Music Leadership – the God given ability to lead and support others in making a joyful noise to the Lord.

Healing – The God given ability to encourage the restoration of peace and wellbeing among others.

Pastor – The God given ability to guide and nurture people to be who God has made them to be.

Prayer – The God given ability to hold themselves, others, and the world in God's love.

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Who Can be Nominated, Who can Vote and Why?

We will follow the Canons and Constitutions of the church for who can be a voting member of the congregation: Adult Baptized members in Good standing of Christ Episcopal Church. "Good Standing means a baptized person who contributes to the church through personal service and monetary gift and has participated in Eucharist at least 3 times in the last year. **Adult baptized members will be eligible to nominate or be nominated in this process.**

Two Common Questions to Address

Some people have wondered if Circle Ministry means people will be doing what they are not gifted to do.

Of course this happens in every human endeavor. We cannot guarantee that it won't happen from time to time in a TCM congregation. Unfortunately, this also happens with those ordained to be clergy who have gone through a seminary process. There is no way to ensure that people won't try out things they aren't gifted to do.

But this is not the real issue. The issue is really this: ***“What happens when someone is happily doing a ministry in the congregation and the congregation is suffering because the person is not really gifted to do that ministry?”***

There is a one-word response: ***honesty.***

In the writings of Paul, he said that in Christian community we need to strive to “speak the truth in love.” If we see someone doing a ministry that does not fit their gifts, or carrying out their ministry in a way that is destructive to the



community, the Vestry, the Clergy, and the Bishop will have the role of having an honest conversation about that. The Vestry, the Clergy and the Bishop and the rest of the Ministry Support Circle will assist the person to find a ministry that suits their gifts.

But the question of a person doing a ministry they are not gifted to do is only one key question. The other is this: ***“What happens when a person is gifted for a ministry and for no good reason the church does not allow them to do this ministry?”***

What happens is that every person in the church, the person, the church as a whole, and the ministry of the church in the world is diminished.

When a member of the body of Christ is not supported in their ministry, the very Body of Christ in the world is weakened.

This awareness is behind the change in the 1978 Prayer Book to emphasize Baptism as it was emphasized in the early church: that all baptized people are called in both daily life and within the church to ministry: participating in God's restoration of the world. TCM is another expression of the centrality of baptism in our life as Episcopalians.

Quotes on Discernment, Life, and Faith

When you come to the edge of all the light you have, and must take a step into the darkness of the unknown, believe that one of two things will happen. Either there will be something solid for you to stand on—or you will be taught how to fly.

- Patrick Overton

What Happens Next?

After everyone places their Circle Nomination Cards in the offering on Sunday May 10th, or at the Church Office by May 11th, the pastors will tabulate the results. Those nominated more than a few times will be contacted personally by the pastors.

Nominees will be encouraged to prayerful consideration of the time, energy, and responsibilities that being in a Ministry Support Circle may include. They will also be told that they might not do the ministry that they envision at this point, and that they will be receiving feedback from the congregation, the vestry, the pastors, the rest of the circle, the Commission for Ministry and the Bishops of the Diocese. They will learn things about themselves that may be disquieting, but ultimately will be affirming of them as God's beloved children and coworkers with us all in the Reign of God.

Those nominated will have several weeks to decline or accept and the pastors will be available for prayer and conversation with them.

The Circle will be commissioned on Pentecost Sunday, May 30, 2009 to begin the work of discernment and preparation for public ministry in the church.

The Pastors will work with the Ministry Support Circle and the Commission for Ministry of the Diocese to clarify the curricula.

Their classes will begin in September of 2009 and

everyone in the congregation is invited to participate in those classes!

After a suitable period, those participating will be called to prepare for specific ministry roles, e.g., sacramental/ liturgist, youth leader, deacon, outreach, preacher, pastoral care, educator. These roles are not mutually exclusive: one or more person may be called to each role, or called to more than one role. For those roles requiring ordination, the Diocesan process of Vestry recommendation, review and approval by the Diocesan Commission on Ministry will be followed.

During the period of education, the Circle shall invite the congregation to quarterly gatherings to discuss their progress, respond to questions about Total Common ("Circle") Ministry, and receive input on the specific ministry roles needed to best serve the Christ Church congregation.

Of course, we don't expect people will serve in these non-stipendiary roles forever. We will need new Ministry Support Circles to take the place of circles that are moving toward retiring.

To deal with this, as the first ministry support circle is beginning its ministry, we will have another ballot in a year or two to see if the congregation wants to start another ministry support circle. This second circle would then begin their training course as directed by the Clergy and the Diocese of Olympia.



