



Instructions for facilitating a Discernment Education Session for your Parish

Thank you for scheduling and facilitating a Discernment Education Session in your parish. The purpose of this session is to provide clergy and lay members with basic information about the functions of a diocese and to provide information about the state of the Diocese of Easton. This is phase one of a three phase process of discernment:

Phase One: Education on dioceses and the Diocese of Easton

Phase Two: Identifying Issues and Priorities

Phase Three: How to best organize ourselves

The Diocese of Easton's Discernment Committee is providing to you a 20 minute video that we ask you to show to your congregation and to then encourage discussion on what they have seen, using questions provided. For a large group, we encourage you to have those attending break into small groups of 4 or 5 and answer the questions provided and record their responses on the Question Report Sheets that are in the tool kit. For a small gathering, appoint a recorder and have that person record responses on the Question Report Sheet.

Please turn in the filled out Question Report Sheets to the Discernment Committee either by mailing or dropping them off at the Diocesan Offices at Bray House, 314 North St, Easton, MD 21601 or by scanning and emailing them to Discernment Committee Co-chair Diana Kunkel at maritco@comcast.net.

There is a handout in the Toolkit you can give to each attendee that lists the program agenda and a link to the Discernment Education webpage where people can access more information.

Here is a suggested program format:

1. Opening Prayer (you can use the Prayers for Discernment in the Toolkit)
2. Show the Video – What is a Diocese? (20 minutes)
3. Ask participants to get into small groups of 4 or 5 and ask one person to be the recorder; hand out Question Report Sheets
4. Ask participants to answer each question and have the recorder record the responses on the Question Report Sheet. (20 minutes)
5. Bring the participants together. Ask if anyone would like to share something that came up in their discussions. (10 minutes)
6. Conclude the session: Thank participants for their time and work. Tell them that in this first phase the Discernment Committee is asking all parishes to conduct Information Sessions so that the diocese can have a shared basis of understanding. The Discernment Committee will be reading and analyzing responses to questions. The next phase of the Discernment Process will be engaging in conversations about priorities and what we want to ensure we include in planning for success for our future as the Episcopal Church on Maryland's Eastern Shore. If people would like more information they are encouraged to go to the link or the QR code at the bottom of the handout. Conclude with prayer (you can use the Prayers for Discernment in the Toolkit).
7. Collect the Question Report Sheets and send them (or scanned copies) to the address or email address above. Thank you!