

Questions for Congregational Discernment

Discernment is a completely different process than decision. Decision seeks efficiency, expediency, and public/corporate acceptance. Discernment, on the other hand, seeks space, pace, and grace. Discernment is first, and foremost, bathed in prayer. It is also a process that values all the voices of the congregation in the process, not just in feedback. The following questions are offered as a resource for congregations who seek faithful, congregational, discernment.

- What is our mission?
- What are we trying to decide?
- How will our decision impact our mission?
- Based on the impact our mission, how will this decision help us better live into our mission?
- In this decision, who will be hurt, left out, or excluded? Who will be supported, brought in, or included?
- How does this decision reflect our faith in Jesus Christ and enhance our witness?

**Primary scriptural foundations:

- Matthew 22:36-40
- Matthew 28:16-20
- Acts 1:8
- Acts 15