Quotes on Discernment, Life, and Faith

Our strongest gifts are usually those that we are barely aware of possessing. They are part of our God-given nature, with us from the moment we drew first breath, and we are no more conscious of having them than we are of breathing in.

- Parker J. Palmer

Membership List

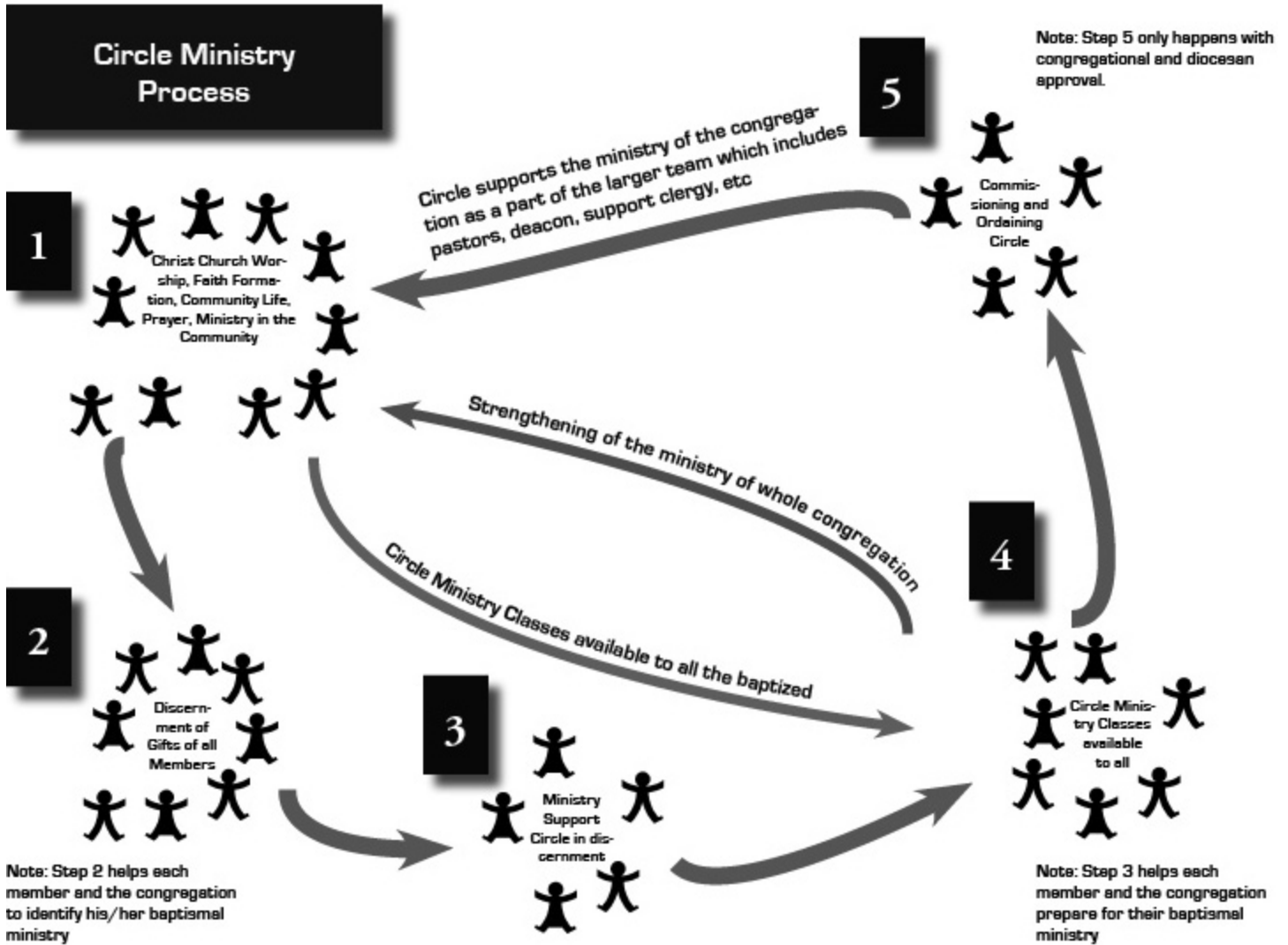
Karen Allen
Doris Andersen
Gary Anderson
Alan Anderson
Margaret Carpenter Arnett
Barry Carpenter Arnett
Lois Auchterlonie
Shirley Barrett
Don Blankenship
Joanne Blankenship
Neil Borman
The Reverend Melvin Brown
Frank Clevenger
Sarabeth Clevenger
June Cook
Charlene Corbin
Betty Cox
Virginia Cross
Betty Dahl
Teresa Dahlgren
Guy Davidson
Sandi Davidson
Mayo Earnest
Ed Forsman
Shirley Forsman
Dale Fountain
Louise Fountain
Ann Gayle
Ann Green
John Gronholt
Mary Gronholt
Keith & Karen Halgren
Karen Halgren
The Rt. Rev. Sandy Hampton
Mari Hampton
Mary Hunter
Bonita Janz
Chris Jason
Dana Jenkins

