

Discernment-Book Study and Other Tests

Session Twelve-February 9, 2010 from 6:30 to 8:30pm: Chapter 9 Discussion (Facilitator: Sarah Monroe)

With everyone present again, we completed discussion on Chapter 9 of the study book--topic, "Accountability for Ministries". Then we discussed what we will do next in this class. For Sarah, discerning about ordination, we agreed to use some of the sessions specifically for working on her discernment. For the rest of us, it was agreed to start more detailed discernment of what the future ministry at St. Mark's needs to be and what each of our own parts will be in this overall ministry. Marc agreed to continue with this group as he is able to support Sarah's discernment. We also agreed to start meeting on the 2nd and 4th Tuesdays each month going forward. *Next meeting--February 23, 2010 from 6:30-8:30pm, reading and discussion of the services for ordinations of clergy and of baptism (from the Book of Common Prayer).*

Session Eleven-January 26, 2010 from 6:30 to 8:30pm: Chapter 9 Discussion (Facilitator: Rev. Lorraine Dierick)

With only a group of three available, discussion was on what has been gained over the time we have been meeting, there was talk about any new insights, and affirming the gifts that people are already doing and perhaps not seeing them as important ministries. *Next meeting--February 2, 2010 from 6:30-8:30pm, discussion of Chapter 9 and what is next for the class?.*

Session Ten-January 19, 2010 from 6:30 to 8:30pm: Chapter 8 Discussion (Facilitator: Mary Venske)

The group, minus Jim and Bonnie (on vacation in Florida), completed discussion on Chapter 8 of the study book--topic, "Supporting the Ministry of Others". *Next meeting--January 26, 2010 from 6:30-8:30pm, discussion of Chapter 9 and what is next for the class?.*

Session Nine-January 12, 2010 from 6:30 to 8:30pm: Chapters 6 & 7 Discussion (Facilitator: Rev. Lorraine Dierick)

The group, minus Jim, Bonnie, and Marc, completed discussion on Chapter 6 & 7 of the study book--topics, "Why is Christian Community Important in Discerning God's Call?" and "The Value of a Discernment Group". *Next meeting--January 19, 2010 from 6:30-8:30pm, discussion of Chapters 8 & 9 of our study book.*

Session Eight-January 5, 2010 from 6:30 to 8:30pm: Continue Chapters 5 and 6 Discussion (Facilitator: Pastor Marc Rice)

The full group, minus Jim, discussed the remaining questions from

Chapter 5 of the study book--topic, "Is it God We are Hearing?". There was also discussion about requirements needed for the COM (i.e., letters of recommendation from the church) for Sarah to be in discernment. Agreed that this can be prepared and signed as needed. *Next meeting--January 12, 2010 from 6:30-8:30pm, discussion of Chapters 6 & 7 of our study book.*

Session Seven-December 29, 2009 from 6:30 to 8:30pm: Chapter 5 Discussion (Facilitator: Jim Campbell)

With the full group present, the group discussed the first 10 questions from Chapter 5 of the study book--topic, "Is it God We are Hearing?". We also discussed some of our results from the Myers-Briggs type survey we received last week to try out. We agreed to help each other as needed to complete the surveys and find out the results, and we agreed that the information obtained is interesting and useful but is not totally descriptive of a person's makeup or defines them absolutely. *Next meeting--January 5, 2010 from 6:30-8:30pm, complete discussion of Chapter 5, and discuss Chapter 6 of our study book.*

Session Six-December 22, 2009 from 6:30 to 8:30pm: Continue Chapters 4 and 5 Discussion (Facilitator: Yoneimi Creamer)

With the full group present, the group discussed the rest of Chapter 4 with its study questions. Also, Sarah provided a type of Myers-Briggs survey for all to try and report their results on later. *Next meeting--December 29, 2009 from 6:30-8:30pm, Discuss Chapter 5 of our study book.*

Session Five-December 15, 2009 from 6:30 to 8:30pm: Chapter 4 Discussion (Facilitator: Natalea Brumfield)

With a group of only 4 present due to meetings conflicts and illness, the smaller group discussed part of Chapter 4 of the study book--topic, "What Conditions Help Discern God's Call?" with its study questions. *Next meeting--December 22, 2009 from 6:30-8:30pm, Continue discussing Chapter 4 and then Chapter 5 of our study book.*

Session Four-December 8, 2009 from 6:30 to 8:30pm: Chapters 2 & 3 Discussion (Facilitator: Rev. Bonnie Campbell)

We discussed Chapters 2 & 3 of the study book--topics, "Call to Ministry" and "What is Discernment?". Bonnie shared her results from the spiritual gifts survey. *Next meeting--December 15, 2009 from 6:30-8:30pm, Discuss Chapter 4 of our study book.*

Session Three-December 1, 2009 from 6:30 to 8:30pm: Sharing Personal Faith Stories & Chapter 1 Discussion (Facilitator: Mary Venske)

The last three of our eight study group peoples' short personal stories

were shared, about 15 minutes average length. We have a very diverse group of people, from two young adults, to four of us in middle age, and two older ones; all of us are long time faith people and most grew up around Montesano or other similar small towns. We then discussed Chapter 1 of our study book with its study questions--topic, "What is "Call" for the Christian?" Some of us shared our results from the two surveys on spiritual gifts and spiritual temperament. *Next meeting-- December 8, 2009 from 6:30-8:30pm, Discuss Chapters 2 & 3 of our study book.*

Session Two--November 24, 2009 from 6:30 to 8:30pm: Sharing Personal Faith Stories (Facilitator: Sarah Monroe)

Five of our eight study group peoples' short personal stories were shared, about 20 minutes average length. It is fascinating to hear about each of our faith stories, the variety of the experiences we have lived and how God interacts in our lives. Also, the Spiritual Gifts Test provided by Jim was discussed briefly, as several of the group have already completed theirs. It was agreed to share our results by e-mail and then discuss any interesting findings either during the next class or online. Bonnie passed around copies of discussion questions for Chapters 1&2 of our study book. Mark passed around copies of another type of test, called "Sacred Pathways", about spiritual temperament, and how each of us relates to God for us to look at. *Next meeting--December 1, 2009 from 6:30-8:30pm, where we will complete sharing short personal stories in the first hour. Then we will discuss Chapter 1 of the study book in the second hour.*

Session One--November 10, 2009 from 7:00 to 8:40pm: Introduction and Organizing (Facilitator: Rev. Lorraine Dierick)

We organized ourselves and made plans about when to meet and what the likely content of the class will be. It was agreed generally to meet weekly on Tuesdays, 6:30-8:30pm either in the church nave or at the Church of God, due to conflicts with use of our own meeting hall with the AA group. It looks like we have 7-8 participants in this class. We will take turns facilitating and providing a small focus display for each meeting. We discussed each of our expectations for the class, and talked about previous experiences of doing this type of class in the past. We agreed on how to operate/set norms and how to respect each other and provide a safe place to fully discuss and participate. *Next meeting-- November 24, 2009 from 6:30-8:30pm, where we will share short personal stories about our lives, possibly highlighting our faith's close and far away times with God (15 minutes or less). We will also start reading the first chapter of the book and look at the appendices for references in how to operate the class.*