Eric Johnson
Alice Kapka
Eileen Kilpatrick
Mike Kilpatrick
Sally Kilpatrick
David Laidman
Janis Larkins
Cal Lloyd
Janice Lloyd
Valerie Long
Carleton Manning
Creamy Wilkins
Frank McCoy
Betty Anne McCoy
Robert McElroy
Rita Yribar
Diana McGaw
Myrna Mclalwain
Clark McKee
Louise McKee
Bridgetta Miles
Janet Miller
William Myers
Sydney Olausen
Lorraine Patmore
Mark Perschbacher
Marcy Perschbacher
Wendy Poulton
Carole Preble
Frank Principe
Nancy Principe
Dale Ramerman
Diane Ramerman
Mark Raphael
Micael Raphael
Gertrude Reynolds
Emerson Roberts
Dee Roberts
Curt Rodin
Carol Rodin
Adam Schlismann
Jenna Strickland

Sally Scott
Marjorie Scribner
Melody Seman
Phyllis Sewell
Sara Shao-McVay
Anne Smiley
Barbara Stephan
Mary Stetson
Jim Stout
Martha Stout
William Swain
Robin Swain
Jack Tobien
Sara Tobien
Kenneth Vaughn
Molly Vaughn
Doyen Vigus
William Walker
Janice Walker
Dedy Ward
Steve Wilhoit
Linda Wilhoit
LuAnn Wohlander
Joan Wolfe
Betty Zygmanski

*If we have left off you,
or someone you know, or
included you when you would
rather not be included please
call Pastor Terry at 770-2774
or email him at tkyllo@verizon.
net and we will get our data
base corrected - we try hard
but we are not perfect!*

Circle Ministry Process



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Quotes on Discernment, Life, and Faith

Like an ability or muscle, hearing your inner wisdom is strengthened by doing it.
- Robbi Gass

The purpose of life, after all, is to live it, to taste it, experience it to the utmost, to reach out eagerly and without fear for a newer and richer experience.
- Eleanor Roosevelt

In Case You Missed It . . .

What is Total Common Ministry?

In the first century, the congregation prepared people for their baptismal ministry. As they experienced their members, the congregation would invite people to consider doing various ministries and would prepare, support, and oversee them in that ministry. This is the context of Paul's image of the Body of Christ.

Once in a while the congregation would sense that a person would be especially gifted in supporting the ministry of the whole congregation. This was not a better form of baptismal ministry, just another expression of it.

For as in one body we have many members, and not all the members have the same function, so we, who are many, are one body in Christ, and individually we are members one of another. We have gifts that differ according to the grace given to us: prophecy, in proportion to faith; ministry, in ministering; the teacher, in teaching; the exhorter, in exhortation; the giver, in generosity; the leader, in diligence; the compassionate, in cheerfulness.

Romans 12:4-8



Since the protestant reformation major denominations have tended to focus on those called specifically to the priesthood and diaconate. They required that priests and deacons go to seminary and bring the gifts of an academic education to the local congregation. This was and is a good thing. The seminary model had some negative effects, however.

- This model often left out the training and equipping of people for other equally important callings.

- This model served as a roadblock to those who could not attend seminary (3 to 4 years of full-time classes, moving to another town, and cost of \$75,000) who are called in their baptism to explore service as priests, deacons, preachers, pastoral leaders, and other important roles.

- It has also kept churches from having all the ministry capacity that would otherwise be available.

- Equally sad, it served to give the impression that the only ministry that matters in the church is to be a deacon, priest, or bishop.

The negative implications of the seminary

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Quotes on Discernment, Life, and Faith

We must not, in trying to think about how we can make a difference, ignore the small daily differences we can make which, over time, add up to big differences we cannot foresee.

- Marian Wright Edelman

Sometimes our light goes out but is blown into flame by another human being. Each of us owes deepest thanks to those who have rekindled this light.

- Albert Schweitzer

system have often limited the church's capacity for service in the name of Jesus Christ in our world.

Is there another option?

The church has already been looking at other options. According to the Presiding Bishop, Katherine Jeffords Schori at the Clergy Day in April, over 50% of Episcopal Priests were prepared for ministry outside of a 3-year seminary.

Half a dozen congregations in our Diocese have engaged in what is called Total Common Ministry: the congregations discern from among their members those who will be educated as a group to serve as priests, deacons, and pastors whose role it is to support the baptismal ministry of everyone. This process is an accepted practice in this diocese.

Our congregation, in conversation with our Bishop, has made the commitment to a five year experience of TCM. We will be incorporating the Circle Ministry process that the Diocese has used into what we are already doing and into the staff we already have.

We feel that this process will address the two weaknesses that we mentioned above. First, it would help us do a better job of preparing everyone for her/his baptismal ministry. The high quality classes made available in a TCM process would benefit everyone. Everyone could attend as many or as few classes as they wanted to. For example, our GIG teachers could participate in the faith formation portion of our curricula, our pastoral care team could attend the pastoral care portion, etc.

Second, it would open up new possibilities for our congregation to invite people into forms of baptismal ministry that have been previously

restricted.

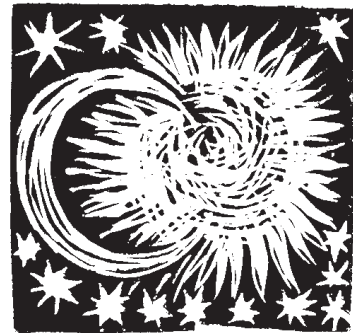
- Christ Church will continue to have semi-nary-trained clergy.
- We will continue to have Support Clergy preach and lead worship.
- Vicki and Terry will continue to be available for pastoral leadership for the congregation.

We will be adding to what we already have at Christ Church and in our Cluster partnership.

The real bottom line is:

- to support the baptismal ministry of every person
- within the canons and policies of the Diocese, to open the full range of possibilities for our congregation to call people into ministry.

After this five year experience, the congregation, the Vestry, the Clergy, the Ministry Support Circle, and the Bishop's office will have conversation about what we have learned in this process and decide together how we express the ministry of all Baptized people in the years that follow.



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Quotes on Discernment, Life, and Faith

Better is one hand full of quietness than two hands full of toil and striving after the wind.
- Ecclesiastes 4:6

Then he said to them, "The sabbath was made for humankind, and not humankind for the sabbath."
- Mark 2:27

Not Your Cup of Tea?

The Rev. Terry Kylo

So what do you do if this whole thing is just not your cup of tea? What if you don't know who to nominate? What if you don't object to the TCM process but just aren't sure about it? Well, in that case Vicki and I invite you to

relax.

This does not need to be a high stress process. And if you look at the list of our members and don't know who to nominate this time, well that's certainly not the end of the world.

We would invite you to spend the same amount of time you would have spent nominating people and reflect on why it doesn't, to mix metaphors, float your boat.

The emphasis on the centrality of Baptism in the Episcopal church is actually not just a liturgical change that came with the 1978 Prayer Book to make our services longer. It is a deep spiritual change in the way we see ourselves as human beings as disciples of Jesus.

It has often been the case that we have seen ourselves as recipients and supporters of the church. We often see that we can help support it financially and through volunteering to do various church chores.

The emphasis on Baptism challenges this self-perception in a significant way. The emphasis on the ministry of all the baptized people is a deep spiritual change.

• In Baptism we are all full participants in the life of the church: we both give and receive. We are not passive recipients of ecclesiastical services, nor are we just "helping out" with a few chores. Each person is called to be a full participant in the life of the church. This means that having received the grace and love of God, we are now people who receive and give as full partners in what God is doing in our congregation, larger church, and world.

• In this understanding of Baptism, we realize that each of us has gifts to give to the community. We often get caught in the idea that what we offer is really nothing special - mostly because it brings us joy. But without each person's gifts, the church cannot be the church. We each have much to offer - let's celebrate that!

• In this understanding of Baptism, we all may have different roles, but no role makes one a better or worse person. Often we think that the public role of preaching, worship leading, music, or some other form of leadership makes people better. To this idea, Jesus said: "It shall not be so among you!"

So if you just don't quite "get" this whole thing, remember something else about your Baptism: you have been given the gift of the Holy Spirit to guide and comfort you in your life. The Holy Spirit is still moving among all of us and is not finished with any of us yet. We all have new things to learn and experience. So have a cup of tea that you like to drink, do some reflection, and just relax into the arms of the God who loves you.



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Quotes on Discernment, Life, and Faith

The difficulty is that from our first days in school, we are taught to listen to everything and everyone but ourselves.
- Parker J. Palmer

The more faithfully you listen to the voice within you, the better you will hear what is sounding outside. And only she who listens can speak.
- Dag Hammarskjold